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News from the Michigan Association for Justice

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Contact: Nate Pilon, 517-321-3073, npilon@michiganjustice.org

Michigan Association for Justice Introduces New President Deb Freid

LANSING—Attorney **Debra A. Freid** today officially begins her tenure as the 66th President of the Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ). Freid was unanimously elected by the MAJ general membership and ceremoniously sworn in by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack at the Association's annual convention May 11-12 in Detroit. Her one-year term runs until May 31, 2019.

"For more than 73 years, MAJ and its members have stood up to protect the rights of the injured and provide strong and effective representation on their behalf," Freid said. "I am honored to be elected by my fellow trial lawyers to lead MAJ as we move into this very important election year."

Freid, a graduate of Wayne State University and Wayne State University Law School, is a founding partner at Freid, Gallagher, Taylor & Associates, P.C. in Saginaw. She has been practicing law for 37 years and specializes in employment discrimination and personal injury litigation.

Freid was named to the *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* Women in the Law Class of 2017 and is a member of the Leading Lawyers Club, an honor given to less than 5 percent of attorneys in Michigan who were nominated by their peers. She is one of only nine attorneys in the state to be Board Certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

Joining MAJ in 1990, Freid has served as an officer in the association for the past four years, holding positions as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President-Elect. She belongs to several professional organizations, including the American Board of Trial Attorneys, the American Association for Justice, the National Employment Lawyers Association, the Saginaw County Bar Association and the Women's Lawyer Association of Michigan.

"For nearly a decade, an anti-civil justice majority has had complete control of state government and waged an unmitigated assault on citizens' rights in every area of the law including the fundamental right to a civil trial by jury," Freid said. "MAJ will continue to fight to balance the scales of justice and serve as a powerful force to protect and restore the rights of those abused or injured by others."

Freid is a frequent volunteer at Saginaw pro bono clinics and serves as a volunteer judge at local college moot court competitions. She is the mother of four adult children and grandmother of three. Freid and her husband live in Grand Blanc.

Along with Freid, new MAJ officers for 2018-19 are:

- President-Elect - **Robert J. MacDonald**, MacDonald & MacDonald, P.L.L.C., Flint;
- Vice President - **Donna M. MacKenzie**, Olsman MacKenzie & Wallace P.C., Berkley;
- Secretary - **Ronald K. Weiner**, Lipton Law, P.C., Southfield;

- Treasurer - **Stuart A. Sklar**, Fabian, Sklar, King & Liss, P.C., Farmington Hills; and,
- Immediate Past President - **Brian J. McKeen**, McKeen & Associates, P.C., Detroit

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*The **Michigan Association for Justice**, formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA), is a trade association of over 1,500 plaintiff's attorneys and staff, with offices in Lansing, Michigan.*