



**Michigan Appellate Bench  
Bar Conference Foundation**

**May 14–16, 2025**

# **Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference**

**Saint John's Resort, 44045 Five Mile Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170**



**On-site Schedule**  
**Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference**  
**May 14 – 16, 2025**  
**Saint John's Resort**

44045 5 Mile Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 414-0600

**Mission Statement**

*Our mission is to improve the administration of appellate justice in Michigan through conferences designed to encourage an exchange of ideas among Michigan appellate lawyers, judges, and court staff. The Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference Foundation believes that this interchange of ideas allows participants to learn how to better perform their roles in the process and collectively improve it.*

**Schedule of Events**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

5:30–7:00 p.m.      **Grand Reception** – *Provincial Ballroom – First Floor*

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

7:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m. **Beverage Station** – *Garden Gallery – First Floor*

8:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. **Registration** – *Garden Gallery – First Floor*

8:30–9:00 a.m.      **Continental Breakfast** – *Garden Gallery – First Floor*

9:00–9:15 a.m.      **Welcome** – *Grand Ballroom – First Floor*

9:15–10:30 a.m.      **Plenary – Court of Appeals Practice and Procedures: What You Don't Know Can Kill You(r Appeal)** – *Grand Ballroom – First Floor*

**Panel:** Hon. Christopher Murray, *Michigan Court of Appeals*  
Jerry Zimmer, Chief Clerk, *Michigan Court of Appeals*  
Gary Chambron, District Clerk, *Michigan Court of Appeals*  
John Hiemstra, District Commissioner, *Michigan Court of Appeals*  
Timothy Diemer, *Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.*  
**Moderator:** Beth Wittmann, *Mark Granzotto PC*  
**Reporter:** US Legal Support

10:30–11:00 a.m.      **Refreshment Break** – *Throughout Hotel*

11:00–12:15 p.m.      **Plenary Break Out Sessions**

**Break Out 1** – *Executive Board Room – First Floor*

**Moderator:** Beth Wittmann, *Mark Granzotto PC*  
**Reporter:** Ashley Chrysler, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Break Out 2** – *The Abbey – First Floor*

**Moderator:** Timothy Diemer, *Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.*  
**Reporter:** Samantha McLeod, *Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.*

**Thursday, May 15, 2025, Continued**

**11:00–12:15 p.m. Break Out 3 – Library Room C – Second Floor**

**Moderator:** Ann Sherman, *Solicitor General, Michigan Department of Attorney General*

**Reporter:** Emily Zillgitt, *Michigan Dept of Attorney General*

**Break Out 4 – Library Room D– Second Floor**

**Moderator:** Christina Ginter, *Kitch Attorneys and Counselors*

**Reporter:** Katharine Gostek, *Kitch Attorneys and Counselors*

**Break Out 5 – Library Room A – Second Floor**

**Moderator:** Jennifer Engelhardt, *Goethel Engelhardt PLLC*

**Reporter:** Adam Ostrander, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Break Out 6 – Drawing Room II – Lower Level**

**Moderator:** Stephanie Arndt, *Appellate Partners*

**Reporter:** Timothy Smith, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Break Out 7 – Library Room B – Second Floor**

**Moderator:** Gaëtan Gerville-Réache, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Reporter:** Ashley Yuill, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Break Out 8 – The Atrium Parlor – Lower Level**

