



2022 SPECIAL SECTION

MICHIGAN
Lawyers Weekly

Honoree Profiles

SPONSORS



AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES®

To Promote The Art Of Advocacy
And The Efficient Administration Of Justice

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

SBM

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
Negligence Law Section

900 West University Drive, Ste J
Rochester, MI 48307
1-800-678-5297 • Fax: (248) 865-3117
Email: editor@mi.lawyersweekly.com
Internet: milawyersweekly.com

Senior Group Publisher
Susan A. Bocamazo
sbocamazo@lawyersweekly.com

Associate Publisher/Ad Director
Charlene A. Boccaccio
cboccaccio@mi.lawyersweekly.com
(248) 865-3112

Group Editor
Kelly Caplan
kcaplan@mi.lawyersweekly.com

Special Sections Editor
Matt Yas
myas@lawyersweekly.com

Reporter
Cory Linsner
clinsner@milawyersweekly.com

Copyright ©2022 Lawyers Weekly, Inc. Material published in Michigan Lawyers Weekly is compiled at substantial expense and is for the sole and exclusive use of purchasers and subscribers. The material may not be republished, resold, recorded, or used in any manner, in whole or in part, without the publisher's explicit consent. Any infringement will be subject to legal redress.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHRISTINA BARNETT LEGAL ADMINISTRATOR3	TERESA MOUBRAY RECORDS & CENTRAL SERVICES COORDINATOR11
JULIE BOELTER PARALEGAL COORDINATOR.....3	ROBIN PAYE COMPANY MANAGER.....12
MARY FOREMAN OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR4	RUTH E. REICKARD LEGAL ASSISTANT13
MICHELE HILL OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR.....4	BRENDA REN OFFICE MANAGER13
KELLY HURST OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR5	LINDA ROBINSON LEGAL SECRETARY14
NICOLE HOSKINS CLIENT RELATIONS SPECIALIST/PARALEGAL.....6	JANET ROSENBERG DIRECTOR OF INTAKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIENT EXPERIENCE.....14
JAMIE KRESS HEAD PRE-SUIT PARALEGAL6	SHEREL SHAND LEGAL SECRETARY15
MADELYNE LAWRY OWNER/OPERATOR.....7	KARRI STANDISH LEGAL ASSISTANT15
JAKE W. LEUVOY MARKETING & BD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST8	JAMES M. STRUGS LEGAL ASSISTANT 16
AMY S. LONG OFFICE MANAGER8	CASSANDRA L. TUCKER REGIONAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR 16
JULIE LONG CUSTOMER SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR/TRAINER.....9	DANIEL VISSCHER ASSISTANT CONTROLLER & HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER.....17
RENECIA Y. LOWERY-JETER CHIEF PEOPLE AND DIVERSITY OFFICER..... 10	MICHAEL D. YANSKA USER SUPPORT TECHNICAL COORDINATOR.....17
DELANEY MORGENSTERN DIRECTOR OF MARKETING 10	

Madelyne Lawry has dedicated decades of outstanding service to significant legal organizations in Michigan. The Negligence Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan is one such organization and is among the largest, most active Sections of the Bar. It has represented thousands of members on a bipartisan, mission driven basis. The Negligence Section, often in partnership with the American Board of Trial Advocates-Michigan Chapter (“ABOTA”) where Madelyne likewise serves as executive director, provides exceptional continuing legal education, amicus and legislative expertise, and analysis of legal issues of concern.

Madelyne is at the center of everything the Section and ABOTA does, including the financial analysis, member services, seminar planning and coordinating multiple programs every month. She is the “glue” that holds all of this together for both the Negligence Section and ABOTA. We congratulate her on this well deserved recognition and honor.



Christina Barnett

Legal Administrator

Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller, Southfield

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Be prepared for anything. You can plan your to-do list, but sometimes nothing moves off your desk by the end of the day, or even the end of the week! Flexibility is a must, as is understanding that when critical issues arise, they take priority.

What is the best part of your job?

