

Melinda N. Deel

Melinda N. Deel was elected to the Oakland County Bar Association Board of Directors in 2014 and re-elected in 2015 and 2018. She currently serves on the OCBA Executive Committee as treasurer. Melinda is a sustaining member of the OCBA and has been actively involved in the organization since becoming an attorney in 2001.

Since 2006, Melinda has developed the curriculum and served as moderator for the OCBA Juvenile Law Brown Bag Lunch lecture series. She presented the topic "Appeals: From Beginning to End" in the series. Melinda authored the *LACHES* articles "Found Within the County: The Court's Jurisdiction in Child Protective Proceedings," "Recent Amendments to the Juvenile Code," "The Doctrine of Anticipatory Neglect in Child Protective Proceedings," "Juvenile Competency," and "Discovery Practice in Child Protection Proceedings." She served as the chair and was a presenter for the OCBA Juvenile Guardian Ad Litem training.

She served as a captain for the 2015 Oakland County Circuit-Probate Court Bench/Bar Conference. She was honored to receive the OCBA Distinguished Service Award in 2007. She has served as the chair of the Juvenile and Law-Related Education committees. Melinda was instrumental in advocating for and obtaining a pay increase for court-appointed counsel in child protection proceedings through the OCBA Juvenile Law Committee. Melinda has participated in the OCBA's Inns of Court and is a life fellow of the Oakland County Bar Foundation.

In addition to her bar-related activities, Melinda has served on the board of directors and as president of the Troy Jaycees. She has also served on the board of directors of Troy People Concerned, a public-service organization that aids underprivileged individuals. Melinda has served on the CARE House Advisory Committee, and the Legal and Legislative Committee. On August 25, 2015, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder appointed Melinda to the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Melinda graduated from Michigan State University – James Madison College in 1998 and Michigan State University College of Law in 2001. While in law school, she clerked for the U.S. Attorney General's office in Lansing.

Melinda and her husband were partners in the Troy-based law firm Deel & Deel, PLLC. Later, she served as judicial staff attorney for the Honorable Martha D. Anderson. Melinda is now a solo practitioner, practicing in the areas of juvenile law, probate, and appeals.

She is married to Ryan Deel, the judicial staff attorney for the Honorable Linda S. Hallmark. Melinda and her husband are actively involved in their community, where Mr. Deel serves as the president of the Rochester Hills City Council. They are the very proud parents of wonderful 12-year-old twin sons, Jack and Brennan.