



SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

NEWSLETTER

Judicial Candidates

INFORM | EDUCATE | ENGAGE

Dear Members:

The Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (BWLAM), the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association (Straker), the Wolverine Bar Association, and the Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association are pleased to present a **Special Election Edition Newsletter** featuring information about judicial candidates who are seeking election to judicial office in the upcoming election.

As nonpartisan bar associations, our shared mission is to educate and inform our members about the candidates and the offices they are seeking so that you can make informed decisions at the ballot box.

IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION, YOU WILL FIND:



A professional **headshot** for each candidate.



The **judicial office and court they are seeking**, including the district or circuit, if applicable.



A **two-paragraph candidate statement** describing their candidacy, qualifications, experience, and/or the perspective they would bring to the judiciary.



Contact information for their campaign (email, phone, social media, and website link) in case you wish to learn more or support their campaign.



AN
INFORMED
MEMBERSHIP
BUILDS A
STRONGER
JUDICIARY

*Your Vote.
Your Voice.
A Stronger
Justice System.*

This newsletter is being provided for informational and voter-education purposes. BWLAM, Straker, the Wolverine Bar Association, and the Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association are **nonpartisan** organizations, and inclusion in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate. We encourage you to review the information and take an active role in the election process.

Thank you for your continued membership, engagement, and commitment to a fair and informed judiciary.

Dorothy J. Dean, Esq.

President

Black Women Lawyers
Association of Michigan

Hon. Kameshia Gant

President

D. Augustus Straker
Bar Association

Alexis Smith, Esq.

President

Wolverine
Bar Association

Lanita Carter, Esq.

President

Vanzetti M. Hamilton
Bar Association

Michigan Supreme Court



Justice Megan Cavanagh-Candidate for Michigan Supreme Court

Candidate Statement:

As a Michigan Supreme Court Justice and candidate for re-election, I will continue to strengthen Michigan's justice system in a way that is fair, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the people it serves. Over the course of my tenure, I have focused not only on deciding cases, but on improving how our courts function for families, workers, and communities across the state. This includes efforts to expand access to justice, strengthen treatment and problem-solving courts, and improve outcomes within the child welfare system — areas where the court can play a meaningful role in supporting stability and fairness. I have also prioritized collaboration with trial courts, legal professionals, and community partners to ensure our judicial system operates effectively at every level, not just at the Supreme Court. At a time when state courts are increasingly responsible for resolving complex and impactful issues, it is critical to have experienced leadership that understands both the law and the real-world impact of court decisions. I remain committed to ensuring Michigan's courts are transparent, accountable, and serve the public with integrity.

It is vital to ensure that our courts are not only fair, but that they actively improve the lives of the communities we serve. I am committed to applying the law equally to all. I will work to address the root causes of issues within the justice system, supporting solutions and expanding access to justice in order to advance the equity of our courts. Serving as a justice means not only upholding the rule of law, but also staying connected to the public and fostering relationships grounded in trust and transparency.

Contact Information:

Judicial Office Sought: **Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court**

Campaign Email: **info@cavanaghforjustice.com**

Campaign Phone: **(586) 330-9212**

Campaign Website: **cavanaghforjustice.com**

Campaign Instagram: **megan.k.cavanagh**

Campaign Facebook: **Re-elect Chief Justice Megan Cavanagh**



Michigan Supreme Court



Justice Noah P. Hood-Candidate for Justice of Michigan Supreme Court

Candidate Statement:

As a Michigan Supreme Court Justice and candidate for retention, I will continue to serve as a fair, independent and steady voice on the Court. My background serving as a trial judge, intermediate appellate judge, and justice of our state Supreme Court renders me uniquely well-suited for this role. My approach has always been guided by my commitment to facts and impartiality, while working to ensure that every person who enters a courtroom is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. Serving on the Michigan Supreme Court is both an honor and a responsibility, and I believe my experience, temperament and dedication to the integrity of the justice system position me to continue contributing meaningfully to the Court's work.

My work has been shaped by a lifelong connection to Detroit and a professional commitment to fairness across all levels of the justice system. As a prosecutor, trial judge, and appellate judge, I have seen firsthand how legal outcomes affect individuals on some of the most difficult days of their lives. That perspective has guided my focus on treating people with dignity, grounding decisions in facts, and ensuring that the legal process is both fair and understandable. I have also supported problem-solving approaches, such as treatment courts, that aim to address root causes and improve outcomes for individuals and communities that have historically been underserved.

