



DETROIT BAR
ASSOCIATION

RAISING
the
BAR

June 2025–May 2026



Over the last year the Detroit Bar Association served over 4,400 attendees, hosting 419 networking events, fundraisers, webinars, educational programs, board, committee, section, and planning meetings!



Raising the Bar Annual Dinner



Summer Breeze Law Clerk's Party



Detroit Bar Association Golf Outing



Night Out with the Bench and Bar



Jingle Mingle Holiday Celebration



Mardi Gras in the "D"



Trivia Night



New Lawyer Boot Camp



Inn of Court



Law Day

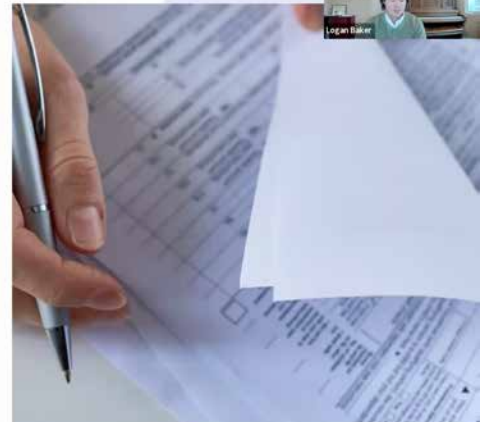
New Tax Laws and Strategies

Thursday, March 5
12 p.m.
Via Zoom



OBBA AND YOUR TAX STRATEGIES Individual Tax Rates

- Income Tax Rates
- Standard Deduction
- Senior Personal Exemption
- Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)



So we'll start with individual rates. Most of these changes... side, not really anything related to, at least not directly related to corporate tax. We'll talk about estate tax. Most of the provisions in here are related to income tax. We'll certainly spend some time talking about the changes to the estate and gift rules.

MEACER ADVISORS 00:19:33 / 00:57:43

Professionalism is Mandatory and Codified



- ▶ Lawyer's Oath
- ▶ The Rules of Professional Conduct and Canons of Judicial Ethics
- ▶ The Michigan Supreme Court – Administrative Order 2020-23



WEBINARS: Professionalism and Civility: A Better Way to Practice • Social Media: Trends, Tools, and Legal Considerations • Vibe Coding for Attorneys • New Tax Law Strategies



1) IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE AUDIT

- Notice timing and method
- Consent-to-settle compliance
- Exhaustion of BI limits per policy
- Cooperation/documentation duties
- Create a one-page compliance chronology

This is very important as the failure to timely raise these defenses can lead to estoppel or waiver claims as to these defenses.

Auto No Fault Section:

Fee Schedule Update and Navigating the
Underinsured Motorist Claim



Barristers Section:

Barristers Holiday Party

Detroit Legal Services Clinic & Happy Hour

Law Day • Networking & Business Etiquette for New Lawyers



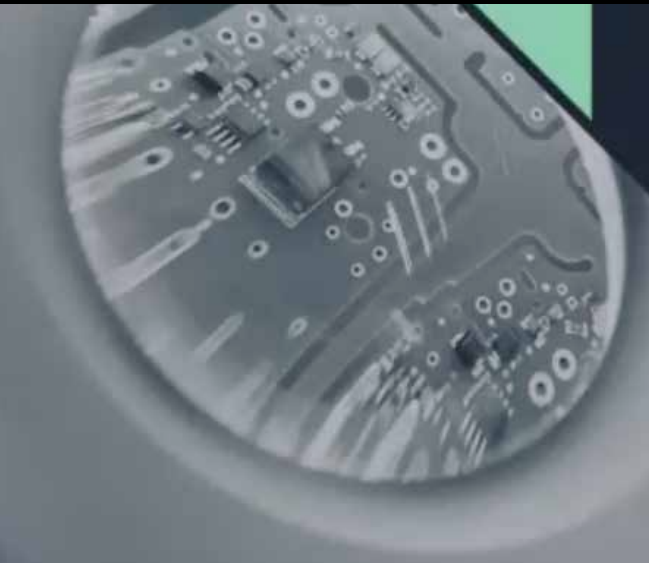
Estate Planning and Probate Litigation Section:
The Do's and Don'ts of Wayne County Probate Court



**In-House Counsel and Small Firms and Solo Practitioners Section:
Common Ground:
Where In-House and Small Firm Attorneys Connect**



Chris Flowers



10 Steps To Bulletproof Your Recordings

Offered By:

National Bureau of Forensic Analysis

NATIONALBFA

Speaker: Chris J. Flowers

Criminal Defense Section:

- Webinar: 10 Steps to Bullet Proofing Your Recording



ADR Section:
Behind the Neutral Table: Lessons from the Frontlines of ADR



**Work Life Balance Section:
Book Club**

DETROIT BAR ASSOCIATION

Fish and Game Section Presents:

