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News from the Michigan Association for Justice

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## MAJ Honors Judge Kumar for Judicial Excellence

LANSING — Oakland County Circuit Judge Shalina D. Kumar is the recipient of this year's Michigan Association for Justice Judicial Excellence Award. MAJ Past-President Ven Johnson presented Judge Kumar with the award at the organization's 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet May 13 in Detroit.

"MAJ is pleased to honor Judge Kumar for judicial excellence," Johnson said. "She is a leader in the advancement of justice and a dedicated public servant who represents the highest standards of the profession."

Judge Kumar, appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Oakland County Circuit Court in 2007 and elected to retain the position in 2008 and 2014, said the award was "one of the largest honors" of her career. She serves in the general civil and criminal division, as well as the Oakland County Adult Treatment Court. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Kumar had extensive trial experience as an associate with Weiner & Cox, PLC specializing in complex civil litigation, medical malpractice, and wrongful death actions.

Judge Kumar graduated from the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law and with distinction from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in psychology. She is chairperson of the Oakland County Criminal Assignment Committee, the bench liaison to the Oakland County Bar Association Circuit Court Committee, and a member of the Michigan Judges Association Executive Committee. Judge Kumar is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Federal Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, and the Michigan Association for Justice.

MAJ's annual award recognizes a judge who displays outstanding qualities of judicial excellence through a commitment to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary. Previous recipients include Court of Appeals Judges William B. Murphy and Doug Shapiro, as well as former Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly.

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*The **Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ)**, 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.*