

Legal People

Management side labor and employment law firm **Nemeth Bonnette Brouwer PC** (formerly Nemeth Law PC) is pleased to announce that **Deborah Brouwer, Terry Bonnette, and Patricia Nemeth** have been recognized as DBusiness Top Lawyers for 2023. All three attorneys were named in the labor and employment law category.

Managing Partner Deborah Brouwer's labor and employment practice includes the defense of lawsuits against employers involving claims of race, age, religion, national origin, gender and disability discrimination, and harassment and retaliation, as well as FLSA, FMLA and non-competition suits. She also provides employer training and conducts discrimination and harassment investigations on behalf of employers. Brouwer has experience appearing before administrative agencies, including the EEOC, MDCR, MIOSHA, OSHA and the NLRB, and frequently appears before the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Partner Terry Bonnette's practice encompasses traditional labor law and employment law counseling, training, and litigation. In the counseling realm, Bonnette covers a wide range of contract compliance and regulatory issues, including FMLA, Wage and Hour, and the ADA. He is also an experienced litigator, representing clients before state and federal courts, administrative agencies and arbitrators, on issues including employment discrimination, harassment, disability, and retaliation. Bonnette also created the firm's "Raising the Bar" educational series focused on increasing employer awareness of trending issues in employment law.

Founder Patricia Nemeth, Of Counsel, has found career success as a litigator, investigator, consultant, and certified mediator, and now focuses her practice on counseling, investigations and mediation, serving as an employment and commercial arbitrator. Nemeth's areas of expertise include religious, ethnic, and gender discrimination, sex, race, and ethnic harassment, wrongful discharge, union organizing activities and multi-party lawsuits. Industries served include healthcare, nursing homes, retail, manufacturing, gaming, insurance, and government entities.

The DBusiness honor comes on the heels of other legal awards for the three this year including Leading Lawyers and Michigan Super Lawyers.

Michigan Lawyers Weekly named **Western Michigan University Cooley Law School** Assistant Dean **Erika Breitfeld** as Lawyer of the Year. In October, Breitfeld and WMU-Cooley graduate **Paul J. Millenbach of Foster, Swift, Collins, & Smith** in Southfield, were two of 30 lawyers named to Michigan Lawyers Weekly's "Leaders in the Law" Class of 2022. The annual presentation honoring the Leaders in the Law Class and Lawyer of the Year was held on December 2 at the Detroit Marriott Troy.

Breitfeld was selected as Lawyer of the Year by members of the Leaders in the Law Class of 2022.

"I am humbled by the company I keep in this room," said Breitfeld during her acceptance remarks. "I am so honored that I get to use the law to help people. Thank you for this high honor; I share it with each of you."

Breitfeld serves as assistant dean of students at WMU-Cooley. She joined the law school's full-time faculty in 2013, teaching Criminal Law, Advocacy, Research and Writing, and Appellate Advocacy/Moot Court. Before joining the law school, she was an assistant prosecuting attorney for Macomb County and associate attorney for Ward, Anderson, Porritt, & Bryant PC in Bloomfield Hills.

In addition to educating the next generation of legal professionals, Breitfeld remains active in the legal profession. She has served on the State Bar of Michigan's Access to Justice Committee since 2012. She has also served on the board of directors for the Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court from 2015 to 2022. She is a recognized leader as evi-

denced by her appointment as a Michigan State Bar Foundation Fellow, which celebrates attorneys who show professional excellence and service to the community (September 2020-present).

Breitfeld serves as a hearing panelist for the Attorney Discipline Board. (2015-present) and is a member of the Oakland County Inns of Court. Most recently, Breitfeld has extended her time to criminal justice reforms and student mentorship. In 2021, she was appointed by Prosecutor Karen McDonald to the Oakland County Racial Justice Advisory Board, where she works with community stakeholders to promote equity and social justice reforms for underrepresented minority groups.

Attorney **Aleanna B. Siacon** recently joined **Plunkett Cooney** as a member of its Torts & Litigation Practice Group.

Siacon maintains a litigation practice that includes the defense of premises liability, personal injury, product liability and municipal liability claims, as well as general negligence matters.



Aleanna B. Siacon

In addition, Siacon has public-sector experience that includes the direct representation of municipalities in the metro Detroit area and in northern Michigan. She handles real property disputes, civil rights matters, ordinance reviews, First Amendment issues, and education law cases.