INTRODUCTION TO HUNTING

Thursdays, February 5–26, 6–7:30pm

detroitlawyer.org



Fish & Game Section:
Introduction to Hunting — 6-Part Series



Business Litigation Section:
Winter Happy Hour



DETROIT BAR ASSOCIATION

USING SOCIAL MEDIA AS EVIDENCE



February 3,
2026



Elephant & Co Detroit -
456 Charlotte Street,
Detroit, MI 48201



5:30 PM -
7:30 PM

5:30pm: Drinks & Appetizers

6:15pm - 7:15: Panel Discussion

Social media has become a vital source of evidence in litigation. Join ASG Investigations and Detroit Bar Association leaders for a panel discussion on how to collect, preserve, and use digital evidence in real-world litigation.

SPONSORS:

VERITEXT
LEGAL SOLUTIONS

ASG
INVESTIGATIONS



Marcy Tayler
Marcy Tayler Mediation
PLLC



Milea Vislosky
Miller & Tischler, P.C.



Kim Seibert
Slater Seibert, PLLC



Dan Klimek
ASG Investigations

\$25 for Members, \$45 for Nonmembers.

Registration includes appetizers and a cash bar.

Register at: www.detroitlawyer.org/upcoming-events/

Special Events:
Using Social Media as Evidence



Special Events:
Women's Day Happy Hour

Continuing to Advance DEI in Our Legal Community



FINISHING 2025 STRONG AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

BY KATE HARRISON

As 2025 draws to a close, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee reflects on the year's challenges, progress, and work that lies ahead.

This year has unquestionably tested our collective resolve. Across the country, DEI efforts have faced political debates, heightened scrutiny, and cultural resistance. As we know, the legal industry has not been immune from this pushback. Yet Detroit's resilience, rich diversity, and long history of social justice advocacy stand as a reminder to us all that, while meaningful progress may not be linear, it is still essential.

The principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are not simply boxes to check, but principles that lie at the core of our profession. 2025 has reinforced the notion that advancing DEI requires sustained commitment, collaboration, and accountability.

Finishing 2025 Strong

While obstacles remain, the year is not over yet and there is still time for meaningful action. As we close out the year, the D&I Committee encourages everyone to finish 2025 with purpose by:

- ♦ **Engaging intentionally:** Participate

panels, and roundtables. Your perspective and presence matter.

- ♦ **Mentoring and sponsoring:** Reach out to a junior attorney, law student, or colleague who could benefit from your guidance. Representation grows stronger when we lift as we climb.
- ♦ **Reflecting on practice:** Take time to consider how bias—whether conscious or unconscious—may affect decisions in hiring, work allocation, or client interactions. Small adjustments can have a drastic and lasting impact.
- ♦ **Setting 2026 goals now:** Whether at the individual or organizational level, defining measurable DEI goals before year's end will position you for stronger, more intentional progress in the coming year.

Invitation to 2025 D&I Reflections Meeting with Justice Welch and Judge Garrett

As we close out the year and wrap up our 25 in '25 D&I Challenge, the D&I Committee invites you to attend our 2025 Diversity & Inclusion Reflections Meeting with special guests, Michigan

Supreme Court Justice Hon. Elizabeth Welch and 36th District Court Judge Hon. Austin W. Garrett. Justice Welch and Judge Garrett are co-chairs of the Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Michigan Judiciary and will lead a discussion about the Commission's recent efforts.

The meeting will take place on December 4, 2025 from 4-5 p.m. via Zoom. You can register online to attend at www.detroitlawyer.org/programs/challenge.

Looking Ahead to 2026

DEI has always been more than a passing trend. It's the foundation of a profession that is committed to fairness, representation, and justice. As we close out 2025 and step into 2026, let's do so with renewed focus and energy. Together, we can continue building a bar that reflects the resilience, strength, and diversity of the community we proudly serve.



KATE HARRISON is the Manager of Inclusion and Talent at Bodman. She serves on the Detroit Bar Association Board of Directors and co-chairs the Detroit Bar's Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

DETROIT BAR ASSOCIATION

Diversity & Inclusion Reflections Meeting

DECEMBER 4, 2025
4-5 P.M. VIA ZOOM



Hon. Elizabeth Welch



Hon. Austin W. Garrett

Diversity & Inclusion Committee:
25 in '25 Diversity and Inclusion Challenge and Reflections