**Moderator:** Nathan Scherbarth, *Zausmer PC*

**Reporter:** Kevin McQuillan, *Kerr Russell Weber PLC*

**Break Out 9 – Drawing Room I – Lower Level**

**Moderator:** Anne Argiroff, *Anne L. Argiroff PLC*

**Reporter:** Rebecca Shiemke, *Michigan Advocacy Program*

**Break Out 10 – The Atrium Study – Lower Level**

**Moderator:** Liisa Speaker, *Speaker Law Firm, PLLC*

**Reporter:** Jordan Ahlers-Smith, *Speaker Law Firm, PLLC*

**Break Out 11 – Library Room E – Second Floor**

**Moderator:** Elizabeth Parker, *Speaker Law Firm, PLLC*

**Reporter:** Lisa Schmidt, *Speaker Law Firm, PLLC*

**Break Out 12 – Library Room F – Second Floor**

**Moderator:** David Porter, *Kienbaum Hardy Viviano Pelton Forrest, PLC.*

**Reporter:** Sean Dutton, *Kienbaum Hardy Viviano Pelton Forrest, PLC.*

**Break Out 13 – Library Room G – Second Floor**

**Moderator:** Jacquelyn Klima, *Kerr Russell Weber PLC*

**Reporter:** Skyler Wickert, *Kerr Russell Weber PLC*

**Thursday, May 15, 2025, Continued**

12:30–2:00 p.m. **DeWitt C. Holbrook Memorial Fund Luncheon** – *Grand Ballroom – First Floor*

**Speaker:** Ross Guberman, *Legal Writing Pro LLC*

2:15–3:30 p.m. **Law Practice Breakout Sessions**

**Criminal**

**Appellate Lawyers Navigating Trial Territory** – *Executive Board Room – Main Level*

**Moderators:** Marilyn Day, *Oakland County Prosecutors Office*

Jessica Zimbelman, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Reporter:** McKenna Thayer, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Understanding Wrongful Convictions from the Appellate Bench and Bar** – *The Abbey – First Floor*

**Moderators:** Emil Semaan, *Macomb County Prosecutor's Office*

Imran Syed, *Michigan Innocence Clinic University of Michigan Law School*

**Reporter:** Tabitha Harris, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Preservation! Waiver! Forfeiture! Oh my!** – *Library Room C – Second Floor*

**Moderators:** Jon Wojtala, *Wayne County Prosecutor's Office*

Jacqueline McCann, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Reporter:** Dominica Convertino, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Posey's Implication on Appellate Sentencing Review** – *Library Room D – Second Floor*

**Moderators:** Katie Wendt, *Kent County Prosecutor's Office*

John Zevalking, *Appellate Attorneys of Michigan*

**Reporter:** Gabrielle Barber, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Civil**

**The Ins and Outs of Stays on Appeal** – *Library Room A – Second Floor*

**Moderator:** Liisa Speaker, *Speaker Law Firm, PLLC*

**Reporter:** Elizabeth Parker, *Speaker Law Firm, PLLC*

**Writing Effective Applications for Leave to Appeal in the Court of Appeals** – *The Atrium Study – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Mark Bendure, *Bendure & Thomas PLC*

**Reporter:** Samuel Hauke, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**The Latest in Effective Brief Writing** – *Library Room B – Second Floor*

**Moderator:** Jonathan Koch, *Smith Haughey Rice Roegge*

**Reporter:** Ashley Yuill, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Thursday, May 15, 2025, Continued**

2:15–3:30 p.m.     **Adding Value: The Benefits of Embedded Appellate Counsel at Trial and Tips for Success**  
– *The Atrium Parlor – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Susan McKeever, *Bush Seyferth PLLC*

**Reporter:** Adam Ostrander, *Warner Norcross & Judd LLP*

**Family**

**The “New” Custody Final Order Rule 6 Years Later: What the Case Data Tells Us About Its Impact** – *Drawing Room I – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Jordan Ahlers–Smith, *Speaker Law Firm PLLC*

**Reporter:** Anne Argiroff, *Anne L. Argiroff PLC*

**Child Welfare**

**Top 20 Child Welfare Appeal Cases** – *Drawing Room II – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Lynda McGhee, *Level Up Legacy Planning*

**Reporter:** Lori Herr, *Heisler Law Office*

3:30–4:00 p.m.     **Refreshment Break** – *Throughout Hotel*

4:00–5:15 p.m.     **Law Practice Breakout Sessions**

**Criminal**

**Appellate Lawyers Navigating Trial Territory** – *Executive Board Room – Main Level*

**Moderators:** Marilyn Day, *Oakland County Prosecutors Office*

Katherine Marcuz, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Reporter:** Rae Ann Ruddy, *Oakland County Prosecutor's Office*

