

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

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

APRIL K. MAYCOCK
*Probate Register and Director of Information Services
Wayne County Probate Court*

JENNIFER PARMALEE, ESQ.
*Chief Deputy Probate Register
Wayne County Probate Court*

KEVIN SANKER, ESQ.
*Court Attorney
Wayne County Probate Court*

KRISTINA M. MORGAN
*Behavioral Health Unit Liaison Manager
Wayne County Probate Court*

KELLY L. O'CONNOR, ESQ.
*O'Connor & Bennett Law Firm
Marshall, MI*

TERI A. JORDAN, ESQ.
*Law Offices of Teri A. Jordan
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ROMAN J. FICAJ, ESQ.
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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 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*

Judge Terrance A. Keith has been a member of the Wayne County Probate Court since 2010.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Keith was the principal tax attorney in the Wayne County Office of Corporation Counsel representing the Office of the Wayne County Treasurer. As principal attorney, he created a public service campaign educating the public on the consequences of the non-payment of delinquent taxes. Within the first two months, tax delinquencies and forfeitures were reduced 60 percent. As a result of his efforts, Judge

Keith was appointed Wayne County Chief Deputy Treasurer, responsible for all operations, restructuring and recreating the public image of the Office of the Wayne County Treasurer.

As Chief Deputy Treasurer, Judge Keith created: the Community Outreach and Taxpayer Assistance Departments to help taxpayers remain in their homes; partnerships with community groups, churches and non-profit organizations, including the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization; two “Tax-A-Thons” on WXYZ-TV Channel 7 and the first program donating foreclosed property to community groups for urban farming. As a direct result of these programs, thousands of occupied properties were saved from public auction. The outreach programs remain the cornerstone of the Wayne County Treasurers’ community outreach.

Judge Keith is a former member of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly, the Michigan State Bar Board of Commissioners, and the Michigan State Bar Attorney Discipline Hearing Panel. He is a member of numerous bar associations and the recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to the legal profession. Judge Keith is recognized as the “Founding Father” of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the Detroit Mercy Law Association of Black Law Alumni.

Judge Keith is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Detroit Mercy Law. He is former law clerk of United States Bankruptcy Judge Ray Reynolds Graves.

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.

HON. MICHAEL J. MCCLORY, ESQ.

*Judge,
Wayne County Probate Court, assigned to Third Circuit Court, Family Division, Juvenile Section*

Hon. Michael J. McClory was appointed a Wayne County Probate Court Judge on November 1, 2022. He was elected to a six-year term effective January 1, 2023. Judge McClory is assigned to the Juvenile Section of the Family Division of the Wayne County Circuit Court, where he hears abuse/neglect, delinquency, and adoption proceedings. He oversees Juvenile Mental Health Court.

Prior to becoming a Judge, Michael McClory served as 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. Judge 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. Judge McClory previously served 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. Judge 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.

Judge McClory is a frequent lecturer on probate practice and procedure for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) (most recently at the Fundamentals of Estate Administration seminar in June 2022), the Michigan Probate and Juvenile Registers Association, the Michigan Judicial Institute, 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". Judge 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.

APRIL K. MAYCOCK

*Probate Register and Director of Information Services
Wayne County Probate Court*

April K. Maycock has been an integral member of the Wayne County Probate Court, having joined on May 4, 1992. In 2002, she graduated with High Distinction from the University of Michigan – Dearborn, where she earned her Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems. On March 15, 2004, Ms. Maycock was appointed Director of Information Services, and on February 1, 2011 she was appointed Probate Register, serving the Chief Judge as both the Probate Register and Director of Information Services.

Ms. Maycock's focus and dedication have been to increase efficiencies in the Court through the use of technology while improving accuracy and encouraging accountability. With the assistance of a committed management team and an engaged, motivated staff, she has implemented a wide range of technological initiatives to make the court the first fully remotely accessible Michigan Probate Court to operate entirely with electronic records. She has also served on a number of committees, task forces, workgroups and boards to improve case management. Ms. Maycock leads the Wayne County Probate Court with enthusiasm and a firm belief that "If we are not moving forward, we are surely falling behind."

JENNIFER PARMALEE, ESQ.

*Chief Deputy Probate Register
Wayne County Probate Court*

Jennifer Parmalee is the Chief Deputy Probate Register for the Wayne County Probate Court. A graduate of the University of Toledo Law School, her professional career has been almost exclusively in the areas of probate, estate planning, and trust administration, including serving as guardian ad litem and special fiduciary in numerous cases for various Probate Courts.

Before beginning her role with the Wayne County Probate Court, she was a solo practitioner after being with a law firm specializing in estate planning, administration, and probate.

Ms. Parmalee served as President of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association from 2017 to 2022. She has given numerous presentations on probate practice and procedure.

KELLY L. O'CONNOR

*O'Connor & Bennett Law Firm, PLC
Marshall, MI*

Kelly L. O'Connor is the founding partner of O'Connor & Bennett Law Firm, PLC, and her practice focuses on estate planning and administration, probate litigation, and real property law. Ms. O'Connor is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Calhoun County Estate Planner's Council, the Calhoun County Bar Association, Wealth Counsel, is a graduate of The Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and has completed ICLE's Probate and Estate Planning Certificate Program.

Ms. O'Connor is a licensed Michigan Real Estate Broker and has held a Michigan Real Estate Salesperson license since 1996. She is also the co-owner of Two Alpha Auctions, LLC, a firearm and sportsman auction company.