Pro Bono Access to Justice Committee: LUNCH AND LEARN TRAINING SESSIONS

Session #29: The Joseph Project

Session #30: Introduction to U.S. Immigration Law and the Asylum Process

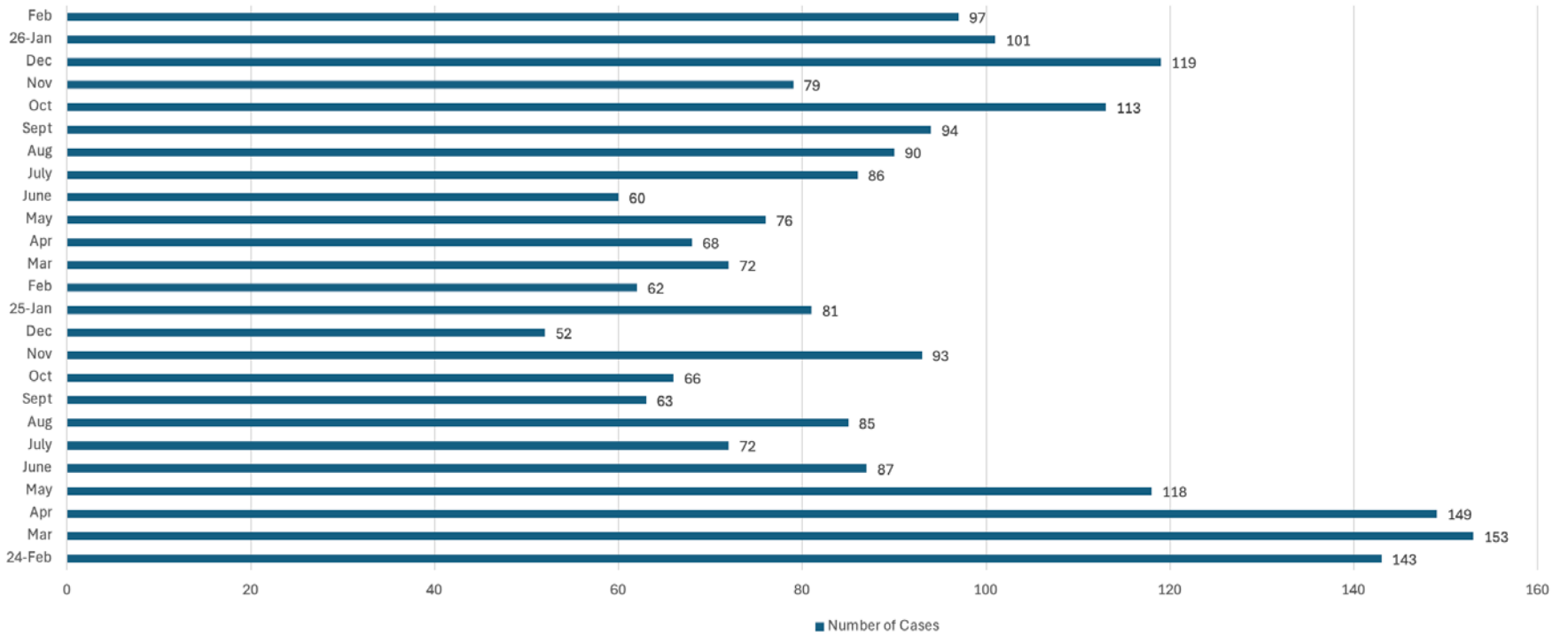
Session #31: Michigan Community Resources: Pro Bono Transactional Law for Michigan Nonprofits

Session #32: Serving the Community in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Session #33: Fees, Fines, and Suspensions - How Reform Can be Achieved