Everything! I enjoy almost every aspect. Working closely with everyone at Maddin Hauser is enjoyable, fulfilling and enlightening.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Embrace learning a lot of new information, because the opportunities for growth are endless. There is always a new process to develop or an existing procedure to improve, all while handling the daily operations that keep a firm running smoothly. With hard work, this career can be a rewarding long-term commitment that fosters devotion to your firm and colleagues.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

My husband and I recently built a home in Florida and we like to spend as much time there as possible.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I love to swim and can spend countless hours in the pool, ocean or anywhere where there is water.



Julie Boelter

Paralegal Coordinator

Plunkett Cooney, Petoskey

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

That’s somewhat difficult to answer, because there is not just one noteworthy lesson I’ve learned during my 30-year career. However, I believe it would be learning to work with a variety of different people who all have different personalities and work styles, including clients, attorneys and coworkers. You learn a lot about people, especially clients, while helping them get through difficult times.

What is the best part of your job?

Although I truly enjoy digging into cases and the numerous issues they involve, the best part is working alongside great people, including the members of our management team. It is the one thing that makes it easy for me to get up every morning and jump into my work.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Join a legal assistant/paralegal organization to network with others in the field and take advantage of any educational opportunities they provide. That will provide insight into what areas of the law you may be interested in, which is helpful to understand before joining a firm.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Spending time with my family, friends and my grand puppy! I especially enjoy outside activities.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I am a member of The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and, as an avid hunter, I am also a certified firearms instructor.



Mary Foreman

Office Administrator
Jacobs & Diemer, Detroit

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?
Have a great sense of humor and expect there will be more changes to that document!

What is the best part of your job?
The people who I spend my day with and the wonderful friendships I’ve made over the years and continue to enjoy.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?
Don’t ever let anyone take out their frustrations on you in the workplace. Stand up for yourself or move on. Life is too short to spend your day with people who make you miserable.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?
I love to read and go dancing with my girlfriends, but I spend most of my time right now with my husband as fans of our two great kids!

What is something most people don’t know about you?
I love to scuba dive!



Michele Hill

Operations Supervisor
BSP Law, Troy

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?
The biggest lesson I learned working in the legal field is that every day is a new experience.

What is the best part of your job?
The best part of my job is that I am always learning something new, every day. It stays pretty interesting.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?
My advice to anyone thinking about entering my profession is that adapting to change is a good trait.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?
I do jigsaw puzzles and watch several crime shows regularly.

What is something most people don’t know about you?
I wanted to be a nurse until I found out how many years I had to continue my education after high school.



Kelly Hurst

Office Administrator

Dykema, Lansing

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

The dedication to helping others from legal professionals is unmatched. I’m proud to be part of team that works so hard and diligently to serve others.

What is the best part of your job?

By far, the people I get to work with. The office administrator team here is phenomenal. The collective talent we have is a huge support to all of us and great benefit to the firm. I have learned so much from the people I get to work with every day.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

You have to trust the process. You will learn and grow into your roles but you will need to be open-minded, organized and detailed. Multitasking is a must in this position. It is not easy but it is very rewarding. The career path wasn’t intentional but I’m grateful for following it.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I enjoy traveling with family and friends. I love to be outdoors and lead an active lifestyle. Any time I get to spend with my girls is a bonus for me.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

Many do not know that I was adopted.



CONGRATULATIONS TO VARNUM’S

2022 “Unsung Legal Heroes”

recognized by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*



Julie Long

Customer Service Administrator/Trainer



Ruth Reickard

Legal Assistant



Karri Standish

Legal Assistant

Nicole Hoskins

Client Relations Specialist/Paralegal
Chartier & Nyamfukudza, Okemos

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Many people are innocent of the crime that they are being accused of. I worked at a couple local courthouses and was a probation officer. I hadn’t realized that some of these people were innocent but took a guilty plea because it was the easiest and the cheapest way to move on with their lives.

What is the best part of your job?

The people that I am surrounded by. I love my work family and most of our clients are awesome, too!

