

MENTOR JET

Taking Networking to New Heights

*Sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges
and Western Michigan University Cooley Law School,
Grand Rapids*

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MENTORJET PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

(bios follow in alphabetical order)

HONORABLE MICHELLE RICK

29TH CIRCUIT COURT, CLINTON AND GRATIOT COUNTIES

Wafa Adib-LoBo

SAFE HARBOR LEGAL PLC

Lindsay Cummings

KREIS ENDERLE

Jessica Kuipers

RODENHOUSE KUIPERS PC

Sueann T. Mitchell

GIELOW GROOM TERPSTRA & MCEVOY

Judge Nicholas M. Ohanesian

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Honorable Sara J. Smolenski

CHIEF JUDGE OF THE 63RD DISTRICT COURT

Mike Toburen

TOBUREN LAW

Jasna Tosic

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Justin Wheeler

KREIS ENDERLE

Alana Wiaduck

MCCROSKEY LAW



HONORABLE MICHELLE RICK, 29TH CIRCUIT COURT, CLINTON AND GRATIOT COUNTIES

In 2007, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed the Honorable Michelle Rick to the 29th Circuit Court. Prior to that, and following a brief time in private practice, Judge Rick worked as a public employee, first as an assistant prosecutor in Livingston County, followed by service to the State of Michigan as an assistant attorney general and deputy legal counsel to Governor Granholm. Judge Rick hears family, criminal, and civil cases for the 29th Circuit Courts (Clinton and Gratiot counties).

Judge Rick is a proud graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, cum laude, and is a member of the Justice Frank Murphy Honor Society. Judge Rick is the District 7 Director for the National Association of Women Judges for Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia. Judge Rick is a member of the Executive Committee for the Michigan Judges Association, where she Co-Chairs the Outreach and Planning Committee. In 2015, Judge Rick was appointed by Governor Snyder to the Human Trafficking Commission.

She is an active member of the Clinton and Gratiot County Community Corrections boards, and is on the Board of Directors for SafeCenter. Judge Rick has presented at ICLE’s Family Law Institute and the 2010 Judicial Conference, and has served as faculty for the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. Judge Rick currently teaches Access to Justice at UDM Law, and has previously served as an adjunct law professor at MSU Law and Cooley Law schools.

Judge Rick has been married to her college sweetheart, Matthew, for 28 years. They have four children and reside in DeWitt.



Wafa ADIB-LOBO, SAFE HARBOR LEGAL PLC

Wafa Adib-Lobo moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2005, where she earned her Juris Doctorate from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2009. While in law school, she was on the Dean’s list, and was a Gold Medalist in the Intra-School Client Counseling Competition. She had two of her three children while in law school; juggling the roles of mother and law student. While in law school, she was elected as Class Representative for the Student Bar Association, and participated in the Melissa Mitchell Moot Court Competition. In her last year, she externed at the Kent County Public Defender Office. There, she participated and assisted in felony trials, including a homicide case. Ms. Adib-Lobo finds the experience she gained during her externship was invaluable. It gave her the court room skills she employs in her current practice.

During her last term in school, Ms. Adib-Lobo clerked at a highly respected law firm specializing

in Bankruptcy Law, gaining expertise in that field. In addition to Bankruptcy Law, Ms. Adib-Lobo has experience in setting up business entities, 501 (c)(3) corporations, Condominium Association Law, Land- Lord and Tenant Matters, and Wills & Trusts. She has also served as a court-appointed attorney at the Kentwood District Court. Ms. Adib-Lobo is a member in good standing with the State Bar of MI, and she is admitted to practice in the District Court of Western Michigan. She is Chair of the Solo and Small Firm section of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. In addition, she belongs to the Debtor’s Bar of Western Michigan, the Federal Bar Association (Western Michigan Chapter), and she serves on the Boards of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, and the Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore. Currently, Ms. Adib-Lobo is a sole practitioner in downtown Grand Rapids. She is Founder and President of Safe Harbor Legal, PLC, which is a general practice law firm, specializing in consumer bankruptcy. She is also an adjunct professor at an ABA approved Paralegal Program at Davenport University. Ms. Adib-Lobo finds her profession incredibly rewarding, and loves helping her clients. She feels blessed that she is able to make a difference, and help people when they need it the most.