Judicial Office Sought: **Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court**

Campaign Email: **info@noahhoodforjustice.com**

Campaign Phone: **(313) 757-2031**

Campaign Website: **noahhoodforjustice.com**

Campaign Instagram: **noah.p.hood**

Campaign Facebook: **Noah Hood**



Genesee County Probate Court



Andrea LeGendre

Judicial Office Sought: Genesee County Probate Court Judge (Seventh Circuit)

Candidate Statement:

My name is Andrea LeGendre, and I am seeking the opportunity to serve the residents of Genesee County as their next Probate Court Judge. I am a lifelong Genesee County resident and have spent more than twenty-five years serving this community as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and now as Bureau Chief of the Felony Division. Throughout my career, I have handled matters involving child protection, guardianships, elder abuse, mental health, family law, and serious felony cases. I also had the privilege of working alongside Brenda Williams, the first African American Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Genesee County. My time working with Attorney Williams helped shape my understanding not only of the law, but of my responsibility to serve the people of this county fairly and justly. My commitment to service also extends to the next generation through my work with the Genesee Career Institute, where I introduce high school students to the courtroom and prosecutor's office and help demystify careers in the legal profession.

I am seeking to serve as Genesee County Probate Judge because I believe every case represents a person, a family, and a future. Probate Court touches individuals and families during some of the most vulnerable and consequential moments of their lives, including matters involving guardianships, conservatorships, mental health, and the protection of vulnerable adults. Those who come before the court deserve a judge who listens carefully, understands the law, weighs the facts, and treats every person with dignity and respect. I would bring to the judiciary extensive courtroom experience, sound judgment, compassion, and a lifelong commitment to Genesee County, while continuing to widen the path for those coming behind me. My goal is simple: to apply the law fairly and thoughtfully, never losing sight of the people affected by each decision or the next generation that may one day stand where I now stand.

Campaign Contact Information: Email: andrealegendreforjudge@gmail.com

Phone: 810.252.5728

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Andrea-LeGendre-for-Genesee-County-Probate-Court-Judge-61586693003752/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/legendreforprobatejudge

Donate: www.andrealegendreforjudge.com/donate



Genesee County Probate Court



Ashley Prew - Candidate for Genesee County

Probate Judge

Candidate Statement:

I am a local attorney raising my two children with my husband, Adam Prew, in Genesee County. I started my legal career during law school at a small law firm that specialized in probate and business law. While in law school, I worked directly with probate clients and helped them through the probate process under the supervision of the attorneys at the firm. I started my own business in 2018 and owned a law firm in Fenton, Michigan for four years, where I continued my probate practice representing clients in numerous counties in Michigan through some of the most difficult times of their lives. My probate work included representing individuals navigating guardianships, conservatorships, contested probate estates and trust administration, and mental health proceedings. After a decade of probate work, I left private practice and started my career in public service at Genesee County in the Corporation Counsel office. In December of 2023, I transferred to my current position of Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the criminal appeals division of the Genesee County Prosecutor's office.

I am passionate about probate, education, public service, and giving back to my community. I am currently the Vice President of the Flint Rotary Club and have volunteered with many other community service organizations and nonprofits throughout my career. I have also hosted many free educational workshops across the county to educate residents about the probate court and the steps they can take to avoid court intervention through proper planning. These workshops were in collaboration and partnership with civic organizations, municipalities, and area senior centers. I look forward to continuing my career serving the residents of our county as the next Genesee County Probate Court Judge.

Contact Information:

Website: www.prewforprobate.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Ashley-Prew-for-Probate-Judge-61581938554462/>

Instagram: @PrewForProbate

Campaign Phone: 248-409-9065

Email: prewforprobate@gmail.com



Macomb County

39th District Court



Dana Freers- Candidate for 39th District Court Judge

Candidate Statement:

As a practicing attorney for the past 21 years, I've dedicated myself to our community both professionally and personally. I've helped families navigate the legal system and counseled people through difficult situations. Meaningful justice requires experience and recognizing the circumstances affecting people's lives in the courtroom and community.