**Understanding Wrongful Convictions from the Appellate Bench and Bar** – *The Abbey – First Floor*

**Moderators:** Emil Semaan, *Macomb County Prosecutor's Office*

Imran Syed, *Michigan Innocence Clinic University of Michigan Law School*

**Reporter:** Christopher Allen, *Michigan Department of Attorney General*

**Preservation! Waiver! Forfeiture! Oh my!** – *Library Room C – Second Floor*

**Moderators:** Jon Wojtala, *Wayne County Prosecutor's Office*

Jacqueline McCann, *State Appellate Defender Office*

**Reporter:** Deborah Blair, *Wayne County Prosecutor's Office*

**Posey’s Implication on Appellate Sentencing Review** – *Library Room D – Second Floor*

**Moderators:** Katie Wendt, *Kent County Prosecutor's Office*

Cecilia Quirindongo, *K and Q Law PC*

**Reporter:** Kyla Barranco, *Michigan Department of Attorney General*

## Thursday, May 15, 2025, Continued

4:00–5:15 p.m. **Civil**

**[Avoiding Defective Initial Filings and Costly Jurisdictional Mistakes](#)** – *Library Room A – Second Floor*

**Moderator:** Mark Magyar, *Dykema Gossett PLLC*

**Reporter:** Samuel Hauke, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Behind the Curtain: An Inside Look into Court of Appeals’ Processes for Panel Assignments** – *Drawing Room II – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Saraphoena Koffron, *Austin + Koffron*

**Reporter:** Nathan Peplinski, *Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.*

**The Ins and Outs of Stays on Appeal** – *Library Room B – Second Floor*

**Moderator:** Jacquelyn Klima, *Kerr Russell Attorneys and Counselors*

**Reporter:** Samantha McLeod, *Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.*

**Writing Effective Applications for Leave to Appeal in the Court of Appeals** – *The Atrium Study – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Barbara Goldman, *Barbara H. Goldman, PLLC*

**Reporter:** Nathan Scherbarth, *Zausmer PC*

### **Family**

**[Hot Issues in Family Law Appeals: Whatever Happened to Peremptory Reversal? Why Can’t I Get Timely Transcripts? When to Use and Not to Use Immediate Consideration Motions](#)**

– *Drawing Room I – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Lisa Schmidt, *Speaker Law Firm PLLC*

**Reporter:** Scott Bassett, *Scott Bassett Esq*

### **Child Welfare**

**[Reasonable Efforts and Ferranti Appeals: Focusing Appeals on Issues that Matter](#)** – *The Atrium Parlor – Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Elizabeth McCree, *The Law Office of Elizabeth L. McCree, PLLC*

**Reporter:** Paula Aylward, *Allegiant Legal, PC*

6:00–7:00 p.m. **Reception** – *The Atrium – Lower Level*

7:00–9:00 p.m. **Dinner** – *The Atrium – Lower Level*

The Appellate Practice Section’s Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to **Hon. Elizabeth L. Gleicher, Retired**

### **Prior Recipients**

1998 Justice Charles L. Levin  
2001 Justice Patricia J. Boyle  
2004 Judge Harold J. Hood  
2007 Judge James L. Ryan  
2010 Kathleen McCree Lewis  
2012 Justice Marilyn J. Kelly  
2013 Sandra Schultz Mengel

2015 Justice Michael F. Cavanagh  
2016 Justice Maura D. Corrigan  
2017 Corbin Davis  
2019 Hon. Michael J. Talbot, Retired  
2022 Mary Massaron  
2022 Justice Stephen J. Markman