Session #34: The Intersection of Tribal, State, and Federal Law

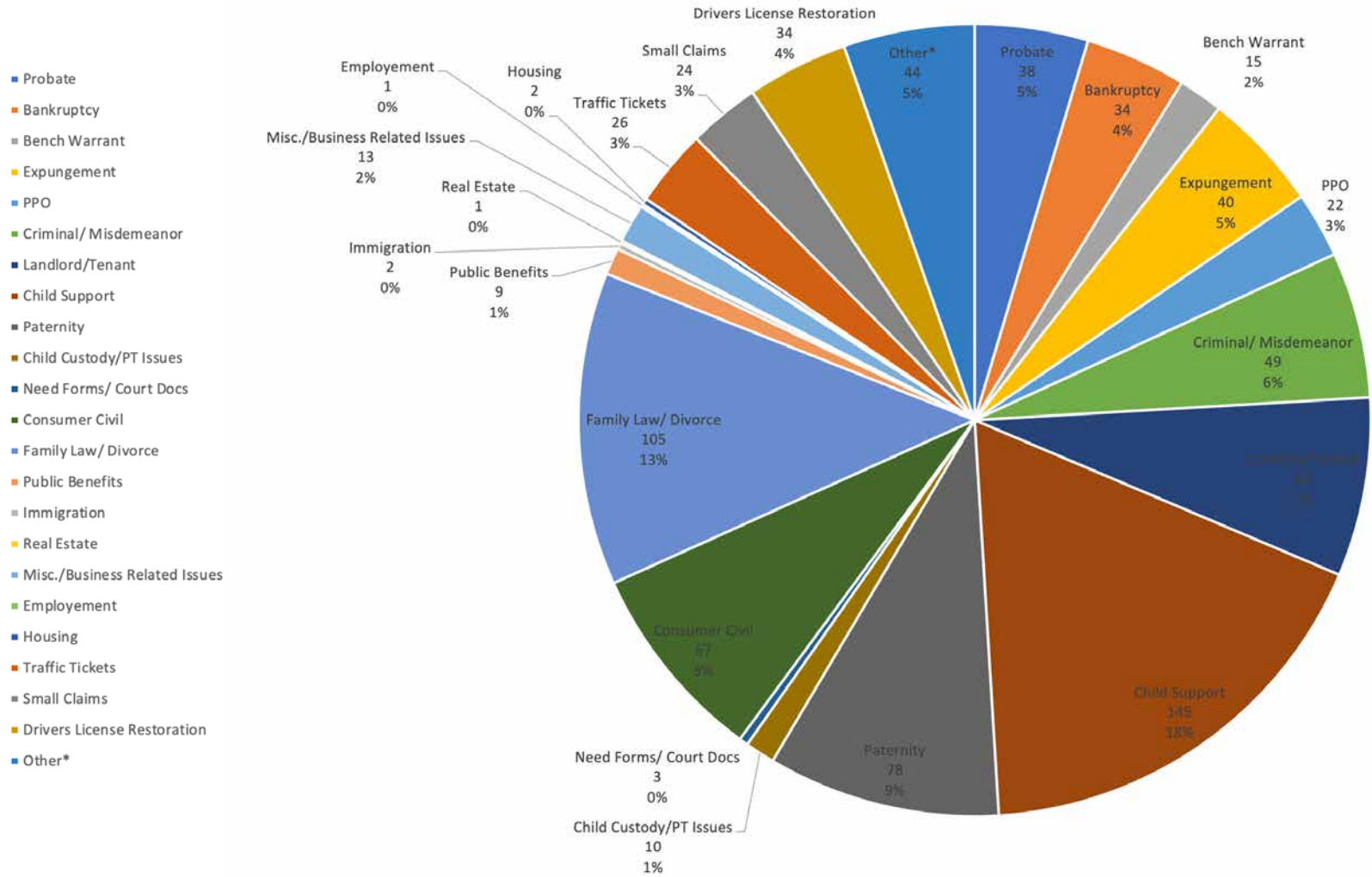
Volume of people seeking legal services since Feb 2024



Detroit Legal Services Clinic

Case Volume

Case Volume from Feb 2024- Feb 2026



Detroit Legal Services Clinic

Case Volume and Case Types

Firms that served through the Detroit Legal Services Clinic

June 17: **Butzel** served 20

July 15: **Bodman** served 30

August 19: **Foley** served 25

September 16: **Miller Johnson**
served 27

October 21: **Miller Canfield**
served 36

November 18: **Kitch** served 13

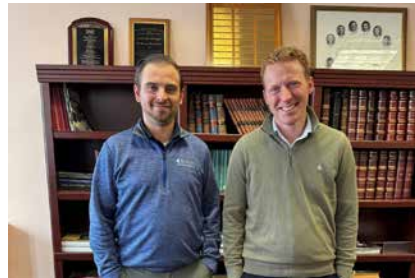
December 16: **Dickinson
Wright** served 21

January 20: **Kitch** served 21

February 17: **Kitch** and **BSP**
served 24

March 17: **Kerr Russell, Kitch,**
and **Miller Canfield** served 30

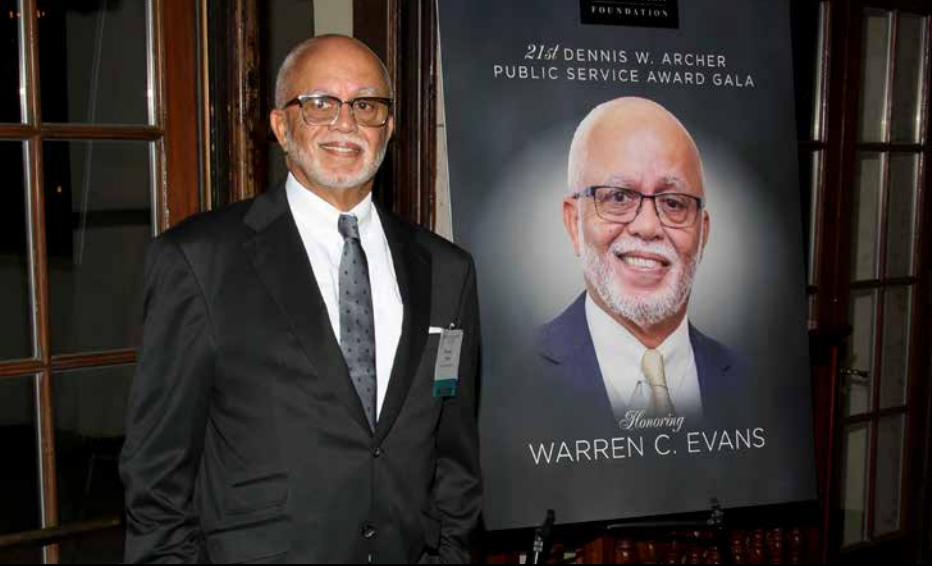
April 21: **Wright Beamer, Kitch,**
and **Warner Norcross + Judd**
served 20