Prior to graduating from Wayne State University Law School in 2022, Siacon worked as a summer associate at Plunkett Cooney and as a civil division intern for the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Michigan. In addition, she served as a judicial intern for U.S. District Court Judge Mark Goldsmith, Eastern District of Michigan.

Before attending law school, Siacon pursued a career in journalism. Her work has been published in USA Today, the Chicago Tribune, the Associated Press, the Detroit Free Press, Hour Detroit magazine Inc. magazine, and other media outlets.

Attorney **Brooke A. Nosanchuk** also recently joined the Commercial Litigation Practice Group of Plunkett Cooney.



Brooke A. Nosanchuk

A member of the firm's Bloomfield Hills office, Nosanchuk focuses her practice on real property, contract disputes, business torts and banking conflicts.

Nosanchuk represents financial institutions, including commercial lenders and banks, in lending actions involving collections and real estate litigation. She also represents other commercial entities in various contract-based commercial disputes.

Nosanchuk received her law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2022. While in law school, she

worked as a summer associate at Plunkett Cooney.

Jennifer Bentley, executive director of the **Michigan State Bar Foundation (MSBF)**, has been named one of the 2022 "Notable Women in Nonprofits" by Crain's Detroit Business. Bentley, a longtime Michigan Supreme Court partner on civil justice reforms, currently serves on the Executive Team of the Justice for All Commission (JFAC) that is working toward 100 percent access to the civil justice system. She was nominated for the award by Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) leadership. Justice Brian K. Zahra works with Bentley in his role as JFAC chair.

Leading up to the establishment of the JFAC, Bentley participated on the Steering Committee of the Justice for All Task Force to develop the JFAC strategic plan for achieving 100 percent access to the civil justice system. The task force pulled together civil justice system stakeholders and facilitated public town hall meetings across the state, during which residents shared their experiences in trying to handle civil legal matters without the help of an attorney. Her work helped to provide a solid foundation of data that led to the creation of the strategic plan and JFAC.

Bentley has also been instrumental in developing new streams of funding for the JFAC. Her guidance on the JFAC Executive Team helped to secure grant funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Center for State Courts, with MSBF serving as the fiscal agent for these grants. Bentley also has championed efforts to increase funding for civil legal aid organizations throughout Michigan.

Bentley has served as executive director of the MSBF since January 2017. The Foundation provides leadership and funding to advance access to justice for the poor, annual operating grants to civil legal aid organizations throughout Michigan, and project grants to improve the administration of justice. The Foundation also administers the Access to Justice Campaign (in partnership with the State Bar of Michigan) to raise money from the legal community for 15 regional and statewide civil legal aid organizations, administers the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program in Michigan, and launched a Banking on Justice Campaign in 2019.

In addition to many statewide task forces and committees, Bentley currently serves as immediate past president of the National Association of IOLTA Programs (NAIP) and on the Board of Directors of Management Information Exchange. Before joining the MSBF, she served in various roles within nonprofit civil legal aid programs, including staff attorney, managing attorney and director of development. Bentley obtained her law degree from Indiana University.

Butzel is growing, adding a Grand Rapids office that includes three established local attorneys who will join Butzel on January 1, 2023, according to Paul M. Mersino, Butzel's next president and CEO, effective in March 2023 at the firm's Annual Meeting.

According to Mersino, the addition of **Lee T. Silver, Michael L. Gutierrez, and J. Terrance Dillon**, currently with Silver & Van Essen PC, will augment Butzel's litigation practice, with the intent to grow the new location into a full-service office with the addition of more attorneys.

"We are focused on growing as a firm and adding a Grand Rapids

office is part of that initiative," said Mersino. "We already have clients who conduct business in west Michigan, and this will allow us to better serve them while also broadening our client base. This is an excellent time for Butzel to expand in the region, and we are doing so with some of the most respected and talented lawyers in Michigan. We could not be more excited by this expansion."

Justin G. Klimko, the firm's current president and CEO, added, "We are thrilled to welcome Lee, Mike and Terry to Butzel's ranks. They bring to us an established and highly respected presence in west Michigan. Grand Rapids is an important city and market and presents great opportunities to our firm, especially with such outstanding colleagues."