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Be passionate about the work, be detail-oriented and organized. Being a paralegal sometimes requires additional effort and long hours, along with teamwork, to be successful. But when your case has a positive outcome, it is so rewarding knowing the impact it has on your client’s life.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Between working full time, caring for my family and shuffling kids to activities such as sports and dance, my free time is very limited. Any time I am able to relax is most enjoyable to me. Whether it’s dining out or just quiet time at home while the kids are in dreamland.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I have a good shot with a gun. I have been to the gun range a few times with my father and I almost always hit right on target. Most people also don’t know that I love to go fishing. I will bait my own hook and remove the fish from the hook, but I will not clean, gut or fillet a fish.



Jamie Kress

Head Pre-Suit Paralegal
Atnip & Associates, Rochester

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Find the area of law that you find most interesting and relatable. I went through several areas before settling on personal injury. It fits my personality, as I enjoy speaking to and helping others.

What is the best part of your job?

All the amazing people I work with on a daily basis. There is no other group of people I know who are more caring, compassionate and intelligent. We all take our jobs very seriously and want to do the best job we possibly can for our clients.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Be prepared for change! The legal landscape is always changing. It’s important to do your own research, ask questions and keep up with the latest case law. Keep yourself organized and always continue to grow your knowledge of the law.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I love spending time with my family and friends. I have two kids, 10 and 7, so we are always doing something! We love to travel up north, ride ATVs in the summer and snowmobile in the winter. I also love getting away on vacation, particularly to Sarasota, Florida.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I have a horrible memory, EXCEPT when it comes to things at work. I have no idea what I had for breakfast by the time lunch hits, but ask me the name of a client from three years ago and I can tell you where they worked or something random, like the name of their mother. It’s the weirdest thing!



Madelyne Lawry

Owner/Operator
 Shared Resources, Grand Ledge

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

A story has two sides. First, using civility can provide the practitioner with long-term dividends. Second, the legal community is a referral business. Forgoing your reputation by not using courtesy can be crippling to a practice.

What is the best part of your job?

I work with some of the best lawyers in various practice areas and I watch them grow as they enter leadership. It’s the only job they will have where they cannot fire a colleague for lack of work/support or give a raise to someone who has gone beyond the call of duty. It is also rewarding to watch them develop their skills, which they can take back to their firms. Once a volunteer reaches the post of a past president, it is said they have developed the skills equivalent to an MBA.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering my profession?

It is imperative to master multitasking. One must be able to pick up a project and drop it quickly. Also, taking notes is an essential ingredient.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Gardening and stopping at random garage sales.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I have a tradition of making cookies for my staff, neighbors and friends during the holidays. I also enjoy cooking on the weekends. I was inspired by my Italian grandmother, who cooked all my grandfather’s meals from scratch.



Cassandra Tucker

Regional Office Administrator

Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition as one of *Michigan Lawyers Weekly’s 2022 Unsung Heroes.*

wnj.com



Cassandra is responsible for providing on-site administrative and managerial support to ensure seamless operations and maximum productivity across Warner’s three southeast Michigan offices in Detroit, Macomb County and Bloomfield Hills.



Grand Rapids | Detroit | Midland | Macomb County | Kalamazoo
 Muskegon | Lansing | Holland | Bloomfield Hills

We’re Happy to Sing Your Praises, Dan!



We are proud of Daniel Visscher, CLM, our assistant controller and human resources manager. He has been instrumental to our firm’s success.

Congratulations, Dan!



(269) 324-3000 • kreisenderle.com

Serving clients across West Michigan from offices in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and St. Joseph

Jake W. Leuvoy

Marketing & BD Communications Specialist
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, Lansing

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Marketing methods are constantly changing and you have to change with them. What worked last year may not necessarily be as effective now. I wouldn’t be surprised if attorneys have to start making TikTok videos just to stay relevant. The COVID lockdown took away our ability to interact face-to-face with clients; in turn, that forced us to find creative niche areas such as advising business clients on PPP loans and offering a virtual option to attend our semi-annual labor & employment law update.

What is the best part of your job?

