



7th Annual State Bar of Michigan Business Law Section Symposium

“Mediation Mastery”

February 13, 2025 | The Gem Theatre

Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
5:15pm	Opening Statement	Mark Rossman (<i>Rossman, P.C.</i>)
5:30pm	Presentation & Discussion	Tom McNeill (<i>McNeill ADR</i>)
6:15pm	Networking Break	
6:45pm	Panel Discussion: Negotiation Technique	Charles "Chip" Brower (<i>Wayne State Law School</i>) Daniel McCarthy (<i>Butzel</i>) Hon. Denise Langford Morris (<i>Ret.</i>) (<i>JAMS</i>) Hon. Julie Nicholson (<i>Ret.</i>) (<i>MI-JADR</i>) Jerome Rock (<i>Jerome Rock Law</i>) Moderator: Thomas Cranmer (<i>Miller Canfield</i>)
8:00pm	Discussion: Negotiating The Nine Figure Settlement On Behalf of US Women's Gymnastics Survivors	Megan Bonanni (<i>Pitt McGehee</i>) Ilan D. Scharf (<i>Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones</i>) Moderator: Maxwell Goss (<i>Litigation War Room</i>)

Speakers



Hon. Denise Langford Morris (*Ret.*) (*JAMS*)
Judge Langford Morris joined JAMS in 2022 after serving on the Oakland County bench for 30 years, where she was the first African American and the first female dean of the Oakland County bench since its inception in 1848. During her tenure on the bench, she presided over thousands of civil, business, family and criminal cases, including jury and bench. Judge Langford Morris retired as the first African American chief judge pro tempore to serve on the court.

Judge Langford Morris is known at home and abroad for her dedication to the rule of law and for her ability to work with parties from all walks of life. She is adept at carving out mutually agreeable solutions to intractable problems and believes that mediated settlements offer parties the best chance at solving disputes. She is known for her patience, perseverance, and integrity in seeking resolution while parties are still in control



Hon. Julie Nicholson (*Ret.*) (*MI-JADR*)
Judge Nicholson is a professional mediator at MI-JADR and is a former 52/3 District Court Judge with more than 27 years of judicial experience and 10 years of civil litigation experience in private practice. As a judge she presided over thousands of civil cases, jury and non-jury trials in one of Oakland County's largest and busiest district courts. Judge Nicholson was also appointed as a Visiting Judge to the Oakland County Circuit Court – Civil Division.

As a faculty member of the Michigan Judicial Institute Judge Nicholson taught classes involving Alternative Dispute Resolution, Jury Trial Management, Collections and Court Management. Judge Nicholson also was an Adjunct Professor for Cooley Law School where she taught Pretrial Skills to law school students. She was a guest lecturer for various law firms and multiple colleges, high schools and middle schools and presented lectures at multiple legal education related conferences.



Megan Bonanni (*Pitt McGehee Palmer Bonanni & Rivers*)

Megan Bonanni is a partner at Pitt McGehee Palmer Bonanni & Rivers and has extensive experience in employment law, including disability, harassment, and discrimination cases. She has successfully handled nationwide class actions, group actions, and multiple party cases on behalf of employees from the lowest to highest levels of many of the largest companies

in the United States. Bonanni often serves as a court-appointed mediator of employment disputes and has made several appearances on television as an expert on the issues of sexual harassment and age discrimination. She is a board member for the Michigan Employment Lawyers Association, a mentor for the Federal Bar Association Civil Mentor Program, a member of the Macomb County Bar Association's Employment Committee, and a member of a number of other professional organizations.



Charles Brower (*Wayne State Law School*)

Professor Charles Brower's credentials in the fields of negotiation and alternative dispute resolution are second to none as he serves as Distinguished Service Professor at Wayne State University Law School and is Chair of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration, Of Counsel to Miller Canfield International Disputes Group, and Foster Family Research Scholar.

In addition to more than 25 years of academic experience touching on virtually every aspect of international law and international dispute settlement, Brower has served as arbitrator, counsel, or advocate in proceedings conducted under the AAA Commercial Rules, the AAA International Rules, the HKIAC Rules, the ICC Rules, and the SIAC Rules, as well as in advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice. He has also served as an expert witness on the U.S. law of international arbitration and litigation for high-value proceedings in Canadian courts.