"We are extremely excited to begin this next chapter of our practice by joining forces with Butzel," Silver, co-founder of Silver & Van Essen PC, said. "Becoming the Grand Rapids office of an excellent firm like Butzel will offer immediate benefits to our clients. This move will allow us to continue providing the same quality representation, personal service, and cost-effective solutions that our clients have been accustomed to receiving from us for decades, while also giving us a deeper bench, additional resources, and access to the multi-disciplinary expertise that Butzel provides."

The Michigan Supreme Court has appointed Judge **Patricia Perez Fresard** to serve as the chief judge of the **Third Circuit Court** starting January 1, 2023.

Fresard has served as a Wayne County Circuit Court judge since 1999. Fresard began her judicial career as a felony trial court judge and initial presiding judge of the Criminal Division's Drug Court. She presided over hundreds of criminal felony trials including murder, rape, carjacking, drug, and firearm charges.

Fresard was accepted by bid to the Civil Division in 2012 and selected by Chief Judge Colombo as presiding judge of the Civil Division in 2016. In 2019, Chief Judge Timothy M. Kenny appointed Fresard as chief judge pro tem and presiding judge of the Civil Division. Fresard has spearheaded efforts to ensure that case backlogs are addressed, supported competitive wages for court personnel, and championed the court's ongoing collaboration with the legal community.

Fresard will be the second woman and the first Hispanic to serve as chief judge of the Third Circuit Court.

As chief judge, Fresard seeks to continue on the path of delivering quality services to the public and creating a productive, innovative work environment. Her primary goals include the move of the Criminal Division to the new Criminal Court Complex, the establishment of the Family Court as prescribed by statute, and the continued advancement of an inclusive workplace culture. Judges, court management, and staff will be invited to participate in the various 2023 Strategic Plan initiatives and projects.

The chief judge under Michigan Court Rule 8.100 shall select a chief judge pro tempore and a presiding judge of any division of the trial court. Fresard is pleased to introduce her selection for chief judge pro tempore and presiding judge:

• Judge **Leslie Kim Smith** will serve as the chief judge pro tem and the presiding judge of the Civil Division. Smith has served on the Third Circuit Court since April 2003. She has been in the Civil Division since September 2013. From April 2003 to August

2013, Smith served on the Family Division-Juvenile Section, and she was the presiding judge in that division from January 2009 to December 2012. As presiding judge, she led the restructuring of legal representation for children involved in child welfare and juvenile justice matters. She currently serves on the court's Executive Bench Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. Smith also served as a judge for the 30th District Court in Highland Park from January 1987 to April 2003 and was the chief judge from January 1988 to April 2003. Prior to coming to the bench, Smith was an assistant attorney general.

• Judge **Cylenchia LaToye Miller** will serve as the presiding judge of Wayne County's Third Circuit Court Family-Juvenile Division. Miller was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit Court on July 22, 2019 and is assigned to the Juvenile Division. Miller served on the 36th Judicial District Court from April 10, 2006 through August 18, 2019. Miller was the founding and presiding judge over Street Outreach Court Detroit which assists Detroit's homeless population with clearing their driver's licenses and returning to self-sufficiency. Miller is an adjunct professor at Baker College of Allen Park and Baker College of Jackson. She has worked in the Criminal Justice Department since 2012 and in the Humanities Department since 2016. Miller received her law degree from Michigan State University College of Law in 1996. Miller was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1996 and to the State Bar of Arkansas in 1997.

• Judge **Donald Knapp** will serve as the presiding judge of Wayne County's Third Circuit Court Criminal Division. Knapp was appointed to the Third Circuit Court in April of 2018. Prior to that appointment, he served for nine years as the Livonia city attorney during which time he advised the mayor, City Council, department heads, and commissions, handled criminal prosecutions, litigated civil litigation filed against the City of Livonia, and managed the Law Department's other attorneys and staff. He also specialized in commercial and civil litigation, probate and estate planning, and municipal law at Fausone Bohn LLP in Northville for fourteen years. Knapp's career began as a research attorney for Third Circuit Court Judge Timothy M. Kenny. He also worked as a legislative aide for then State Senator Thaddeus McCotter and as an associate attorney for a small medical malpractice defense firm, respectively. He is a graduate of the Detroit College of Law (now known as Michigan State University College of Law), University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Detroit Catholic Central. Knapp was elected to the Livonia City Council in 2001 and re-elected in 2005. He was active in the

Livonia Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Federalist Society, Livonia Bar Association, and Detroit Bar Association.