Variety. Our team is known as the “kitchen sink” department for good reason. For some that can be a nuisance, but for me it was a godsend. No two workdays in the last five years have been exactly the same.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and learn new things. In the beginning, I was tasked with having to finish projects using programs I had never touched in my life such as Adobe InDesign. It can be downright terrifying, but embracing challenges that come your way is the first step to overcoming them.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I like to travel the country with my beautiful wife, Maine being one of our favorites to visit. I spend my summers trying to play golf (not really succeeding) and deer hunting in the fall.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

While I have not kept up with it in recent years, I am a published author. I wrote a Disney World travel guide based on my experiences working there. I have also written a craft beer blog and would like to write a children’s book in the future.



Amy S. Long

Office Manager
The Miller Law Firm, Rochester

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Being able to multitask and prioritize is a must in this field. It enables me to maximize efficiency and time management for myself and the firm.

What is the best part of your job?

I love learning the ins and outs of a growing law firm. When I first joined Miller in 2001 it was a six-attorney firm and now we’ve grown to over 40 lawyers with a national presence in class actions and commercial law. I am proud to be a part of this team and witness its growth over the years, and its continuing success.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Learn to be flexible. More often than not, I start my day planning to work on a certain task, however five other more important tasks arise, and I have to attend to those first. Flexibility is key.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. My family (27 of us) all gather at my parents’ northern Michigan home, and we spend the entire weekend together. My best days are days when I get to spend it with family.



Julie Long

Customer Service Administrator/Trainer
 Varnum, Grand Rapids

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Working in the legal field has definitely taught me how to balance constantly adjusting priorities. Current projects are often interrupted when new issues arise with their own set of deadlines. Remaining flexible and even-keeled makes it possible to get the work completed without completely overwhelming myself.

What is the best part of your job?

Helping people. I’ve always enjoyed being able to help others solve problems. Offering training sessions and pointing out tips and tricks to help our users become more efficient is both rewarding and enjoyable for me.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

You have to take the time to truly listen to people and not take their frustrations personally, especially when it’s really the technology that they’re frustrated with. Listening, without interrupting or jumping to conclusions, allows the user to feel heard and usually helps me find ways to explain the answer in a way that they’ll better understand.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I love spending time with my family, playing games or hanging out at our cabin. I enjoy being able to spend time outside: hiking, gardening, even just sitting by a campfire. I’m also currently working as an advocate for women in abusive relationships.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

Growing up, I wanted to be a math teacher. I still enjoy working with numbers and helping kids learn different ways to apply math and algebra skills to daily life.



CHARTIER | NYAMFUKUDZA | P.L.C.
 CRIMINAL DEFENSE LITIGATION

Congratulations to our
 2022 Unsung Hero,
 Nicole Hoskins!

Now everyone will know what
 we've known all along!



2295 Sower Boulevard
 Okemos, MI 48864
 517.885.3305

Fax: 517.885.3363
www.cndefenders.com

125 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 265
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 616.888.6800

Renecia Y. Lowery-Jeter

Chief People and Diversity Officer
Mike Morse Law Firm, Southfield

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Every organization that I’ve worked for had a culture that was established by the leadership team and a dynamic that was fueled by the staff and their different personalities. I’ve learned that the same is true of law firms. Employees want to know that their jobs contribute to the firm’s goals, and they want to be respected and rewarded for their contributions.

What is the best part of your job?

I enjoy the balancing act of protecting my employers’ interest while advocating for employees to be seen, heard and understood. HR is filled with compliance issues and risk management; however, creating and implementing policies and practices that make people want to come to work and feel valued for doing a good job is what drives me.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

To be an effective HR leader, in addition to possessing solid HR skills, you must learn the operations of whatever company you work for. HR cannot be successful in a vacuum. The ability to see and understand the HR impact on organizational/operational goals and strategies is key. Additionally, you need to have thick skin and a deep well of empathy while being able to see and present all sides of issues.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I am a voracious reader, often reading more than one book at a time. My friends and family tell me I am an excellent cook and I especially like recreating dishes that I discover while traveling.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I spent one fun-filled summer working as a lifeguard.



.....

Delaney Morgenstern

Marketing Director
Speaker Law Firm, Lansing

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Always hire an attorney! Legal problems can affect anyone at any time and are a lot more complicated than people think. You want an expert in your corner!

What is the best part of your job?