As the proud past President of the Roseville Optimist Club and a member of the Fraser First Booster Club, Goodfellows and Lions, I have dedicated myself to making my community a better place for all our citizens. I hope to continue my service as Judge.

Contact Information:

freersforjudge@gmail.com

586-291-6799

Dana Freers for 39th District Court Judge on Facebook



OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT


Victoria King - Candidate for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge
Candidate Statement:

I have been practicing law since 2010. For most of my career, I have been employed as a judicial staff attorney at the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court. I evaluate cases from the perspective of the court. I have reviewed thousands of motions and responses. I have observed and been a part of thousands of jury and bench trials. My closest mentors include respected members of the judicial community. I spent time as senior counsel at a large firm where I focused my practice on drafting advanced motions and appellate briefs for other attorneys. Before becoming an attorney, I built a successful career in information technology where I worked for over a decade as a quality assurance engineer. I managed teams, implemented quality processes, and developed solutions under pressure. This experience allowed me to develop an analytic discipline that still informs how I read statutes and assess records.

I am the current Vice President and a Director of the Oakland County Bar Association, a former President and current Trustee of the Oakland County Bar Foundation, former Chair of LACHES's editorial board from 2017 to 2026, and author of more than 40 articles. I served as an advisory member on the State Bar of Michigan's Character and Fitness committee and represented the Sixth Circuit in the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly as well as chaired its Drafting Committee.

Contact Information:

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<https://victoriakingforjudge.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaKingForCircuitJudge>

<https://www.instagram.com/victoriakingforcircuitjudge>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/victoria-king-84b13a6>



Oakland County Probate Court



Elisabeth Dery-Candidate for Oakland County Probate Judge

Candidate Statement:

I have worked in probate law for nearly 15 years, giving me a *broad and deep understanding of all aspects of probate*. I understand the legal side and, just as importantly, I understand the human side. Making a fair, impartial decision requires seeing the whole picture and digging deeper into a person's situation to *truly understand the entirety of the case before me*. My expertise in probate law means that my decisions will have a sound legal basis. In other words, I will endeavor to get it right the first time to eliminate the need for repeated trips to the courthouse, saving people both legal fees and precious time. When a probate judge has expertise not just in law generally, but probate law specifically, the probate court system is more efficient for everyone.

The nature of the cases before a probate court also demand a judge with probate law expertise. A judge without a strong grasp of both the law and key legal standards can make decisions that negatively impact people's lives. It is the probate judge's job to *make sure that vulnerable people receive the protections they need* in order to prevent poor care and financial exploitation. It is also the probate judge's job to carefully consider who may or may not need the protection of a guardian or conservator so that no one is unnecessarily placed under the care of the court. Understanding of and adherence to the law is also crucial for decedent estates and trust matters. If parties know that the law is being followed and their best interests are being considered, they are more likely to trust the court system and experience better outcomes.

Contact information:

Website: <https://deryforprobatejudge.com/>

QR Code to Website

Social Media Links:

FB Personal: <https://www.facebook.com/liz.dery>

FB Candidate: <https://www.facebook.com/DeryForProbateJudge>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lisb4u/>

Linked In link: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elisabethdery/>

Donate by going to the website and clicking on the link to donate or direct to Donorbox:
<https://donorbox.org/elisabeth-dery-for-probate-judge-897584>



Oakland County Probate Court



Jessica Hallmark – Candidate for Oakland County Probate Court Judge

Candidate Statement:

I have been a Michigan attorney for 18 years. I have spent most of that time in private practice representing individuals, families and small businesses on the formation, operation and governance of business entities the purchase, sale, leasing and financing of real estate and other assets, including business interests. My clients are average citizens like the people who come to probate court, and I help them acquire, protect, transfer and sell the kinds of assets that the probate court administers in its cases. Prior to entering private practice, I served as a law clerk to Chief Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Wendy Potts, and I accepted appointments from the probate court in guardianship and conservatorship cases. As a wife, mother, daughter and granddaughter, I have personally experienced many of the issues that bring people to probate court, including illness, caregiving and the loss of loved ones in my own family. I have also seen close friends suffer the devastating effects of a relative's mental health issues.