• Judge **Melissa Cox** will serve as the presiding judge of Wayne County's Third Circuit Court Family Domestic Relations Division. Cox was elected to the Third Judicial Circuit Court in November 2016. Cox graduated from the University of Michigan and received her law degree from Ave Maria School of Law. She began her legal career as a law clerk for the law firm Fausone Bohn LLP in Northville. She continued to work for the firm as an associate attorney, focusing her practice in family law. She handled a high-volume caseload of divorce, custody, and adoption matters. Additionally, throughout her career, she served as assistant city attorney for several municipalities and, in that capacity, prosecuted criminal misdemeanors and civil infractions and defended civil litigation lawsuits. She has been afforded recognition as a Super Lawyer Rising Star for the past six years and has been named by Hour Magazine as a Top Female Attorney. She is a member of the Wayne County Family Bar Association, the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, and the past vice president of the Livonia Bar Association.

The administrative team will be led by Zenell B. Brown, who has served as the executive court administrator since 2014, and Richard M. Lynch, who has served as the general counsel since 2014.

To learn more about the court, visit its website at www.3rdcc.org, follow the court at [Twitter@3rdccorg](https://twitter.com/3rdccorg), and like the court on Facebook at [3rdccorg](https://www.facebook.com/3rdccorg).

• **Kacie Pohlman** recently joined the **Transitions Legal** family law firm as associate attorney.



Kacie Pohlman

A graduate of University of Findlay (Ohio) with a dual-major in art and psychology, and a law degree from University of Toledo, Pohlman chose the profession of law because "it allows you to assist people in their lives. It's not

(continued on page 5)

Oakland County Legal News

Founded 1927

www.legalnews.com/oakland

Ban Ibrahim

Publisher

ban@legalnews.com

Eric Kent Franz

Editor

editor@legalnews.com

Suzanne Kethner

Display and Classified Advertising

advertising@legalnews.com

Production

oaklandpubs@legalnews.com

Tom Kirvan

Editor in Chief

tkirvan@legalnews.com

Carol Brown

Graphic Designer

carol@legalnews.com

Mary Steinmetz

Circulation Coordinator

subs@legalnews.com

The Detroit Legal News Publishing L.L.C.

Bradley L. Thompson II

President

bthompson@legalnews.com

Ban Ibrahim

Publisher

ban@legalnews.com

Published weekly by The Detroit Legal News Publishing L.L.C.

Oakland County Legal News, 1409 Allen Dr., Suite B, Troy, MI, 48063-4003
PHONE: 248-577-6100, or toll-free: 1-800-875-5275. FAX: 248-577-6111

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Oakland County Legal News
1409 Allen Dr., Suite B,
Troy, MI, 48063-4003

Subscription rates, payable in advance:
One Year \$80.00

Back copies after 30 days available at \$1.25 each.

ADVERTISING RATES ON REQUEST

Under no circumstances will any judgment, decree or other matter of record be withheld from publication in this paper.

QUALIFIED under all statutory requirements for the publication of public and legal notices including a 100% paid circulation status, existence of over two years and Act 246 of 1993 requiring an average of 25% general and legal news content.

The reproduction in whole or in part of any item appearing herein for the purpose of sale or republication without permission is expressly prohibited.

The Oakland County Legal News is printed on recycled newsprint using soy-based ink at the Inland Press in Detroit.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT TROY, MICHIGAN AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES

ISSN 1523-3146



Member

Member of Associated Press (AP)

Member: American Court and Commercial Newspapers, Inc.
Michigan Press Association

ASSOCIATED LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

Oakland County Legal News, Macomb County Legal News, Flint-Geneesee County Legal News, Washburn County Legal News, Jackson County Legal News, Ingham County Legal News, Grand Rapids Legal News, The Norton Lakeshore Examiner Muskegon County Legal News.

Costa Rica
9 Day Tour \$995
with All Meals, All Hotels, All Activities.

Hike in jungle rainforests, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs, cruise biological reserves and relax on tropical ocean beaches. Join the smart shoppers and experienced travelers.

