

Why Become an Attorney?

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Charles N. Ash Jr. (Warner Norcross and Judd)

Charles is a litigator with extensive experience representing businesses in complex contract and tort litigation in state and federal courts throughout the country. He has successfully represented global manufacturers, handled several cases with over \$100 million at stake and represented two creditors in the city of Detroit's historic bankruptcy case.

Practices: Mining; Oil & Gas; Minority Business Law; Emergency Manager Law; Litigation and Dispute Resolution; Insurance Litigation; Intellectual Property; Intellectual Property Enforcement and Litigation; Resources, Energy and Environment; Energy; Resources

Education: Stanford University J.D. 1998; Calvin College B.A. 1995

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan
- State Bar of California



Roland Lindh (Roland Lindh, Esq.)

Roland Lindh manages his own legal practice in West Michigan. He counsels and defends individuals who have been accused of a crime, as well as helping clients in other areas of the law.

Practices: Criminal Law

Education: Thomas M. Cooley J.D. 2010; Calvin College B.A. 1987

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan



Robert Nederhood (Foley & Lardner LLP)

Robert Nederhood is a senior counsel and business lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP where he focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, and represents public and private companies in connection with transactions, corporate restructurings, and commercial contracting. He also has experience representing both debtors and purchasers in connection with the sale of companies in bankruptcy, and assists clients with a variety of Michigan state government matters.



Prior to joining Foley, Mr. Nederhood served as deputy director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, where he managed Governor Rick Snyder's regulatory reform initiative, the Office of Regulatory Reinvention, and coordinated the administrative rulemaking process for state government. Mr. Nederhood was also responsible for overseeing the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). He has presented frequently on Michigan administrative law and regulatory reform.

Practices: Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Government Affairs, Real Estate

Education: Northwestern University J.D. 2006; Calvin College B.A. 2002

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Robert Lee Schout (The Schout Company)

Robert Schout's law degree led to a career in Commercial and Industrial Corporate Finance. His clients include Major Money Center Banks, and Developers of commercial space. His work includes an extremely active career segment which deals with large scale port, refinery and energy projects. Mr. Schout donates services to the African Development Bank (oil refinery in Namibia), World Bank, International Development Bank and US agencies who are involved with passive and active security technology applications for those agencies and the US Military. His normal role at the Schout Company is to organize and fund projects and related acquisitions, with clients ranging from international banks and corporates outside the western. The Schout Company also does a considerable amount of work for and with institutional clients such as Teachers Insurance, American International Group, and the Dutch investment firm I.N.G on projects in Kiev, Ukraine in addition to headquarters development and finance for Porsche in Stuttgart, Germany.



Practices: Commercial and Industrial Corporate Finance

Education: Wayne State University J.D. 1971; Calvin College B.A. 1964

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Julie Westra (Priority Health)

Julie Westra acts as a lead attorney for the Wellness, Customer Service/Member Issues and the Special Investigations Unit for Priority Health. She is responsible for reviewing and negotiating contracts deriving from her supported areas, as well as negotiating all Business Associate Agreements. She works directly with high level management and executives on large dollar amount contracts, creates and provides training for supported subject matter areas, and manages budget and staff for litigation involving ERISA benefits, subrogation, and no-fault. She partners with Human Resources to ensure alignment and optimization of legal resources.

Practices: Litigation, HIPAA Privacy, Fraud, waste, COBRA and ERISA

Education: University of Iowa J.D. 2006; University of Houston B.A. 2002

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan



Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout (Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates)

Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout pioneered Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates in 2015 in order to fill a need for non-profit immigration legal services in the Holland Area. She works as an attorney dedicated to providing low-cost, high-quality legal services to her clients, in addition to educating and advocating for immigrant's rights. Sarah is also the West Side Co-chair for the Michigan Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and a founding facilitator of Allies Working for Social Justice and Environmental Progress.

Practices: Immigration Law

Education: Michigan State University J.D. 2006; Calvin College B.A. 2008

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan



Daily Life as an Attorney

1:30 to 2:45 pm

Luis Avila (Varnum Law)

Luis Avila focuses his practice on labor, employment and immigration issues. He has a wide range of experience in traditional labor matters, including grievances, arbitrations, collective bargaining negotiations, union drives, and matters in front of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC). He counsels public and private sector employers on a number of workplace matters, including effective employee handbooks and policies, disciplinary and dispute resolution procedures, discrimination, disability accommodation, wage-hour matters, family medical leave, and harassment and litigation prevention.



