

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

HONORABLE FREDDIE G. BURTON, JR.
*Chief Judge,
Wayne County Probate Court*

HONORABLE MILTON L. MACK, JR.
*State Court Administrator
Lansing, MI*

HONORABLE JUDY A. HARTSFIELD
Wayne County Probate Court

HONORABLE TERRANCE A. KEITH
Wayne County Probate Court

HONORABLE LAWRENCE J. PAOLUCCI
Wayne County Probate Court

TERI A. JORDAN, ESQ.
*Law Offices of Teri A. Jordan
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ROMAN J. FICAJ, ESQ.
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Livonia, MI*

MICHAEL J. MCCLORY, ESQ.
*Chief Deputy Probate Register,
Wayne County Probate Court*

ANDRELE ST. VAL, ESQ.
*Court Attorney,
Wayne County Probate Court*

HONORABLE FREDDIE G. BURTON, JR.
*Chief Judge
Wayne County Probate Court*

A member of the Wayne County Probate Court since 1987, Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr., served as Chief Judge from 1990 through the end of 1997. He was also Presiding Judge of the Family Division, Juvenile Section, Wayne County Circuit Court from 1997-1998 and on the Circuit Court's Executive Committee from 1998-1999. From January 1, 2011 through August 3, 2015, Judge Burton served as Chief Judge Pro Tempore of the Court. He was appointed Chief Judge on August 4, 2015.

Judge Burton's perspective on the role of the court is clear and straightforward – "to make sure justice is always served...to serve the community – not to be served. As judges, we must be patient when lay persons unfamiliar with the judicial process appear before the court and when complex or unique situations and arguments demand special attention. We are obliged to work hard to empathize and endure the frustrations felt by the many individuals appearing in court often for the first time, and frequently under difficult circumstances."

Before assuming his position on the probate court bench, Judge Burton formerly served as a Wayne County Commissioner, a Public Administrator (Wayne County), and was also engaged in private practice. Judge Burton currently serves on the Wayne County Election Commission as Chairman, Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees and the Flinn Foundation Board of Trustees. Among his many professional affiliations are the Commission on National Probate Court Standards, the Michigan Probate Judges Association (past President), the State Judicial Council of Michigan, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the National College of Probate Judges, the Wolverine Bar Association, and the National Bar Association. Judge Burton has also served in numerous other organizations, including St. John Hospital

and Medical Center Board of Trustees (past Chairman), the Plymouth Educational Foundation (past President), Orchards Children's Services Board of Directors, Wayne State University Alumni Association (past President), Youth Connection (former Chairman), and YouthVille Detroit (Chair-Emeritus). He has given numerous presentations on probate law for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE).

Judge Burton is also a member of the bar in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State University Law School.

HONORABLE MILTON L. MACK, JR.

*State Court Administrator
Lansing, Mich.*

A member of the Wayne County Probate Court from 1990 to 2015, Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr. served as the court's Chief Judge from January 1, 1998 until his appointment as State Court Administrator in 2015. Judge Mack was Chief Judge Pro Tempore from 1993 through the end of 1997.

The Judge summarized his philosophy regarding the court's role as follows: "The late Judge Joseph J. Pernick often said: 'Probate court is designed to protect those individuals least able to protect themselves.' All of us, in our different roles in probate court, need to keep that piece of wisdom nearby at all times."

He has served as President of the Michigan Probate Judges Association, Chair of the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association. Judge Mack was a member of Governor Granholm's Michigan Mental Health Commission and the Michigan Supreme Court's Guardianship Task Force. Prior to assuming his position on the probate court bench, Judge Mack served as a Wayne County Commissioner, a Special Assistant Attorney General, and was in private practice for 15 years.

Judge Mack has also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Oakwood Healthcare System, President of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), and Chairperson of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

Among the numerous honors the Judge has received are the Golden Gavel Award from the Wayne County Probate Bar Association, 2017 Judge of the Year Award from the Michigan Guardianship Association, the 2017 Advocate of the Year Award from NAMI Michigan, NARC's Tom Bradley Leadership Award, SEMCOG's Regional Ambassador Award, the Frank J. Kelly Distinguished Public Servant Award, and the National College of Probate Judges Treat Award for Judicial Excellence.

Judge Mack has given numerous presentations on probate law for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE). The Judge also has authored a chapter on conservatorship and protective proceedings for ICLE's Guardianship and Conservatorship Handbook. Judge Mack has written articles on settlements for minors and protected individuals which have appeared in the State Bar Journal. The Judge has also authored an article, "Involuntary Treatment for the Twenty-First Century", which was published in the Quinipiac Probate Law Journal in July, 2008. He also gave a presentation on this topic at the Annual Conference of the National College of Probate Judges in May 2009.

