

NOTABLE 2021 WOMEN IN LAW

MICHELLE DONOVAN

Senior Counsel, Clark Hill
Western Michigan University Thomas M.
Cooley Law School

Michelle Donovan is director, legislative committee member and co-chair of the social committee of the State Bar of Michigan's Cannabis Law Section.



In 2018, she obtained the first provisioning center medical marijuana license in Oakland County. She also obtained an emergency rule allowing patients to temporarily purchase medical marijuana from

licensed caregivers, who purchased from licensed provisioning centers.

"It is refreshing to find an attorney who isn't just interested in earning money in the cannabis industry but someone who truly gets it," said Jerry Millen, a member of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association board.

Donovan is also faculty law member of the State Bar of Michigan's Real Property Law Section.

STEPHANIE DOUGLAS

Member, Bush Seyferth PLLC
University of Michigan Law School

Stephanie Douglas has had a busy few years.

Ford Motor Co. selected her to serve as its advanced motions counsel for matters involving driver-assist technology. She



successfully defended SAS Institute Inc. in a multibillion dollar, civil rights, class action suit alleging use of a computer program to falsely find tens of thousands of unemployment claimants fraudulent and

terminate benefits, which resulted in fines, penalties, garnished wages and more.

In addition, Douglas represented clients in five U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal and the U.S. Supreme Court and represented Michigan legislators in claims that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer violated constitutional separation of powers.

Douglas is a fellow for the Lawyers for Civil Justice and serves on the Sixth Circuit Advisory Committee on Rules, which reviews possible changes to the court's local rules and internal operating procedures.

"Stephanie is one of our most trusted and capable outside counsel partners and first on the list of people we go to for thought leadership on complex appeals and advanced motion practice, where she has helped shape and clarify the law in important areas," said Ford Motor Co. General Counsel John Mellen.

EBONY DUFF

Shareholder, Garan Lucow Miller, PC
Wayne State University Law School

Ebony Duff is consistently recognized by her peers and clients as an invaluable resource.

As general counsel to the Detroit Regional Convention Center Authority, she



handled the \$33 million, 22-year naming rights deal to rename Cobo Hall the TCF Center. She also negotiated contracts with federal and state agencies, contractors and suppliers to erect a COVID-19 related alter-

nate-care facility at the TCF Center and more recently contracted with the city to host a drive-thru vaccination clinic there.

In addition, Duff serves as city attorney for Oak Park and handles litigation matters for MotorCity Casino, the Great Lakes Water Authority and others through her insurance defense practice.

She also serves as a trustee for the Michigan Opera Theatre.

SUE ELLEN EISENBERG

Principal & Managing Partner, Sue Ellen
Eisenberg & AssociatesPC
University of Michigan Law School

After working on the team that drafted federal guidelines on sexual harassment for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Sue Ellen Eisenberg launched

her namesake law firm.

Some of her notable cases include a pregnancy discrimination matter her team successfully resolved, a gender discrimination matter that allowed her client to retain



her benefits and a multimillion dollar discrimination matter she successfully settled in a case against a Fortune 100 company.

"She has been a consistent and clear voice advocating for women, BIPOC and LGBTQ communities in the workplace. Beyond her work, she generously donates her time and resources to nonprofits that represent the arts, mental health care (the University of Michigan Depression Center) and women in business and the law," said Michelle Martinez-Bassett, executive vice president of client services, Bassett & Bassett Inc.

MARY KUCHAREK

Shareholder, Beier Howlett PC
The University of Detroit School of Law

The year is starting well for Mary Kucharek. Beier Howlett made her an equity partner, and she became city attorney for their client the city of Birmingham. She is also chief city attorney for the city of Orchard Lake and the village of Lake Orion.



"Mary has an incredible depth of knowledge, always ready with valuable resources needed for efficient and effective deliberation. She is the epitome of the 'caring lawyer,' with a professional and

intelligent style, a sharp wit and a confident presence so critical to a body of decision makers," said Ken Van Portfliet, council president for the village of Lake Orion.

Kucharek encourages police chiefs to provide officers with emergency mental health intervention training so they can help people in need rather than sending them to jail. She advocates for fellow lawyers to also learn about the mental health system and helped build a relationship between the Oakland County Bar Association and the Oakland Community Health Network.

STEPHANI LABELLE

Lead Attorney, City of Detroit
Wayne State University Law School

In 2019, Stephani LaBelle became lead attorney of Detroit's Project Clean Slate, a free expungement program for Detroit residents.



Working with Mayor Mike Duggan and legislators to expand the expungement law, she testified before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The expanded law, which makes people with up to three felonies and unlimited misdemeanors eligible, takes effect

this spring.

"Stephani LaBelle is a great attorney and transformational leader. Her leadership, passion for helping people, and ability to optimize the expungement process, has led Project Clean Slate to become a nationally recognized model," said Carrie Jones, senior adviser to Duggan and Project Clean Slate team lead.

SUSAN LICHTERMAN

Partner, Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC
University of Michigan Law School

Susan Lichterman co-founded and leads her firm's Family Practice group. She has successfully advocated for women and men in domestic relations matters before trial courts throughout Michigan, the Michigan



Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court.

Lichterman also sits on a panel of the Michigan Attorney Discipline Board, the adjudicative arm of the Michigan Supreme Court, where she helps conduct trial level

proceedings that address alleged professional misconduct of members of the state bar.

"Susan has been absolutely instrumental in effectively building our family law practice group at Jaffe. That is a testament to Susan's extraordinary professionalism and determination to take the firm's level of expertise to new heights," said Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss Managing Partner Jeff Weiss.

Lichterman also handles pro bono matters through the Family Law Assistance Project and Jewish Family Services and volunteers with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Legal Clinic.

MARY MASSARON

Partner, Plunkett Cooney
Wayne State University Law School

Mary Massaron loves life and the law and shares that passion with newer attorneys, helping them hone their writing skills, use logic and prepare persuasive, deeply researched legal arguments.



She also co-chairs Plunkett Cooney's class action, aggregate litigation and mass tort practice group. One notable case includes arguing an appeal in the Sixth Circuit overturning a multimillion-dollar judgment against a

police officer on the basis that he could not be held liable for a wrongful incarceration when his limited role meant he had no duty to further investigate at the early stage of the arrest and incarceration.

"Mary's zealous commitment to improving the civil justice system is evidenced by her volunteer work, including her service as the first woman president of Lawyers for Civil Justice," said LCJ Executive Director Andrea Looney.

Massaron also volunteers her time on three Detroit Institute of Arts auxiliary boards and Marygrove College's board of directors.

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PROUDLY
CONGRATULATES

OUR COLLEAGUE

Ebony L. Duff

FOR BEING HONORED AS ONE OF
CRAIN'S 2021
NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW

GARAN LUCOW MILLER P.C.
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

A HERITAGE OF DISTINCTION.....A LEGACY OF SUCCESS.