



April 19, 2018

Michael C. Brown
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Monroe County Prosecutor's Office
125 East Second Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

Re: Nomination for the Michael Franck Award

Dear Nominations and Awards Subcommittee Chair Brown:

On behalf of the officers of the Representative Assembly please allow this correspondence to serve as our nomination of United States District Court Judge and past State Bar of Michigan President Victoria A. Roberts as the recipient of the 2018 Michael Franck Award. Her achievements are significant and almost too numerous to list. A summary of the highlights of her service to the Bar is attached.

After much discussion and deliberation, it is with complete confidence and without reservation that the RA Officers advance Judge Roberts' nomination. It is our belief that she embodies the all of the qualifications necessary for receipt of the Michael Franck Award.

Thank you for your service the the Representative Assembly and the State Bar of Michigan. Please advise if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

FOLEY, BARON, METZGER & JUIP, PLLC

Joseph P. McGill
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Email: jmcgill@fbmjlaw.com

JPM/ceb
Attachment

cc: Donald Rockwell (via email only)
Janet Welch (via email only)
Richard Cunningham (via email only)
Aaron Burrell (via email only)

Joseph P. McGill
Chair, Representative Assembly
Foley Baron Metzger & Juip PLLC
38777 Six Mile Road, Suite 300
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Mr. McGill,

As the Michael Franck Award is given annually to an attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the profession, the Honorable Victoria Roberts is an excellent choice. In addition to the information on her official bio, she has dedicated much of her career to educational pipeline programs that encourage high school and college students from diverse backgrounds to consider a career in law, as well as programs that increase access to justice to diverse and low-income citizens. Specifically, she has led:

1. The Just the Beginning Foundation, which is a pipeline program for high school students in the metropolitan Detroit area. The program provides students with a "week-long opportunity to meet with volunteer attorneys and judges, attend Federal Court, participate in mock trial, present oral arguments and attend workshops on college readiness and business networking." Judge Roberts has led this program for many years, and it has been instrumental in exposing young students of color to opportunities in the law.

2. The Wolverine Bar Association Judicial Externship Program, which seeks to "increase the representation of minority law school graduates among the ranks of judicial clerks, by helping well-qualified minority law students gain valuable experience as judicial externs in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan . . . and the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan." This program has provided opportunities to over 260 law students of color over the years (myself included), and awarded over \$391,000 in stipends to those students.

3. A legal clinic, established in January 2018 along with the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, to aid low-income individuals who want to represent themselves in civil lawsuits in Federal Court.

Some notes from her published bio also bear mention:

- She is the only black female to serve as the President of the State Bar of Michigan, where she championed causes affecting diversity in the profession and access to justice.
- She served as a mediator in the City of Detroit Bankruptcy, where she negotiated collective bargaining agreements between the City and its unions.
- She is the recipient of the State Bar of Michigan's two highest honors: the "Robert P. Hudson Award and the Champion of Justice Award."
- She was named Michigan Lawyers Weekly "Woman of the Year" in 2013.

Feel free to let me know if you require any additional information, and I will be happy to assist. Thanks again.

Very truly yours,
Aaron V. Burrell