

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

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

HONORABLE DAVID BRAXTON
*Chief Judge Pro Tempore,
Wayne County Probate Court*

HONORABLE JUDY A. HARTSFIELD
Wayne County Probate Court

HONORABLE TERRANCE A. KEITH
Wayne County Probate Court

HONORABLE LAWRENCE J. PAOLUCCI
Wayne County Probate Court

HONORABLE DAVID A. PERKINS
Wayne County Probate Court

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

TERI A. JORDAN, ESQ.
*Law Offices of Teri A. Jordan
Detroit, MI*

ROMAN J. FICAJ, ESQ.
*Law Offices of Roman J. Ficaj, PLLC
Livonia, MI*

MICHAEL J. MCCLORY, ESQ.
*Chief Deputy Probate Register,
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.

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 senior status member of the bar in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State University Law School.

HONORABLE DAVID BRAXTON

*Chief Judge Pro Tempore,
Wayne County Probate Court*

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.

HONORABLE DAVID A. PERKINS

*Judge,
Wayne County Probate Court*

Judge David A. Perkins was elected by the citizens of Wayne County to the Wayne County Probate Court Bench in November of 2018. Prior to this election he was appointed to 36th District Court in January 2014 and elected by the people of Detroit in November 2014 and 2016. Judge Perkins served as a Wayne County Juvenile Court Referee for 17 years, Magistrate for the 30th District Court, Assistant Corporation Counsel for Wayne County, and Judge Advocate for

the Michigan National Guard. Judge Perkins earned his Juris Doctorate from Howard University and a Bachelor of Arts, Biological Sciences from Rutgers University.

Judge Perkins Chaired: The Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice of the American Bar Association (ABA); Chaired the Michigan Young Lawyers and served on various Committees of both the ABA and State Bar of Michigan. He has been a Past President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, a member of the Detroit Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. He presently serves as Board of Directors for the Black United Fund, the Reggie McKenzie Foundation and as a lay minister in his church. He has been actively involved with many community and labor groups. While a Referee he volunteered as a jurist for a teen-court program and presided over Juvenile Drug Court. He currently works as an adjunct professor at WCCCD. Judge Perkins has been given numerous awards for his community work. He often mentors at risk youth.

HONORABLE MILTON L. MACK, JR.

*State Court Administrator Emeritus
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 to 2015. He was appointed State Court Administrator in 2015 and served until 2015. He currently serves as State Court Administrator Emeritus. Judge Mack was Chief Judge Pro Tempore from 1993 through the end of 1997. He is currently serving as Chair of the Governor's Diversion Council.

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 as 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. He is the author of the 2016-2017 COSCA policy paper: Decriminalization of Mental Illness: Fixing a Broken System.

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

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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 for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) (most recently at the Probate and Estate Planning Institute in May and June 2019), the Michigan Probate and Juvenile Registers Association, and numerous other groups. 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*"; "*Joint Financial Accounts: Legal Analysis and Litigation Tips*"; and "*EPIC's Antilapse Provisions: An Analysis*". 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* and provides editorial assistance for ICLE's *Michigan Probate Benchbook*.

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