Practices: Labor and Employment Law

Education: University of Michigan J.D. 2010; Calvin College B.A. 2005

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Mary Bonnema (McGarry Bair)

Mary Bonnema currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of McGarry Bair PC, and is a full time attorney. She manages all of McGarry Bair's domestic and global client trademark portfolios. McGarry Bair specializes in all areas of advice, counsel and litigation in the field of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets for mid-sized to Fortune 500 companies.



Practices: Intellectual Property Law

Education: Wayne State University J.D. 1993; Calvin College B.A. 1990

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Rachel Bouman (Library of Congress)

Rachel Bouman is the Chief Human Capital Officer for the Library of Congress where she has stewardship responsibility for the Library's 3,200 employees. She advises and assists the Librarian of Congress and senior Library officials on human capital management strategies in order to attract, develop and retain a high performing, engaged and diverse workforce. She was selected as the Deputy Counselor to the Director of the Congressional Research Service in January 2014 and was responsible for setting and interpreting policy, litigating complex First Amendment cases, and improving outreach to Members of Congress. In 2012, she was appointed as Chief of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). In that role, she was a trusted confidential advisor to the Director of ATF and became known as a positive change agent by bringing an underperforming federal office into compliance in three months. From 2006 to 2012, she served as a litigation attorney for the Department of Justice, litigating high profile employment cases. Prior to government service, Rachel was an associate in a law firm, litigating employment cases before state and federal courts in California.



Practices: Title V of the Code of Federal Regulations

Education: University of the Pacific, McGeorge J.D. 2001; Calvin College B.A. 1998

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of California
- United States Supreme Court

Ana Raquel (Stutler) Devereaux (Michigan Immigrant Rights Center)

Ana is a staff attorney at the Michigan Immigrant Rights where her work focuses on the representation of unaccompanied immigrant children in removal proceedings and seeking available forms of relief for them, as well as developing pro bono attorneys to assist in this work. Ana grew up in the Dominican Republic as a child of missionaries and has a heart for working with vulnerable populations. She received her Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Calvin College, doing her Honor's Thesis on 'How Should Christians Understand U.S. Immigration Policy and Institutional Framework in Light of the Biblical Perspective on Justice and the State.' Ana interned for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in D.C., the Wayne State Asylum and Immigration Clinic, and coordinated pro bono efforts to provide legal services through MACC Legal in Detroit. At her current position, Ana represents unaccompanied children in removal proceedings before the immigration court, meets with clients and seeks viable forms of relief under immigration law, and comes before administrative agencies and state courts as necessary to seek the interest of clients.



Practices: Immigration Law

Education: Wayne State University J.D. 2014; Calvin College B.A. 2011

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Nate Knapper (Federal Bureau of Investigations)

Nate Knapper is an FBI Special Agent. He currently conducts counterterrorism investigations on behalf of the FBI's Detroit Division. He formerly served as a member of the Bureau's Southeast Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes (SEMTEC) Task Force, where he investigated human trafficking and child exploitation matters. Prior to joining the FBI, Nate previously served as an Assistant Attorney General in Lansing, where he worked as a member of the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking and the OK-2-SAY Student Safety Initiative. He is a graduate of Calvin College (2008); Pepperdine Law School in Malibu, California; and the Straus Dispute Resolution Institute in Malibu, California.



Practices: Human Trafficking and Violent Crimes Against Children

Education: Pepperdine University J.D. 2011; Calvin College B.A. 2008

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Justin Van Den Heuvel (Van Den Heuvel Law Office)

Justin Van Den Heuvel is an attorney at law specializing in criminal, business, and family law. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Communications with experience in accounting, economics, marketing, and film production. Van Den Heuvel has leadership and management experience in a business setting and has an established reputation for his strong work ethic and for exceeding management's expectations. His specialties include legal research, oral advocacy, presentation skills, problem solving, public relations, account management, business communications, economics, advertising, marketing, packaging, film production, and sales.



Practices: Criminal, Business and Family Law

Education: Thomas M. Cooley J.D. 2014; Calvin College B.A. 2011

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

How Law Schools Read Applications

3:15 to 4:15 pm

Christopher Jackson, Michigan State University

Nate Karnes, Western Michigan University/Cooley Law School

Eileen Varga, University of Notre Dame

Bailey Higgins, Ohio Northern University

Janet Lee Hein, Indiana University Maurer School of Law

How to Prepare a Good Law School Application

4:45 to 5:45 pm

Kelsey Parker, Wayne State University

Stephanie Wingbigler, Detroit Mercy

Laura Schmidt, Toledo College of Law

Al Watson, University of Cincinnati Law School