Detroit Legal Services Clinic Voluneers



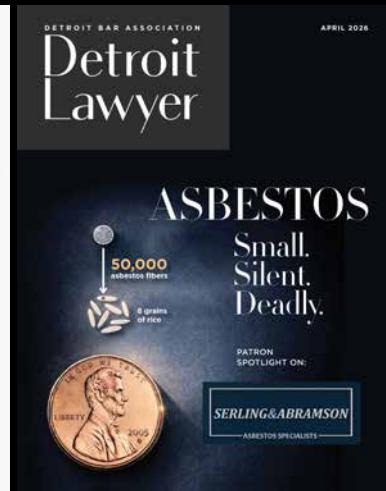
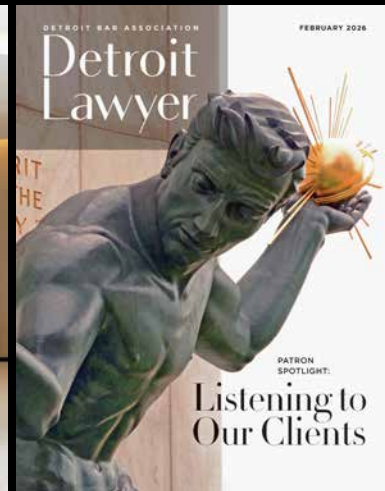
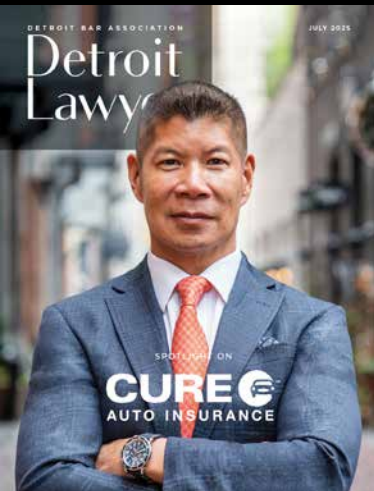
Conferences:
MABE Bar Executives Conference
Great Lakes Legal Conference



21st Archer Award Gala



Bar Admissions Ceremony



EDITORIAL BOARD:

Joanne Geha Swanson, Chair

Zenell B. Brown

Jonathan Demers

Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr.