LINDSAY CUMMINGS , KREIS ENDERLE

Lindsay Cummings is a respected estate planning and real estate attorney. She uses her estate planning experience to help clients thoughtfully plan for the future by preparing trusts, wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies, guardianships, and conservatorships. When necessary, Ms. Cummings also helps her clients effectively navigate the sometimes complex probate process following the death of a loved one.

Ms. Cummings is known for building a personal relationship with each one of her clients. She will often meet with clients at their home or in the hospital if needed and is always willing to do what is most appropriate to the client’s situation. Lindsay understands the intricacies of family dynamics and is able to provide a specialized plan for every type of situation. Ms. Cummings received her ICLE certification for Estate Planning and Probate in 2016. She is also a licensed real estate broker in addition to being a licensed Michigan attorney and is pleased to assist clients with any and all real estate matters.



JESSICA KUIPERS, RODENHOUSE KUIPERS PC

Attorney Jessica Kuipers is a life-long resident of Kent County. She loves to go up North to fish the lakes and rivers that we as Michiganders are privileged to enjoy. She also has a custom car and enjoys participating in many charitable events and shows around the community. Her true passion in life has always been helping others when they are facing adversity. She became a lawyer so that she can serve her community and those in need.

Attorney Kuipers prides herself on giving her clients professional, personalized, and efficient service. Her passion lies in defending those in need of representation during criminal proceedings and helping law students and attorneys who are facing issues with either obtaining or keeping their license to practice law. She understands how important the achievement of earning or preserving a license to practice law is to those individuals who have worked extremely hard for the privilege and will do everything in her power to help that individual through the challenges he or she faces when there is either a character and fitness issue pending or an attorney is facing a grievance proceeding.

Due to her background in psychology and her ability to empathize and listen to others, she has been very successful in understanding her client’s needs, fears, and goals. She always strives to put the client’s wishes first while counseling the client towards the best resolution possible. Whether a person comes to her for something as serious as a criminal sexual conduct charge, or to get a driver’s license restored, she gives each matter the attention needed.

Attorney Kuipers has been successful in achieving positive results for her clients including: preventing charges from being brought when allegations have arisen, getting charges dismissed, getting law students through character and fitness—even when they thought there was no hope, and keeping attorneys licensed to practice law after a grievance has been filed.



SUEANN T. MITCHELL, GIELOW GROOM TERPSTRA & MCEVOY

Sueann Mitchell holds a Certificate of Completion in the areas of probate and estate planning issued by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

As an active member of the Probate and Estate Planning Section, Ms. Mitchell stays current with newly passed and proposed legislation, as well as recent cases and the latest trends affecting her practice area. Ms. Mitchell has additionally assisted the State Bar by volunteering to host a presentation warning local seniors about possible estate planning scams.

Ms. Mitchell is a skilled legal analyst and writer and document drafter. As an extern with the Honorable David H. Sawyer, Ms. Mitchell assisted the court with the drafting of several Michigan Court of Appeals opinions. She additionally sat on the Assistant Board of Editors for Law Review. Prior to practicing law, Ms. Mitchell worked as a reporter for the Grand Haven Tribune and as a 9-1-1 dispatcher for nearly 10 years at Ottawa County Central Dispatch. Throughout law school, Ms. Mitchell continued to work full time, dispatching at night, so she could attend school during the day.

In addition to her legal experience, Ms. Mitchell regularly volunteers to assist the elderly and home bound in her community. She is also a member of the Stewardship Commission and the Estate Planning Committee for her local church. Ms. Mitchell’s legal skills and life experiences, coupled with her commitment to clients and attention to detail, allow her to provide excellent service and care to her clients throughout every step of the probate and estate planning processes.



JUDGE NICHOLAS M. OHANESIAN , SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable Nicholas M. Ohanesian was named an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for the Social Security Administration in August of 2010 and is responsible for adjudicating disability appeals arising under the Social Security Act. Prior to being named as an ALJ, he worked for the National Labor Relations Board for ten years, spending six years as a Field Attorney and the last four as the head of the Jacksonville, Florida Resident Office.

Along the way, he has taught at a series of academic institutions including a medium security prison in Illinois, the Levin College of Law at the the University of Florida, as s Fulbright Specialist at the American University of Armenia and most recently at Grand Rapids Community College. He is also an active member of the Federal and Michigan Bar Associations. He earned his J.D. from the College of William and Mary in 2000 and his B.S. from Western Michigan University in 1996. He is a native of Grand Rapids and a proud product of the Grand Rapids Public Schools. He has been married to Holly Ohanesian for 19 years and is the proud father of two children, Noah and Grace.