I love to be creative and design exciting materials to send to other attorneys. But generally, the most rewarding thing about working at SLF is being a small part of the appellate wheel. For a lot of our clients, their appeals are their last hope to get their lives back to normal and it’s extremely rewarding to see them win and be able to happily move forward.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Marketing is full of opportunity and always necessary for a business to be successful. When starting out, the most important thing is to know your audience and always be sure that anything you are putting out there is made for them.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Outside of work, I love to cook with my husband, read a good book or watch one of my favorite TV series. I also love to spend time with my family, play board games and travel!

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I was the only girl on my high school hockey team.



Teresa Moubray

Records & Central Services Coordinator
Honigman, Lansing

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

I have learned to never assume anything, because everything we do has legal implications.

What is the best part of your job?

Working with the best group of people in the Lansing office.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Always expect the unexpected to happen.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I love traveling to the UP and going on motorcycle rides with my husband.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I have 15 grandchildren.



Amy Long is a fabulous Office Manager and leader in our Firm

An unsung hero no more –
the secret is out!
Thank you Amy!
The Partners of
The Miller Law Firm



Robin Paye

Company Manager
August Law, Southfield

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

The importance of a strong team. For a law firm, or for any business to function well, really, everyone must pull in the same direction while bringing his or her unique set of skills to bear. Law firms must be greater than the sum of their parts. The best ones are.

What is the best part of your job?

Helping to create a collegial, fun and generally loose environment in the office. The legal business is hard enough. No one should take himself or herself too seriously.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Patience is a virtue, perhaps “the” virtue when it comes to administering a professional office. Administrators wear many hats and need to be able to relate to many different kinds of personalities. Being patient is the only way to do that.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I’m active in various activities including dance, swimming and pickleball. I also just moved so that keeps me busy, too.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

That lately I’ve become an avid theatergoer. I’m also a pretty darn good cook and enjoy learning new recipes, particularly in the soup realm.



Congratulations

to Mary Foreman for her well-deserved admission into the Class of 2022 Unsung Heroes! We are so thankful for all that you do!

Tim Diemer, Eric Conn and Samantha McLeod
Jacobs and Diemer, P.C.
The Guardian Building 500 Griswold St., Suite 2825 Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-1900 | www.jacobsdiemer.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Stay at the leading edge of the latest legal news from

MICHIGAN Lawyers Weekly

With your subscription, you will receive access to essential legal news covering the courts, law firms, and trends in the profession. You will have 24/7 access to Verdict and Settlement Reports, opinion digests, and full-text opinions.

- EXPAND YOUR REPUTATION as a go-to source of current information from our in-depth legal news, court opinions, special reports, legal job postings, and more.
- BE A STRONG LEADER for your current clients with up-to-date Court Opinion Digests and insights gleaned from current news and our online news archives.
- ENHANCE YOUR UNDERSTANDING of potential settlement value by researching similar cases in Verdicts and Settlements.

Join THOUSANDS of attorneys from around the state who depend on Michigan Lawyers Weekly for ESSENTIAL LEGAL NEWS.

Ruth E. Reickard

Legal Assistant
Varnum, Grand Rapids

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

That all clients expect to be treated as they are the only client (and that is the way they should be treated).

What is the best part of your job?

Working with smart, hard-working and ethical people. I have particularly enjoyed training new Varnum associates regarding “everything corporate” the last 23 years.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

The legal field has been an excellent career choice. You get to work with people every day that require help and people are always going to need help.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Volunteering: 28 years with Appalachia Service Project, in which church youth group and adults go to the hollers of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia each summer to make homes warmer, safer and drier; 25 years with Habitat for Humanity; helping with North Kent Connect, Family Promise, Hand2Hand, Salvation Army/Dwelling Place, UMCOR and other church activities; and many Rockford Public Schools and city of Rockford activities. Also, watching my grandchildren play sports, going to movies and being with friends and family.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I was a floater at the Schmidt Howlett firm for 14-and-a-half months before they merged with the Varnum Riddering firm in 1983 (and I am retiring on my 40th anniversary on Sept. 19, 2023).