## Friday, May 16, 2025

- 7:30–2:00 p.m.     **Registration** – *Garden Gallery – First Floor*
- 8:00–9:00 a.m.     **Continental Breakfast** – *Garden Gallery – First Floor*
- 9:00–10:00 a.m.     **Plenary – Perspectives on Opinion Writing and Briefing: Collective Bench/Bar Discussion on What Judges Expect from Briefs and Lawyers Expect from Opinions** – *Grand Ballroom – First Floor*  
      **Panel:** Justice Elizabeth M. Welch, *Michigan Supreme Court*  
              Judge Christopher P. Yates, *Michigan Court Of Appeals*  
              Daniel C. Brubaker, *Michigan Supreme Court*  
              John Bursch, *Bursch Law PLLC*  
      **Moderators:** Robert Riley, *Honigman LLP*  
                      Charlie Quigg, *Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*  
      **Reporter:** US Legal Support
- 10:00–10:30 a.m.     **Refreshment Break** – *Throughout Hotel*
- 10:30–11:45 a.m.     **Law Practice Breakout Sessions**

### **Criminal**

#### **Preservation! Waiver! Forfeiture! Oh my!** – *Library Room D – First Floor*

**Moderators:** Amanda Smith, *Wayne County Prosecutor's Office*  
                      Angeles Meneses, *State Appellate Defender Office*  
      **Reporter:** Marilena David, *State Appellate Defender Office*

#### **Posey's Implication on Appellate Sentencing Review** – *Library Room B – Lower Level*

**Moderators:** Katie Wendt, *Kent County Prosecutor's Office*  
                      Maya Menlo, *State Appellate Defender Office*  
      **Reporter:** Cecilia Quirindongo, *K and Q Law PC*

#### **Understanding Wrongful Convictions from the Appellate Bench and Bar** – *Library Room A – Second Floor*

**Moderators:** Robyn Frankel, *Michigan Department of Attorney General*  
                      Kathy Swedlow, *State Appellate Defender Office*  
      **Reporter:** Eric Restuccia, *Michigan Department of Attorney General*

### **Civil**

#### **Adding Value: The Benefits of Embedded Appellate Counsel at Trial and Tips for Success** – *The Atrium Parlor – Main Level*

**Moderator:** Derek Linkous, *Bush Seyferth PLLC*  
      **Reporter:** Gaëtan Gerville–Réache, *Warner Norcross & Judd LLP*

**Friday, May 16, 2025, Continued**

10:30–11:45 a.m. **The Latest in Effective Brief Writing** – *The Abbey* – *Second Floor*

**Moderator:** David Porter, *Kienbaum Hardy Viviano Pelton & Forrest, PLC*.

**Reporter:** Sean Dutton, *Kienbaum Hardy Viviano Pelton & Forrest, PLC*

**[Avoiding Defective Initial Filings and Costly Jurisdictional Mistakes](#)** – *Drawing Room II* –  
*Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Michael Cook, *Collins Einhorn Farrell PC*

**Reporter:** Erin Rodenhouse, *Denenberg Tuffley*

**Behind the Curtain: An Inside Look into Court of Appeals’ Processes for Panel Assignments** – *The Atrium Study* – *Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Kevin McQuillan, *Kerr Russell Attorneys and Counselors*

**Reporter:** Courtney Evans, *Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.*

**Family**

**[Hot Issues in Family Law Appeals: Whatever Happened to Peremptory Reversal? Why Can’t I Get Timely Transcripts? When to Use and Not to Use Immediate Consideration Motions](#)** –  
*Executive Board Room* – *Lower Level*

**Moderator:** Melissa Kelleigh, *Kelleigh Family Law PLLC*

**Reporter:** Rebecca Shiemke, *Michigan Advocacy Program*

**Child Welfare**

**[The Appellate Landscape for Incarcerated Parents: Reflections on 15 years of \*In re Mason\*](#)** –  
*Library Room C* – *Second Floor*

**Moderator:** Elizabeth McCree, *The Law Office of Elizabeth L. McCree, PLLC*

**Reporter:** Rita White, *Law Office of Rita O. White PLLC*

12:00–1:00 p.m. **Luncheon** – *Grand Ballroom* – *First Floor*

1:00–2:00 p.m. **Plenary – Supreme Court Practice Tips** – *Grand Ballroom* – *First Floor*

**Panel:** Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court

**Moderator:** Mary Massaron, *Plunkett Cooney*

**Reporter:** US Legal Support