



September 26, 2024
Report from District 7
Honorable Miriam A. Perry

Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia

1. Upcoming event: State Bar of Michigan Face of Justice Program 2024

The Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee of SBM is bringing 3 Face of Justice events to schools this fall as part of ongoing work to support students seeking involvement in the legal profession. This year, the events will be held on October 4 (Wayne State University Pre-Law, Detroit), October 30 (MSU College of Law, East Lansing), and November 6 (Cooley Law School, Downtown Lansing). Students will meet in-person with multiple volunteer mentors and hear about their professional experiences. For those that would like to register as a mentor, the following link will redirect you to their website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBMFOJfall24>

2. Upcoming event: Night Out With the Bench & Bar

The Detroit Bar Association is hosting a happy-hour event on October 7 at Brew Detroit from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Students (\$25), Detroit Bar Members (\$45), Non-Members (\$55), Sponsors (code required) and Judges (complimentary) are all invited to join and unwind after work with refreshing discussions and drinks. Appetizers will be included, with a cash bar available! For any questions, reach out to Sheena Law Killinger at slawkillinger@detroitlawyer.org.

3. Upcoming event: State Bar of Michigan 23rd Annual National Trial Advocacy Competition (NTAC)

SBM's Young Lawyers Section will host the 23rd NTAC event, designed for participants to display their courtroom advocacy skills before a panel of judges and practitioners. This fall, the three preliminary rounds will be held at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit on October 25 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM, October 26 from 9 AM to 12 PM, and October 26 from 2 PM to 5 PM. An Awards Reception sponsored by the Litigation Section will be held on October 26 at the Detroit Athletic Club from 6 PM to 9 PM, and all judges are welcome to attend. The Semi-finals will be held on October 27 from 9 to 12 PM, and the Championships on October 27 from 2 PM to 5 PM. The competition welcomes volunteers to help judge the competition (the following link will redirect you to their sign-up page: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHduZQ4AZy4YdFI_1xUILeY1RHipa5krjoWibsFWKueYacsQ/viewform)

4. Upcoming event: NAWJ Annual Conference

The NAWJ Annual Conference will be held on October 17 – October 19 at the San Diego Omni. The Annual Business Meeting on October 19, 8:45 AM PT, will discuss a redlined document from the Bylaws Committee, which will be shared for review and up for voting. We look forward to seeing our members in San Diego!

Congratulations To Our Outstanding 2024 NAWJ Members!

Congratulations to Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi and Region 1 Administrator Zenell Brown!

Hon. Mariam Saad Bazzi and Region 1 Administrator Zenell Brown are both honored as Michigan State Bar Foundation 2024 Fellows, we applaud their outstanding contributions to the legal community!



Congratulations to Hon. Kameshia D. Gant!

Hon. Kameshia D. Gant was selected as the recipient of the Shirley Chisholm Justice Award at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.'s 2024 Justice and Equality Awards Event. She was also nominated and selected as the 2024 recipient of the Leadership Award at Oakland Meditation Center's Social and Awards Presentation.



Congratulations to Hon. Lisa Martin, Hon. Miriam A. Perry, and Hon. Tenisha R. Yancey!

Hon. Lisa Martin has been elected as President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan for the 2024 – 2025 bar year. We are proud to announce that Hon. Miriam A. Perry has been named a Member-at-Large for the American Bar Association’s (ABA) National Conference of Specialized Court Judges (NCSCJ) Committee. Furthermore, we congratulate Hon. Tenisha R. Yancey on her election as President-Elect of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan; we look forward to her exemplary leadership!



Congratulations to Hon. Denise L. Morris!

It is our pleasure to announce that Hon. Denise L. Morris has been selected to be Chair of the ABA’s 2024 – 2025 National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) Executive Committee.



Congratulations to Hon. Yasmine I. Poles!

Hon. Yasmine I. Poles is proudly honored as the Chaldean American Bar Association of Michigan's Member of the Month for September 2024!



Congratulations to Hon. Linda Murnane!

Hon. Linda Murnane commenced her term on the ABA's Board of Governors, marking yet another impressive milestone in her exemplary career!



Congratulations to Hon. Allie G. Maldonado!

Hon. Allie G. Maldonado was featured in a Q&A blog post with the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) community, we thank her for her valuable insights!



Congratulations to Hon. Michelle Rick!

Hon. Michelle Rick is slated to be President of NAWJ for the 2024 – 2025 term, we congratulate her on the splendid achievement!



Best wishes to Hon. Sara J. Smolenski!

The Honorable Sara J. Smolenski of Kent County 63rd District Court retired on July 15, after a distinguished career of 34 years on the bench, including serving as Chief Judge between the years of 1996 and 2023. We wish her a rewarding and fulfilling retirement!