Brenda Ren

Office Manager
Mantese Honigman, Troy

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

The biggest lesson I have learned is that being organized and adaptable to change is invaluable. In addition, having a little fun and embracing new friendships along the way make the challenges an adventure.

What is the best part of your job?

By far, the best part of my job are the people I work with. I love being part of such an amazing team of people who care about each other, are positive, successful and feel like family. I am forever grateful to Gerard Mantese for the leadership and opportunities he has provided to me through the years.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

My advice would be to have patience, be positive and work as a team. Different situations come up on a daily basis that you will need to deal with, but if you can keep a positive attitude and stay calm, the outcome is always better.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two children. We like to go camping, kayaking and skiing. I also enjoy traveling and spending time with my extended family.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

Most people don't know that I actually enjoy hosting large gatherings at my house. It is a lot of work to prepare and clean up, but when everything comes together and everyone has a great time, it is all worth it.



Linda Robinson

Legal Secretary
Honigman, Detroit

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

I've learned that you do not work alone and nothing you do is done in a vacuum. Many have gone before me to lay the groundwork that allows me to do my job proficiently and there are many people who continue to give me support each day.

What is the best part of your job?

By far, the people. I have worked with some wonderful attorneys and legal secretaries over the years and I'm very lucky to be working with some amazing attorneys at this time in my life. Being detail-oriented is my nature, but working with such good people keeps me fresh and striving to do my best each day.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Keep yourself healthy in mind, body and spirit. Legal work is taxing and requires energy on all levels, but it is the most fulfilling work I have ever done. I would also advise anyone to research the technical systems used by the firm and acquire those skills. Once hired, take advantage of any other training offered within the firm.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I admit I am a Netflix and Amazon Prime fanatic. British crime dramas and period pieces are my favorites. I also enjoy a long walk in crisp autumn air which is a season gone in a blink in Michigan.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I've had a few interesting experiences in my travels: helicoptering over Maui, hot air ballooning over Snowmass, Colorado, a submarine ride off the coast of Grand Cayman and a two-week photo workshop through the countryside of England.



Janet Rosenberg

Director of Intake, Executive Director of Client Experience
Mike Morse Law Firm, Southfield

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

The value of truly working as a team to get the best results possible for every client. Achieving those results is never done in a vacuum. The collaboration and sharing of knowledge and ideas with my talented colleagues has been invaluable.

What is the best part of your job?

Hands down, helping accident victims whose lives have been disrupted in so many ways. Anytime I can help them to understand that I see them, I hear them and we are all advocating for them is a great day for me. My goal is to lift our clients up, so they struggle a little less.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Don't limit your career capabilities based on your education, training or degrees. Identify your strengths and work in a position that capitalizes on those. Think outside the box and dream big! I'm lucky to work at a firm that enabled me to do this, which resulted in my becoming the first-ever executive director of client experience.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I love to exercise, paint (something new I discovered during the pandemic lockdown), be with my family and friends, and travel the world!

What is something most people don’t know about you?

In 2003, I was the fourth hire at Mike Morse Law Firm! That was a huge transition, having come from a large defense firm where I'd been for 20 years. I knew nothing about auto law then. Today I work with 160 incredible colleagues and I'm proud to say I am a member of our executive leadership team.



Sherel Shand

Legal Secretary
Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, Southfield

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?
To always treat people fairly and with kindness, and that will usually reflect back to you.

What is the best part of your job?
I work with incredibly smart and talented people. Each day brings something new and positive, and I’ve made some remarkable and long-lasting friendships.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?
Each person involved in the field of law, no matter the position, has an integral part to play and all of the pieces are central to hopefully achieving satisfaction for the client. I’m grateful for the experience and knowledge I’ve gained over the years and the infinite patience shown to me.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?
Spending as much time as possible with my husband Pete, our grandson, our extended family and our miniature schnauzer brings the biggest smile to my face.

What is something most people don’t know about you?
I’m a fan of country music!



Karri Standish

Legal Assistant
Varnum, Grand Rapids

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?
It’s important to get to know your attorneys’ preferences. The better you know your attorneys, the easier it becomes to assist them.