HONORABLE SARA J. SMOLENSKI, CHIEF JUDGE OF THE 63RD DISTRICT COURT

Judge Sara Smolenski is a Grand Rapids native. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Grand Rapids Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Michigan. In 1982, she earned a Juris Doctorate Degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She was elected to the bench in 1990. She was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as Chief Judge of the 63rd District Court in 1996.

Judge Smolenski has not only earned a reputation among her peers as a distinguished judge, but also is a proven strong community leader spending countless hours outside of the courtroom as a legal advocate, contributor and activist for several non-profit groups and organizations.

In addition to her legal work and community service, Judge Smolenski has established herself as a popular local humorist frequently exhibiting her unique “real life” humor for many organizations. Judge Smolenski is a strong advocate for education. She believes education improves lives and our community. Among many community organizations, she has done work with American Cancer Society, Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan, Kids Food Basket, YWCA, Hospice of Michigan, Michigan Women’s Foundation, Senior Neighbors, and many others. She is a frequent speaker at community events, educational programs, charitable organizations, and civic and community groups.



MIKE TOBUREN, TOBUREN LAW

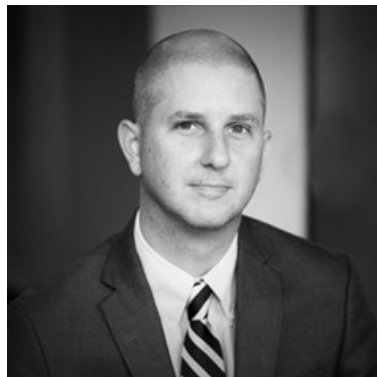
Toburen Law provides comprehensive legal services to the West Michigan community, including Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Byron Center, Kentwood, Lowell, Caledonia, and Hastings. Attorney Mike Toburen is genuinely committed to his clients. Attorney Toburen takes an adviser’s approach to law to ensure not only that his clients are well represented, but that they also thoroughly understand each step of the litigation process. As an established attorney in the greater Grand Rapids area, Mike is practiced in myriad areas including: estate planning, family law and small business law. Mike is known in West Michigan courts for his aggressive representation and his compassionate nature.

Mike Toburen is committed to West Michigan. Born and raised in Hastings, Mr. Toburen attended Hope College in Holland as an undergraduate, began his professional career in Kalamazoo, and attended law school in Grand Rapids. A proud member of the local community, Mr. Toburen is an active volunteer and serves several area organizations including the YMCA, First Tee of West Michigan, the Andrew Elliott Rusticus Foundation, and Friends of Dyslexia Education for West Michigan Children.



JASNA TOSIC, OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Jasna Tosic is a graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She currently works as a Research and Writing Attorney at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Michigan, which represents indigent clients charged with a criminal offense in federal court. Ms. Tosic also serves on the Jury Instructions Committee for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.



JUSTIN WHEELER, KREIS ENDERLE

Justin Wheeler approaches each case with diligence and skepticism. His five-point mantra in any matter is 1) assume nothing 2) question everything 3) open your eyes 4) challenge the opposition and 5) think for yourself. Justin has unique insights into the needs of business owners, having grown up in a family business environment. He will leverage his varied and practical experience for positive client outcomes.

Mr. Wheeler is married with two boys. When out of the office or with family, he enjoys spending time on the golf course or watching/attending various sporting events. During law school, he was a regular pro bono volunteer at Degage Ministries in Grand Rapids.

Mr. Wheeler is determined to work hard for his clients and never let an adversary dictate the facts of case to him. He is an advocate for his clients because he believes they deserve nothing less. Mr. Wheeler's main practice areas include corporate and business law, real estate, mergers and acquisitions, collections and estate planning.



ALANA WIADUCK , MCCROSKEY LAW

Alana Wiaduck specializes in family law, criminal defense, personal injury, and no-fault law. She is a trained civil mediator. She was an Honors Scholar at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, as well as an Assistant Articles Editor of the Law Review. Ms. Wiaduck also graduated from the University of Michigan.

Her past work experience includes internships with Justice Marilyn Kelly, the Hon. Timothy G. Hicks, the Hon. Kathleen Feeney, and the Canadian Parliament.

Ms. Wiaduck serves as the Vice President of the Muskegon County Bar Association, and she is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, and the Ottawa County Bar Association.