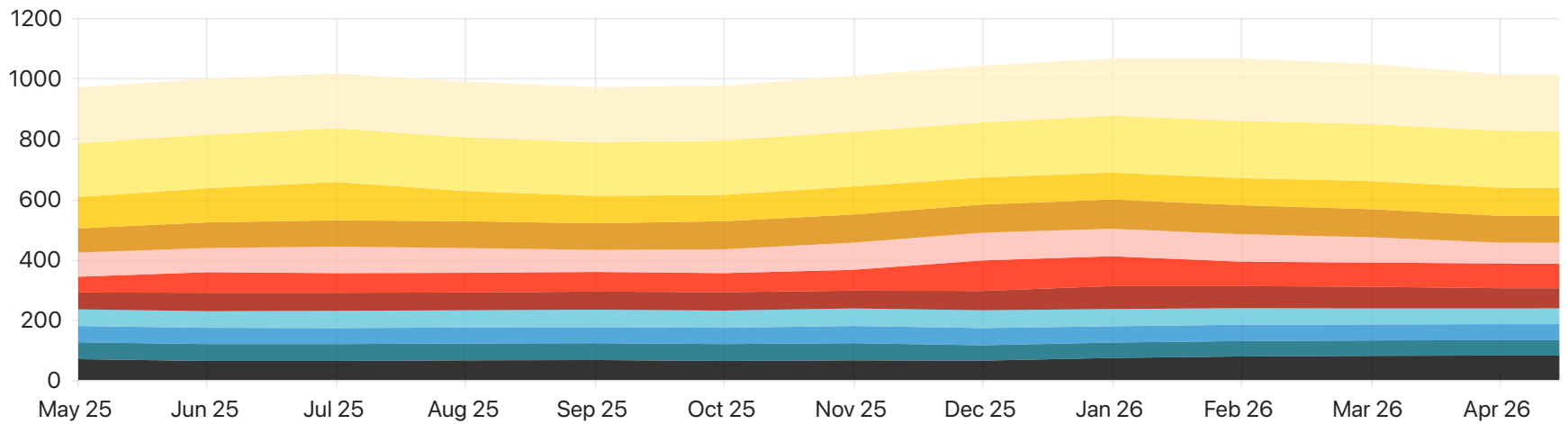
Donn Fresard

Kate Harrison

Paul Mersino

Detroit Lawyer Magazine

5 issues in 2025-2026



- Attorney (Admitted 10+ years in MI)
- Firm Attorney (Admitted 10+ years in MI)
- Student Associate (Law School)
- Attorney (Government, Academic, Non-Profit)
- Attorney (Admitted 1-4 years in MI)
- Attorney (Admitted <1 year in MI)
- Attorney (Admitted 5-9 years in MI)
- Judicial Officer (Judge)
- Firm Attorney (Admitted 1-4 years in MI)
- Firm Attorney (Admitted 5-9 years in MI)
- Other



Detroit Bar Association Board of Directors:
8 meetings
June 2025 Board Retreat
New Board Member Orientation



Roger P. Meyers
Bush Seyferth PLLC
President



Darius Dynkowski
Butzel
Secretary-Treasurer



Stefanie Reagan
Hickey Hauck Bishoff Jeffers
& Seabolt, PLLC
President-Elect



Tiffany Ellis
Peiffer Wolf Carr Kane
Conway & Wise, LLP
Immediate Past President (ex officio)



James Allen
Schenk & Bruetsch, PLC



Gabriel E. Bedoya
Honigman LLP



Michael Butler
Butler ADR



Hon. Ponce Clay
36th District Court



Erin Archerd
University of Detroit Mercy
School of Law



Richard Bierschbach
Wayne State University Law
School



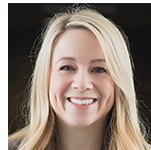
John Cahalan
Law Office of John C. Cahalan



Stephen Cowen
Jones Day



Heather Atnip
Atnip & Associates



Tishia Browning
Dickinson Wright, PLLC



Raymond Carey
Gasiorek, Morgan, Greco,
McCauley & Kotzian P.C.
Foundation Co-Chair (ex officio)



Albert Dib
Jefferson Law Center

Thank you, 2025-2026 Board of Directors



Michael Donnelly
Butzel



Hon. Nicole Goodson
Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan



Martin Hogg
Miller, Tischler & Vislosky, PC



Alexis Lauring
Dickinson Wright



Jaiiah Emerson
Varnum



Hon. Adel Harb
Third Circuit Court of Michigan



Diane Hutcherson
Kramer, Corbett, Harding & Dombrowski



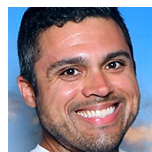
Ray Littleton
Foster Swift



Christopher Filiatraut
Mike Morse Law Firm



James Harrington
Fieger Law



William-George Alexander Johnson
Lady4Justice Law Office



Jonathan Marko
Marko Law, PLLC



John Gillooly
Garan Lucow Miller PC



Kate Brink Harrison
Bodman PLC



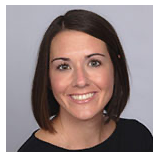
Alexis Johnson
AFJ Law Group PLLC



Blake Padget
Butzel



Benjamin Glazebrook
Plunkett Cooney



Hon. Bridget Hathaway
Third Circuit Court of Michigan



Carina Kraatz
Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook



James Rosenfeld
Butzel
Foundation Co-Chair (ex officio)



Michael Russell
Fieger Law



Marcy Tayler
Marcy Tayler Mediation
Services



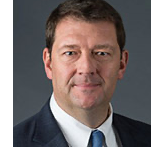
Sarah Wykoff
Kutinsky Insurance Coverage
Firm PLLC



Juliana B. Sabatini



Lisa Whitney Timmons
Mediation Tribunal
Association



L. Pahl Zinn
Dickinson Wright, PLLC



Patricia Schabath
Kerr Russell and Weber, PLLC



Felipe Torres
Hallmark Health Care
Solutions



Kimberly K. Seibert
Slater Seibert, PLLC



Milea Vislosky
Miller, Tischler & Vislosky, PC



Antonia Giles
Warner Norcross + Judd LLP
Barristers Section President
(ex officio)



Patrick J. Masterson
Dickinson Wright, PLLC
Barristers Section President-
Elect (ex officio)



Suzanne Stanczyk
Suzanne C. Stanczyk, PLLC



William Winters III
Law Office of William J.
Winters III



Jeffrey Turner
Miller Johnson
Barristers Section Immediate
Past President (ex officio)

