

Hon. Michelle M. Rick, Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

The Honorable Michelle Rick was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals bench in November 2020, and began serving her term in January 2021. Judge Rick represents the 4th Judicial District. Judge Rick served as a trial judge for the 29th Circuit Court from 2007- 2020. Before that, Judge Rick worked briefly as a private practitioner before transitioning to a career in public service. That service included working as an assistant prosecutor, a senior assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan, and deputy legal counsel to Michigan's Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

Judge Rick is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She is a member of the UDM Law Justice Frank Murphy Honor Society. Judge Rick is the District 7 Director of the National Association of Women Judges. She is the incoming President of the Michigan Judges Association and a member of the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Council. Judge Rick is a member of the Rural Justice Collaborative, whose mission is to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlights the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems across the country. Judge Rick is a committee member of the State Bar of Michigan Corrections and Prisons section, and a judicial advisor to the Justice For All Commission.

In 2015, the Women Lawyers Association of Mid-Michigan awarded Judge Rick the Carolyn A. Stell Award. January 2019, the Michigan Supreme Court recognized Judge Rick as a judge who gives back and makes a difference. In 2020, the State Bar of Michigan awarded Judge Rick and select University of Detroit Mercy School of Law faculty and students the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award. The award was given for creating and executing "Project Access" a traveling expungement clinic that brought expungement relief to 6 rural communities in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. In 2021, the Michigan Women Lawyers Association of Michigan awarded Judge Rick the Mary S. Coleman Award, recognizing Judge Rick's significant contributions as a judiciary role model for women in the legal profession and in society.

Judge Rick teaches Access to Justice at Detroit Mercy Law School. She is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer at various statewide and local law-related events. Judge Rick is a Michigan State Bar Foundation Fellow and an American Bar Foundation Fellow. Judge Rick is married to her college sweetheart, Matthew, and they have 4 adult children.