1-800-CARAVAN
Caravan.com

Choose a Guided Tour +tax,fees

Costa Rica 9 days \$995
Panama 8 days \$995
Guatemala 8 days \$995
Mexico
- Ancient Civ. 9 days \$995
- Copper Canyon 8 days \$1295

"Brilliant, Affordable Pricing!"
Arthur Frommer,
Travel Editor



Caravan
Fully Guided Tours Since 1952

Webinar examines 'Child Sexual Exploitation Online'

The Michigan Judicial Institute and Child Welfare Services (CWS) will present a webinar on "Child Sexual Exploitation Online: Emerging Trends and Issues" Tuesday, January 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

The advent of the Internet has transformed sexual violence, especially those crimes committed against children and minors. This training will review online child sexual exploitation with specific focus on the varying types of crimes, the methods and motives of these offenders, potential avenues for intervention and prevention of these crimes, and the consequences of online sexual victimization for children and minors. The training will also explore whether these offenders are likely to recidivate, or commit more sexual crime, and what fac-

tors may increase recidivism in online sexual exploitation offenders.

Speaking at the program will be Karen Holt, assistant professor, Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice.

This training is intended for all child welfare professionals including jurists, court staff, prosecutors, attorneys, Lawyer-Guardians Ad Litem, CPS and foster care workers, tribes, private agencies, police, medical professionals, mental health providers, education professionals, and Foster Care Review Board members.

To register for the webinar, visit <https://mjeducation.mi.gov> and scroll down to "events." Once registration is approved by MJJ, attendees will receive a confirmation e-mail from Zoom with login information.

DRIKER AWARD: Late attorney presented with inaugural award

(Continued from page 1)
that he was also a remarkable husband, an incredible father and a devoted grandfather."

Driker's daughter Elissa Driker couldn't be at the ceremony but sent a note that Elaine Driker read to everyone in attendance.

"That is so lovely and meaningful," Elissa Driker wrote. "And exactly what I think Dad hoped for as his legacy."

The Eugene Driker Award for Distinguished Service is intended to honor individuals who, like Driker, have performed extraordinary service on behalf of both the university and the community.

"His impact changed the face

of our institution," Wilson said. "Eugene was one of a kind, and I feel so privileged to have known him and to have called him my friend. This award provides the opportunity for our community to understand the importance of all Eugene did for Wayne State University and Detroit, and serves as a model for others to emulate. This is a special award, to be granted to only a few."

Future awards will be presented based on the emergence of a potential awardee rather than on a calendar basis, and will be at the discretion of the president, with concurrence from the Board of Governors.

OFFICE PARTY: Ten tips for employers to keep it professional but fun

(Continued from page 1)
taken; employers have the right to enforce workplace policies on marijuana even when such use is outside the actual workplace.

7. For crowd control and better monitoring of party activities, consider limiting parties to employees rather than adding clients and vendors. Also, for riskier activities like ax throwing or rock climbing, understand there may be employer liability, regardless of waivers.

8. Consider hosting celebratory events at a breakfast or lunch gathering—or a Monday or Tuesday evening rather than a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night.

9. Invite all employees to the party but make it clear that attendance is voluntary. Not everyone

celebrates the holidays and employees should not feel pressured to attend.

10. Don't drink and drive should be the mantra. If possible, arrange for transportation in advance for employees who may not be able to drive. Shuttles and car services are an excellent option but can be costly. Consider alternatives, including offering to reimburse employees for ride-hailing services or cab fares.

"This year's parties will require more thoughtful planning, but employers and employees can both experience memorable events that are worth the effort. Bringing colleagues together for celebratory occasions may be more important now than ever," Brouwer said.

ROBINSON: Dean's Fellow eyes career as a prosecuting attorney

(Continued from page 1)
ciation (BLSA), recognizes incoming Black law students for their achievements prior to law school and for their potential as future leaders, influencers, and activists, who will advance justice, equality, civil rights, and service.

Originally from Clinton Township in Macomb County, Robinson called West Michigan home for her undergrad three years at GVSU, where she also was involved in Helping Hands, the National Society for Leadership and Success, and the school's Tutoring Program.