BARRISTERS

Thank you, 2025-2026 Board of Directors



Tracey Cooley
Executive Director



Darlene Trudell
Director of Business
Development



Sheena Law-Killinger
Events and Programming
Manager



Chris Collamar
Office Manager



Pam Copeland
Virtual Clinic Manager



Carol Snodgrass
Accounting Manager

STAFF



Harshitha Ram
Alternative Dispute
Resolution Section
Chair



Patrick J. Masterson
Barrister Section
President-Elect



Donn Fresard
Fish & Game
Section Chair



Alexis Johnson
Small Firm & Solo
Practitioner Section
Co-Chair



Mike Butler
Auto No Fault Section
Co-Chair



Robert E. Murkowski
Business/Commercial Liti-
gation Section Chair



Luis E. Gomez
In-House Counsel
Section Chair



Mike Butler
Work-Life Balance
Section Co-Chair



Kimberly K. Seibert
Auto No Fault Section
Co-Chair



Jon Marko
Civil Right Section
Chair



Patricia C. Schabath
Medical Malpractice
Defense Section Chair



Heather J. Atnip
Work-Life Balance
Section Co-Chair



Chad B. Sponder
Auto No Fault Section
Co-Chair



William J. Winters III
Criminal Law Section
Chair



Brian McKeen
Medical Malpractice
Plaintiff Section
Co-Chair



Antonia Giles
Barrister Section
President



Heather Herbert
Estate Planning and
Probate Litigation
Section Chair



Sarah Wykoff
Small Firm & Solo
Practitioner Section
Co-Chair

SECTION LEADERS

Committees, Task Forces & Work Groups

Access to Justice Committee
Archer Awards Gala Committee
Attorney Referral List Work Group
Detroit Lawyer Editorial Board
Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Executive Committee
Golf Outing Committee
Inn of Court Committee
Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee
Judicial Candidate Evaluation Work Group
Legal Scholars Committee
Membership Committee
Nomination Committee
Public Statement Policy Work Group
Sponsorship Criteria Task Force
Strategic Planning Committee

Legal Sections

ADR Section
Auto No-Fault Section
Barristers Section
Business and Commercial Litigation
Civil Rights Section
Criminal Law Section
Estate Planning Section
Fish and Game Section
In House Counsel Section
Medical Malpractice Defense Section
Medical Malpractice Plaintiff Section
Probate Litigation Section
Small Firms & Solo Practitioners
Work Life Balance Section



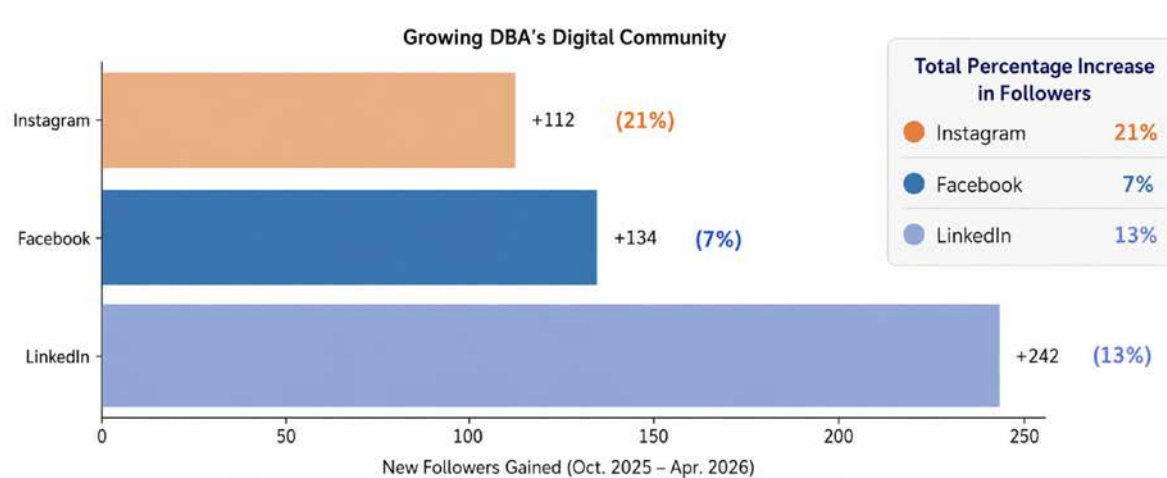
New things this year!

Budget Task Force, Trivia Night Committee, Scholarship Development, Law Clubs, Law Firm Civic Award Task Force, Mission Task Force, Social Media Advisory.

Affordable Legal Assistance Program Launching Fall of 2026!

Growing DBA's Digital Community

Following the implementation of Near Perfect Media's social strategy in October 2025, DBA experienced steady audience growth across its core social platforms, helping expand visibility, member engagement and community reach.