I have been endorsed by 41 Michigan judges. They are all respected members of the judiciary with diverse backgrounds, experience and views. They have done the work on both sides of the bench and know what it takes to be a good judge. All of them believe in my experience and temperament and have offered their support both publicly and privately because they feel I am the best candidate for this job. I also had the opportunity to watch my mother serve on the Oakland County Probate Court bench for 26 years. She taught me about the important role this court plays in the lives of people in our community, including children and vulnerable adults. In addition, she taught me that being a good judge means working hard to serve the public and ensuring that every person who enters the courtroom is treated with courtesy, dignity and respect. She inspired me to seek a position on the Oakland County Probate Court bench, and I will strive to be worthy of her legacy.

Contact Information:

Cell: (248) 420-3260

Email: team@hallmarkforjudge.com

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47th District Court-Oakland County



Moneka Sanford-Candidate for the 47TH District Court Judge (Farmington/Farmington Hills)

Candidate Statement:

I bring more than 23 years of legal experience and a diverse professional background to my candidacy for the 47th District Court. As the owner of my own law practice since 2003, I have represented individuals in criminal law, family law, probate, civil litigation, landlord-tenant matters, and zoning disputes.

My experience as a court-appointed attorney, juvenile drug court defense attorney, and former foster care case manager has given me a comprehensive understanding of the legal system and the challenges individuals and families face when navigating it. I hold a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. My legal experience, combined with my background in social work and public service, provides me with a broad perspective on the needs of the community.

My approach to the judiciary is grounded in fairness, impartiality, integrity, and respect for every individual who enters the courtroom. I believe justice must be administered consistently and in accordance with the law, while considering each individual's circumstances, maintaining accountability, and prioritizing public safety. My unique combination of legal expertise and social work experience allows me to take a thoughtful, balanced, and compassionate approach to judicial decision-making. I am committed to ensuring that individuals have access to the resources and support they need to address challenges, take responsibility for their actions, and become productive members of society. I believe everyone deserves to be heard and treated with dignity and respect. My goal is to uphold the integrity of the judiciary, make court proceedings accessible and understandable, and foster public trust through fair, impartial, and timely administration of justice.

Contact Information:

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<https://www.instagram.com/monekasanfordforjudge/>



47th District Court-Oakland County



Michael Sawicky-Candidate for District Judge in 47th District Court (Farmington and Farmington Hills.)

Candidate Statement:

My name is Michael Sawicky, and I am proud to serve our communities as a Magistrate in the 47th District Court. Throughout my legal career — as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a Magistrate — I have had the privilege of seeing our justice system from every angle. Spanning over thirty-one years, those experiences have shaped my commitment to fairness, impartiality, and respect for every person who comes before the court.

I believe a judge's role is not to make headlines, but to apply the law faithfully, treat people with dignity, and ensure that the courtroom remains a place where everyone is heard. Our communities deserve a judge who is prepared, even-tempered, and guided by both the rule of law and a strong sense of responsibility.

If elected, I will continue to serve with integrity, accountability, and a deep respect for the trust you place in the judiciary.

Information about my candidacy can be found on my campaign website at: www.SawickyforJudge.com

My campaign also maintains an active presence on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok.

Contact Information:

Committee to Elect Michael Sawicky
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Washtenaw Probate Candidates



Alethia J. Battles, JD, LMSW, MSW

Candidate for Washtenaw County Probate Judge

Candidate Statement:

As a clinical social worker and practicing probate lawyer at Michigan Medicine, I have spent my career in Washtenaw County protecting and advocating for individuals and families from the hospital room to the courtroom. I have filed over 600 guardianship/conservatorship petitions in more than 15 probate courts throughout Michigan, ensuring that our most vulnerable community members have the protections they need.

My work in probate law began as a guardianship reviewer and has evolved to include the development of an efficient guardianship pathway that has been recognized as a model throughout Michigan. I have presented on topics related to probate/guardianship, medico legal ethics, and diminished capacity at the local, state, national and international level. As a result of my extensive work in the area of probate law, I have been recognized as an expert by leading academic medical centers and agencies including the Department of Justice, Jefferson Memorial Health System, and the New England Journal of Medicine.