Judge Mack is a graduate of Wayne State University Law School and the Harvard University Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

HONORABLE JUDY A. HARTSFIELD

*Judge,
Wayne County Probate Court*

A graduate of the University of San Diego Law School and recipient of a B.A. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Judge Hartsfield is also a member of the California Bar. Judge Hartsfield has been a Probate Judge since 2004. She has served in all divisions of the court. Before being appointed to the Probate bench, Judge Hartsfield was the Bureau Chief of the Child and Family Services Bureau in the state Department of Attorney General, and was responsible for overseeing four divisions in Detroit and Lansing.

HONORABLE TERRANCE A. KEITH

*Judge,
Wayne County Probate Court*

HONORABLE LAWRENCE J. PAOLUCCI

*Judge,
Wayne County Probate Court*

Lawrence J. Paolucci was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Wayne County Probate Court on October 22, 2015. Prior to this appointment to the bench, he served as the Court Attorney for the Wayne County Probate Court for eleven (11) years. Mr. Paolucci graduated from Kenyon College (OH) with a BA in Political Science in 1988 and from the Detroit College of Law (MSU College of Law) in 1992. While in law school, he served as the judicial law clerk to the late Hon. Raymond R. Cashen of the Macomb County Circuit Court, as well as, the Hon. James J. Rashid, of the Wayne County Circuit Court. Following law school, he was an associate attorney with the law firm of Bellanca, Beattie & DeLisle, P.C. in Detroit/Harper Woods, Michigan, for over ten (10) years concentrating much of his practice in probate areas such as guardianships, conservatorships, trusts, and decedent estates, including work with the Consul of Italy's office in Detroit. He joined the Wayne County Probate Court in February, 2004. Lawrence is presently a member of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association and is the past President of the Catholic Lawyer Society of Detroit.

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MICHAEL J. MCCLORY, ESQ.

*Chief Deputy Probate Register,
Wayne County Probate Court*

Michael McClory is the Chief Deputy Probate Register for the Wayne County Probate Court. A graduate of Wayne State University Law School, his professional career has been in the areas of estate planning, administration and probate.

Mr. McClory is a past Chairperson of the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He is a former member of the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly. Mr. McClory serves on the Michigan Supreme Court's Estates and Trusts, Guardianship and Conservatorship, and Mental Health Forms Committees. He is an adjunct professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Mr. McClory is a recipient of the Michael W. Irish Award, presented by the Probate and Estate Planning Section, for outstanding contributions to the estate planning profession.

Mr. McClory is a frequent lecturer on probate practice and procedure. His articles on probate law have been published in the Michigan Probate and Estate Planning Journal: "*MCR 5.101 and the Limits of Probate Court Jurisdiction*" [published in the Winter, 1994 issue]; "*Joint Financial Accounts: Legal Analysis and Litigation Tips*" [published in the Fall, 1995 issue]; and "*EPIC's Antilapse Provisions: An Analysis*" [published in the Winter – Spring, 2000 issue]. Mr. McClory has authored a chapter on challenges to joint financial assets which is part of *Michigan Probate Litigation: A Guide to Contested Matters*, published by ICLE. He also has written chapters on the duties and liabilities of guardians for adults and minors which is part of ICLE's *Michigan Guardianship and Conservatorship Handbook*.

His quiet tenacity and extraordinary willingness to assist staff, attorneys, and lay persons makes him a valuable asset to the Court.

ANDRELE B. ST. VAL, ESQ.

*Court Attorney,
Wayne County Probate Court*

Andrele B. St. Val is the Court Attorney for the Wayne County Probate Court. Mrs. St. Val graduated from Florida A&M University College of Law in 2009 and received her Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida. Following law school, she was employed as a Career Law Clerk at Florida's Second District Court of Appeal where she reviewed criminal appeals and extraordinary writs. Upon relocating to Michigan, Mrs. St. Val worked as adjunct instructor at Henry Ford College where she taught Legal Writing and Essential Paralegal Studies. She joined the Wayne County Probate Court in February 2016 and is a member of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association. In addition to conducting legal research for the Judges and staff of the court, Mrs. St. Val oversees the Facilitative Mediation Program. Currently, she is working on an LL.M. degree in Labor and Employment Law at Wayne Law. She enjoys spending time with her family and loves to paint.