"However, Southeastern Michigan will always be home, so I moved back after graduation. I love the vibrancy of Metro Detroit," she says. "I enjoy going to Tigers games, museums such as the DIA and Charles H. Wright Museum, Belle Isle, Eastern Market, the Thanksgiving Parade, and all the restaurants and activities to do in the city. I'm also a history fan, so I love learning about the city of Detroit. My mom is a Cass Tech alumna and my dad is also a Detroit native so they love to show me and my siblings all of the hidden gems of the city they grew up experiencing."

The second of six children, Robinson has four brothers and a sister; and a 12-year-old Boxer

dog named Sunny.

"I spend a lot of time with my family supporting them in their various endeavors," she says.

In her leisure time, Robinson enjoys reading, listening to music, playing tennis, napping, and travel.

"I've traveled extensively around the United States, but my favorite to visit would have to be South Carolina, specifically the beaches on the Sea Islands along the Atlantic Ocean."

Robinson also has enjoyed volunteering with her church and college organizations, as well as engaging in service activities and community outreach such as tutoring.

"I strive to participate in activities that improve the community's well-being," she says. "One of my favorite community events I participated in was Project Night Lights in Grand Rapids, that included a parade of fire trucks flashing lights for children receiving treatment at the Helen Devos Children's Hospital. It was incredible to see the community come together to bring smiles to the kids during their treatment."

"The dedication to community service, the improvement of community well-being, and social justice are one of the many reasons I was drawn to the Detroit Mercy School of Law."

Legal People

(Continued from page 2)

an easy field to navigate on your own, so I liked having that knowledge in order to assist more in-depth in people's lives."

During her college studies, Pohlman studied romantic relationships and group therapy, adding knowledge that informs her legal career and inspiring her to choose family law as her area of specialty. She also learned conflict resolution and attachment styles to better understand how people react and manage conflict, which informs her work with the Our Family in Two Homes resource that Transitions Legal offers to clients.

"Divorce is often uprooting the lives people have established," says Pohlman. "I enjoy being able to help people create a new beginning that they're comfortable with and walk away as happy as they can."

Before Pohlman joined Transitions Legal in 2022, she worked in family law and personal injury/no-fault law at a firm where she was tasked with creating a family law division.

Pohlman completed law school during the pandemic and started her career with Zoom court.

Varnum is pleased to announce that **Chelsea Everson** has joined the firm's Intellectual Property Team. She is based in Varnum's Novi office.

Everson has a range of IP experience in patent prosecution, trademark and copyright protection, trade secret law and preparation and review of IP agreements. She has prepared and prosecuted numerous domestic and foreign patent applications within the biological, chemical and mechanical arts. She regularly prepares prior art searches, freedom-to-operate analyses and infringement and invalidity opinions. She is also experienced in IP litigation involving patent and trademark infringement, trade secret misappropriation and unfair competition.

During law school, Everson served an externship with the USPTO's Patent Experience Extern Program and Patent Training Academy at the Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She worked alongside patent examiners in a unit that oversees various biotech, chemical and pharmaceutical technologies to review patent applications for grant consideration and conduct prior art searches. Everson also delivered presentations on patent and trademark matters to small business owners and aspiring inventors at USPTO informational events.

Everson is a graduate of Wayne State University Law School. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in honors psychology with a minor in biological sciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Michigan – Dearborn.

Dawda Mann is pleased to announce its recognition by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" with 12 of its practice areas receiving high regional rankings.

"We are pleased to be recognized for the expertise that our firm demonstrates every day to our clients," said Edward C. Dawda, one of the firm's founders. "Dawda Mann's entire team continues to meet the local and global needs of our clients to ensure their business and personal legal issues are anticipated, addressed and solved."

Dawda Mann received the following regional recognition in the 2023 "Best Law Firms" rankings:

- Tier 1**
- Closely Held Companies & Family Businesses Law
 - Corporate Law
 - Energy Law
 - Environmental Law
 - Land Use & Zoning Law
 - Litigation – Real Estate
 - Real Estate Law
 - Trusts & Estate Law
- Tier 2**
- Banking & Finance Law
 - Commercial Litigation
 - Litigation – Environmental
 - Tax Law

Dickinson Wright is pleased to announce that 40 of the firm's attorneys have been included in DBusiness 2023 Top Lawyers.