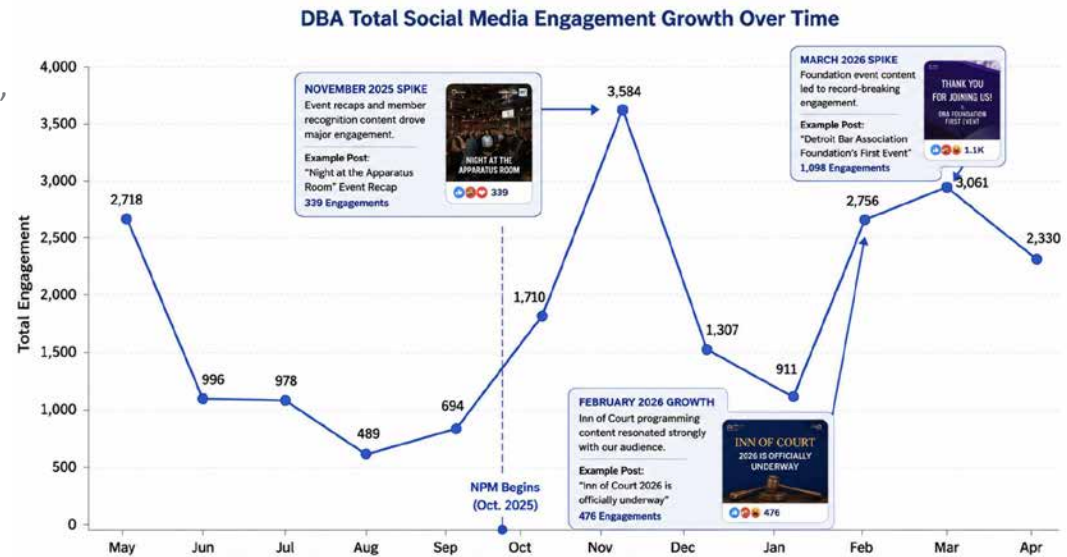


Social Media Growth and Digital Strategy

Digital Engagement Accelerated Following NPM Implementation

Following the implementation of NPM's social strategy in October 2025, DBA experienced immediate and sustained growth in social engagement, including multiple months exceeding 2,000 total engagements.

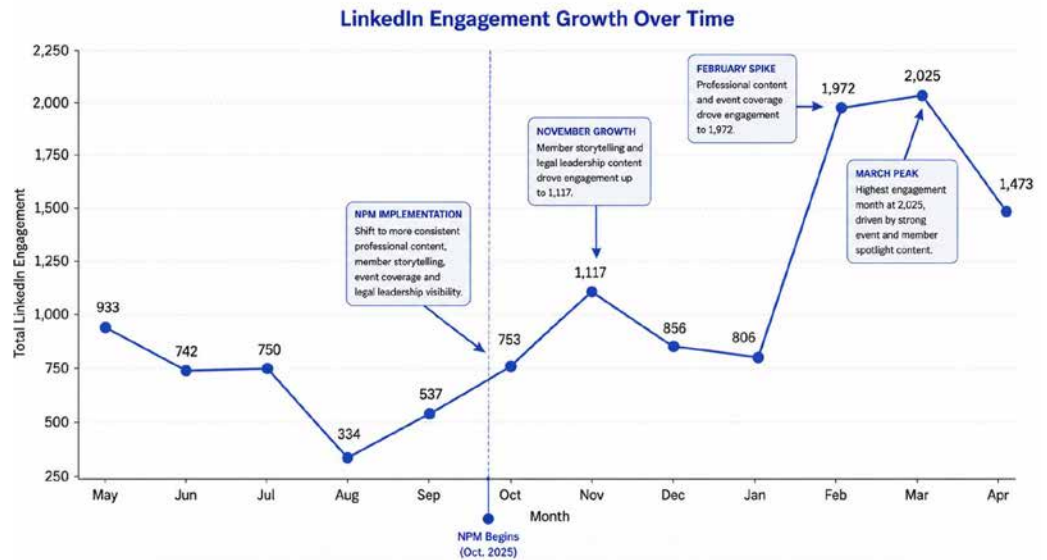
Average monthly engagement increased approximately 93% following the start of NPM's management.



LinkedIn Became a Major Driver of Professional Engagement

LinkedIn engagement surged as content shifted toward member storytelling, legal leadership visibility, event coverage and more consistent professional content.

Average LinkedIn engagement increased approximately 96% following implementation of NPM's strategy.



Social Media Growth and Digital Strategy



People-First Content Consistently Performed Best

Content centered around members, recognition, events and community consistently generated the strongest engagement across DBA's social platforms.

Top-performing content included:

- Attorney/member spotlights
- Awards and recognitions
- Event recap coverage
- Leadership features
- Behind-the-scenes moments



Social Media Growth and Digital Strategy