Contact Information:

Info@alethiabattles4judge.com

Website: www.battles4judge.com



Washtenaw Probate Candidates



Jennifer Lawrence – Candidate for Washtenaw County Probate Court Judge

Candidate Statement:

I am running for Washtenaw County Probate Judge because the families who come before this court often face the hardest moments of their lives: the loss of a loved one, a parent who can no longer make decisions for themselves, or a divorce or custody matter. Born and raised in Ann Arbor, I

have spent my career in our local courts, beginning by working as a District Court clerk before college and later working as a paralegal, and as an attorney in private practice. For more than a decade, my practice has centered on probate, family law, and mediation.

As your Probate Judge, I would bring the perspective of someone who has sat beside families in the courtroom and seen how much the process itself matters. People deserve a judge who explains what is happening, treats every party with dignity, and follows the law fairly and impartially. My experience with collaborative divorce, parenting coordination, and alternative dispute resolution has shown me that many conflicts can be resolved with less cost and less harm when the court encourages thoughtful solutions. Guardianship and conservatorship cases in particular call for careful oversight to protect vulnerable adults, and I would bring that vigilance to the bench every day. I would be honored to serve the community I have called home my whole life.

Contact info:

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- info@jlawforjudge.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/jlawforjudge/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/jlawforjudge/>



Wayne County District Court Candidates

25th District Court-Wayne County



David Loeckner – Candidate for Judge in the 25th District Court (Ecorse, Lincoln Park, and River Rouge)

Candidate Statement:

I have been an attorney for 23 years and my practice areas are Criminal Law - both as a defense attorney and previously as a local prosecutor, in Brownstown and Huron Twps., Civil Law, including a landlord tenant practice, and Family Law. Along with my private practice, I became the Director of Managed Assigned Counsel in the 25th District Court in 2021. I am currently serving on the 25th District Court's Regional Drug Court Team as defense counsel. Prior to that, I was a member of the 33rd District

Court's Sobriety Court Team for 2.5 years; first as the prosecutor and then as defense counsel. In tandem with being on the Drug Court, I also serve on the Board of Directors for Downriver Facing Addiction Now.

I believe that my 23 years of practicing law, the administrative experience I have gained as the Director of Managed Assigned Counsel, and my service on both the Drug Court and DFAN uniquely qualify me to be an administrator of the law as the next Judge in the 25th District Court.

Contact Information:

My campaign email is dloeckner@gmail.com; 734-283-4633; loecknerforjudge.com; Facebook: David Loeckner for 25th District Court Judge;



Wayne County District Court Candidates

36th District Court-Wayne County



Delphia Burton- Candidate for 36th District Court Judge

Candidate Statement

I am excited about the possibility of serving as Judge of the 36th District Court and hope you will give my credentials serious review. My skills and abilities are closely aligned with the expectations associated with the duties and responsibilities of this position. I currently serve as a 36th District Court Magistrate where I am responsible for authorizing arrest and search warrants, conducting in-person and video felony arraignments, presiding over parking violation hearings, resolving small claims and performing weddings. Prior to that, I was appointed as a Special Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Detroit Law Department, prosecuting misdemeanors from arraignment to trial. As Assistant City Attorney for Highland Park, I prosecuted traffic infractions and misdemeanor offenses, served as legal advisor at City-Council meetings, and drafted or reviewed resolutions and ordinances. Most of my legal career was accomplished as President and Chief Litigator for Delphia J. Burton & Associates, P.C., having represented individuals charged with felonies and misdemeanors as well as resolved family law matters. In addition, I have experience as a Parole/Probation Officer, Strategic Planner/Administrative Assistant and Legislative Aide. The convergence of my judicial, municipal and private practice is immediately transferable and supportive of the goals of the 36th District Court.

When interpreting laws, evaluating evidence and applying legal principles, judicial restraint is an appropriate methodology. The reliance on past court decisions and established case law leads to consistent rulings free from personal or political bias which ensures that legal rights and procedural fairness are maintained.

Contact information:

Website link is dburton4judge.com

313 920-1984

dburton4judge@gmail.com.



Wayne County District Court Candidates

36th District Court-Wayne County



Jo Irby-Candidate for 36th District Court Judge

Candidate Statement:

Qualifications: Attorney since 1997, practice civil, criminal, family, real estate, labor and military. Arbitrator for FINRA, AAA and USPS.

Perspective would be to bring a newness, impartiality, fairness and (prayerfully) timely justice to the courtroom. Educate our community and find a way to streamline cases before they are docketed and brainstorm ideas to reduce the backlog in the court.

Contact Information: Jo Irby
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