Below is a list of local Dickinson Wright lawyers included in this year's list:

—Detroit

Allison R. Bach, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Richard M. Bolton, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Aaron V. Burrell, Labor and Employment Law

Christopher A. Cornwall, Construction Law, Litigation - Construction

David R. Deromedi, Labor and Employment Law

Phillip J. DeRosier, Appellate Law

J. Benjamin Dolan, Litigation – Real Estate

K. Scott Hamilton, Appellate Law

Mark R. High, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Steven G. Howell, Banking & Financial Services Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law

Thomas G. McNeill, Litigation – Banking & Financial Services, Litigation – Commercial

Sharon R. Newlon, Environmental Law

James A. Plemmons, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law

William P. Shield Jr., Banking & Financial Services Law

Theodore B. Sylwstrzak, Banking & Financial Services Law

Kathryn S. Wood, Labor and Employment Law

L. Pahl Zinn, Antitrust Law, Litigation – Antitrust

—Troy

Laura M. Bassett, Public Finance Law

Joseph W. DeLave, Construction Law

Roberta P. Granadier, Employee Benefits Law

Craig W. Hammond, Banking & Financial Services Law, Public Finance Law

Monica J. Labe, Real Estate Law

Elise S. Levasseur, Immigration Law

Elizabeth L. Luckenbach, Trusts & Estates

Michael J. Lusardi, Real Estate Law

Cynthia A. Moore, Employee Benefits Law

Gregory W. Moore, Health Care Law

Zan M. Nicolli, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Michael T. Raymond, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Kristyn P. Recchia, Family Law

William L. Rosin, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Lynn Capp Sirich, Family Law

Jared A. Smith, Corporate Law

Dana L. Ulrich, Mergers & Acquisitions Law

Peter H. Webster, Land Use & Zoning Law

Mark E. Wilson, Health Care Law

Katheryne L. Zelenock, Real Estate Law

• • •

Bodman PLC is pleased to announce that DBusiness Magazine has included 68 of the firm's attorneys on its 2023 Top Lawyers list.

Bodman attorneys were recognized in 31 different areas of practice. Local Bodman attorneys included in DBusiness Top Lawyers 2023, with the practice areas for which they were nominated, are listed below by office:

—Detroit Office

Marc M. Bakst (Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law)

Kelly M. Burnell (Trusts and Estates)

Andrew H. Curoe (Trusts and Estates)

Sarah L. Cylkowski (Insurance Law; Litigation-Insurance)

Brandon M. Dalziel (Health Care Law)

Laurence B. Deitch (Corporate Law; Mergers & Acquisitions Law)

Robert J. Diehl Jr. (Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law)

Forrest O. Dillon (Antitrust Law; Corporate Law; Mergers & Acquisitions Law)

Fredrick J. Dindoffer (Environmental Law)

Christopher J. Dine (Non-profit/Charities Law; Tax Law)

Nathan D. Dupes (Environmental Law)

Aaron D. Graves (Labor and Employment Law)

Scott P. Gyorke (Banking & Financial Services Law)

Kathleen O'Callaghan Hick (Banking & Financial Services Law)

David P. Larsen (Trusts and Estates)

Dennis J. Levasseur (Litigation-Banking and Finance; Litigation-Intellectual Property)

Melissa A. Lewis (Banking & Financial Services Law)

Kelly M. Lockman (Real Estate Law)

Jay B. Long (Tax Law)

Julia C. Massaro (Trusts and Estates)

Ralph E. McDowell (Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law)

Nicholas P. McElhinny (Mergers & Acquisitions Law)

Adam B. Norlander (Banking & Financial Services Law)

Joseph G. Nuyen Jr. (Health Care Law)

Rebecca D'Arcy O'Reilly (Employee Benefits Law)

Jeffrey G. Raphaelson (Litigation-Commercial)

Thomas J. Rheume Jr. (Appellate Law; Litigation-Insurance)

Damali A. Sahu (Banking & Financial Services Law)

Joseph J. Shannon (Litigation-Commercial; Litigation-Banking and Finance)

Erica J. Shell (Environmental Law)

Larry R. Shulman (Banking & Financial Services Law)

Brian R. Trumbauer (Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law)

Jaimee L. Witten (Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law)

—Troy Office

Courtland W. Anderson (Franchise Law)