Daniel McCarthy (*Butzel*)

Daniel McCarthy's practice includes commercial litigator at both the trial court and appellate levels with a long track record of success in the courtroom and at the negotiating table, as the lawyer and as the mediator. He is highly skilled and sought after for appellate litigation, as well as arbitration matters. McCarthy is a Shareholder practicing in Butzel's Troy office.



Tom McNeill (*McNeill ADR*)

Tom McNeill is a highly skilled mediator and arbitrator, whose passion and zeal for negotiation and alternative dispute resolution are second to none. His insights have settled many cases over four decades of litigation and trial experience. In his time at Dickinson Wright, McNeill tried more than 50 cases to verdict or award, and his teams fully prevailed for his business clients in every one of those trials. He now offers mediation and arbitration services at McNeill ADR, where he works

collaboratively with business people and their attorneys, and assists in bringing to conclusion the risk, uncertainty, expense, distraction, and the enormous investment of time and energy required for the daily battle and grind of litigation.



Jerome Rock (*Jerome Rock Law*)

Jerome Rock maintains an exclusive practice as a mediator and arbitrator for business, technology, and construction industry disputes as well as general civil, insurance, and indemnity claims. He is on the panel of arbitrators for the American Arbitration Association for commercial, construction, and large complex cases. Rock is also on the panel of civil mediators for the Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw County Circuit Courts. He is on the roster of approved ADR

Neutrals for the Business Court for the Third and Sixteenth Judicial Circuits. He has served as court-appointed mediator and special master in federal and state courts and acts as a facilitator of negotiations for complex business transactions.



Ilan D. Scharf (*Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones*)

Scharf's practice focuses on representing tort claimant and creditors' committees in chapter 11 cases. He has also represented debtors, equity holders, asset purchasers, trade creditors, chapter 11 trustees, and other parties in business reorganizations and related litigation. He has appeared before bankruptcy courts across the United States, including New York, Delaware, New Jersey, New Mexico, California, Missouri, Montana, Texas and Pennsylvania.



Thomas Cranmer (Miller Canfield)

Thomas Cranmer is one of the area’s finest civil and criminal trial lawyers, with more than 40 years of courtroom experience in white-collar criminal defense, complex commercial and “bet-the-company” litigation. Cranmer has been listed in the Top 10 out of more than 45,000 Michigan attorneys in every edition of *Michigan Super Lawyers* since its inception in 2006 and was ranked as the no. 1 Michigan attorney for 2021 and 2022. He is also a highly skilled negotiator and

mediator and has extensive experience as a leader and instructor of trial advocacy including teaching for one of the preeminent trial advocacy programs in the United States, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.



Mark C. Rossman (Rossman, P.C.)

Mark Rossman is the managing partner of Rossman, P.C. and specializes in business litigation, corporate transactions, and mediations. Rossman has been voted a *DBusiness Top Lawyer* in business law and has been repeatedly listed in *Super Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers List*. Rossman is co-chair of the Privately Held Business Forum, a committee of the State Bar of Michigan’s Business Law Section. Mark has hosted the Business Law Symposium each of the last 6 years, with each

year focused on various topics in the realm of business litigation and consistently garnering wider audiences.



Maxwell Goss (Maxwell Goss Law)

Maxwell Goss is a litigation and trial attorney focusing on complex intellectual property and business cases. Goss represents clients in federal and state courts in Michigan and around the country. He also provides strategic advice on intellectual property and business law matters. Experienced in a broad range of matters, Goss’s practices focuses principally on trade secret, trademark, copyright, non-compete, and shareholder litigation. He is also the host of The Litigation War Room podcast.



E. Powell Miller (The Miller Law Firm)

E. Powell Miller is the managing partner of The Miller Law Firm. He has repeatedly been awarded the Lawyer of the Year Award by Best Lawyers, included in the *Super Lawyers Top 10* list for over twelve consecutive years, and he is currently *Super Lawyers #1* ranked attorney in Michigan. Powell is an expert litigator, having won numerous trials in big cases, and garnering over \$6 billion in litigation and class action recoveries. Powell is Co-Chair of the Privately Held Businesses Forum.

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