What is the best part of your job?
Variety. The attorneys I work for specialize in various areas of law that I find quite interesting; I enjoy the variety of tasks I assist on and learning new things. Each day is always something different than the previous day.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?
Align your path to gain knowledge in the legal field, whether that be on the job with an employer willing to train or pursuing your education to obtain a business degree with a concentration in legal studies. I did both, and started my career at a small law firm as a receptionist and continued education at community college. At the law firm I showed up daily to prove dependability and I was willing to learn everything I could. Because of this I gained the confidence of my employer, who entrusted me with more difficult tasks and my rewarding career evolved from there.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?
I truly enjoy spending as much time as I can with my family and friends. Together with my family I enjoy vacationing, boating in the summer and skiing/snowboarding in the winter.

What is something most people don’t know about you?
I’m a bit of an adrenaline seeker; winter is my favorite season and I love going snowboarding!



James M. Strugs

Legal Assistant
Nemeth Bonnette Brouwer, Detroit

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

To have integrity and always do your best.

What is the best part of your job?

Being a team player and working alongside brilliant-minded professionals on various legal matters.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering my profession?

Be prepared to put in some hard work, but the knowledge and skillsets you will attain are priceless.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I enjoy going to the gym, vacationing and spending time with family and friends.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I love to cook and bake.



Cassandra L. Tucker

Regional Office Administrator
Warner Norcross + Judd, Detroit

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Like other professional service industries, our product is people. To keep a successful workplace, employee engagement is just as important as client service.

What is the best part of your job?

The interaction with, developing and rewarding of the staff.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

There are times when the decisions that you have to make will not be simple, or black and white. It is during these times when you will find an altruistic approach to be the most helpful.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

Dancing. My husband and I enjoy teaching a form of ballroom dancing at our church.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I enjoy playing games that involve strategy and thinking. “Jeopardy,” “Words with Friends” and “5 Second Rule” are a few of my favorites.



Daniel Visscher

Assistant Controller & Human Resources Manager
 Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, Kalamazoo

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

One is that a potential solution is not a “one size fits all” approach. You need to be able to quickly adapt to situations and be ready to think outside the box.

What is the best part of your job?

One is seeing how pursuing new initiatives with a well-established organization can create a formula for success. I’m fortunate to work for a visionary managing partner, Kay Kossen, who’s constantly looking toward the future. I’m extremely thankful to have a fantastic group of individuals who each bring unique gifts to the table.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Create a team you can TRUST. The only way I survive each day is by having a team that cares about the work and the impact it can have on the organization and our clients.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

In order to disconnect from work, my family purchased recreational land. We have a little tiny cabin on the property and enjoy riding 4-wheelers on the trails.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

My father is my hero, and embodies my pursuit in being a great husband, father, leader and teammate. He was the most brilliant, yet the most humble person you would ever meet. He was a constant supporter of mine. During the grueling hours of courses and studying for the CLM, he was right there to cheer me on. On Dec. 16, 2021, he unexpectedly passed away. That same day I learned I passed my CLM exam. Toughest day of my life.



Michael D. Yanska

User Support Technical Coordinator
 Honigman, Detroit

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned working in the legal field?

Patience and flexibility. Working at a law firm can be a little bit of a different animal. Instead of two or three bosses, you have two or three hundred bosses, which makes for a lot of personalities and expectations to juggle! It can be incredibly stressful some days, but overall I find it to be incredibly rewarding.

What is the best part of your job?

The people. It is definitely a little bit cliché to say it, but Honigman really is a family. I do my best to take care of them, and they take care of me.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about entering your profession?

Never miss the opportunity to volunteer your time and effort. I’ve learned so much over the years by throwing myself into the proverbial frying pan. Be flexible, reliable and maintain your calm in the face of the storm. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes, and even more importantly, don’t be afraid to admit it when you inevitably make mistakes!

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from work?

I enjoy playing softball in the summer and curling in the winter (on ice with granite, not in the weight room with barbells). I also enjoy traveling whenever I have the chance.

What is something most people don’t know about you?

I had always wanted to be a meteorologist growing up. I’d love to go on a tornado chasing trip one of these years.