Celeste E. Arduino (Nonprofit/Charities Law)

Donovan S. Asmar (Appellate Law)

Adam Behrendt (Litigation-Banking and Finance; Litigation-Real Estate)

John T. Below (Labor and Employment Law)

Jonathan S. Berg (Commercial Law)

David C. Bosman (Banking & Financial Services Law)

Gene P. Bowen (Mergers & Acquisitions Law)

Barbara A. Bowman (Public Finance Law)

Robert J. Cambridge (Corporate Law; Securities Law)

John C. Cashen (Labor and Employment Law)

Steven R. Cole (Tax Law)

Michael G. Costello (Insurance Law)

Anthony P. Cracchiolo (Trusts and Estates)

Michelle Thurber Czapski (Insurance Law; Litigation-Insurance)

Gary S. Fealk (Labor and Employment Law)

Gregory J. Gamalski (Real Estate Law)

Mark W. Peters (Securities Law)

Nicholas P. Scavone Jr. (Real Estate Law)

Andrew Z. Spilkin (Construction Law; Real Estate Law)

Thomas J. Tallero (Litigation-Antitrust)

Thomas Van Dusen (Litigation-Commercial)

David B. Walters (Employee Benefits Law)

Rebecca Seguin-Skrabucha (Labor and Employment Law)

Glen M. Zatz (Real Estate Law)

• • •

Haley Wadel has joined **Miller Canfield** as an associate attorney in the Corporate and Transactions Group. She will support the firm's international and export controls and sanctions practices.

Wadel earned her bachelor's degree in economics and international studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is a graduate of the Michigan State University College of Law.

While in law school, Wadel was a legal intern at the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office and was an ethics and compliance legal intern at Oshkosh Corp. in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

After law school, Wadel worked as an associate at the Miami-based Diaz Trade Law, where she performed legal research, advised clients on implementing export strategies, and assisted clients in a wide range of customs and internation-

al trade issues. She has experience in export licensing, import and export classification, corporate sustainability, and knowledge of international markets and trade compliance and ethics.

The State Appellate Defender Office is pleased to announce that **Kathy Swedlow** has been named the manager of SADO's **Criminal Defense Resource Center**. The CDRC develops and administers statewide trainings for criminal defense attorneys, operates SADO's web site (www.sado.org), and publishes a variety of books and manuals, including the popular Defender Books series. Swedlow succeeds Marilena David, who managed the CDRC from 2015 to 2022 and who currently serves as SADO's deputy director.

Swedlow is an experienced administrator, teacher, author, and criminal defense attorney. From 2016-2021, She was the deputy administrator of the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS), where she provided training and support to MAACS roster attorneys. From 2001-2016, Swedlow was a professor and assistant dean at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, where she taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Death Penalty Law. She was also the co-director of the school's Innocence Project and was co-counsel on the Project's first DNA exoneration case. Before moving to Michigan in 2000, Swedlow worked as an assistant federal defender with the Capital Habeas Unit of the Defender Association of Philadelphia, where she represented death row prisoners in Pennsylvania. She has also worked in the staff attorneys' offices in the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Second, Third, and Sixth Circuits.

Swedlow is the author of the SADO "Defender Appellate Manual" (2020) and three law school textbooks, published in 2017, 2021, and 2022; she is also a former contributing editor for death penalty cases for the ABA publication, "Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases." She has conducted trainings for SADO and MAACS on a wide variety of substantive and procedural legal topics.

Swedlow is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and City University of New York School of Law.

Eric T. Johnson has joined **Secret Wardle's** Troy location as a partner. He is a member of the firm's Motor Vehicle Litigation and Premises Liability Practice Groups.



Eric T. Johnson

Johnson earned his law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and American History from the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

Johnson gained experience while acting as a sole practitioner for several years where he managed a variety of cases in multiple areas of law. From there, Johnson spent seven years as house counsel for an insurance company where he managed all stages of litigation dealing with both first and third party automobile accident cases.

In addition, Secret Wardle proudly congratulates its newest associates on recently passing the bar exam. **Nicholas Badalamenti**, **Sean Barry**, **Ryan Misiak**, **Dayne Rogers**, **Sera Serafini**, **Rita Soka**, and **Tean Watson** have all accepted associate positions with the firm.