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Official Publication of the Macomb Bar Association

August 2021





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What Does a Return to Phase Four Really Mean?

By Francesco Briguglio, President of Macomb Bar Association

Recently, as a result of COVID 19 numbers, State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) sent a memorandum to all state courts advising them that they would be moved to Phase IV immediately. The memorandum stated in relevant part:

- Chief judges have full discretion to protect court staff and court users, consistent with local public health guidance and MIOSHA guidelines.
 - Proceedings will be conducted virtually to the maximum extent possible, consistent with Administrative Order No. 2020-6 (extended by Administrative Order No. 2020-12).
 - In-person court proceedings, including jury proceedings, will be permitted, consistent with local public health guidance and MIOSHA guidelines pertaining to social distancing, capacity June 21, 2021, limitations, mask requirements for court participants, etc. Courts may implement jury practices as provided in LAO 51.
 - The public may be required to wear masks pursuant to local public health guidance and MIOSHA guidelines.
 - Judges retain the discretion to require individuals in the courtroom to use masks generally or in specific cases, particularly cases involving persons who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Any person desiring to wear a mask shall be allowed to do so.
 - Upon a local resurgence of COVID-19 cases in a local jurisdiction, the court may be required to implement additional COVID-19 mitigation measures provided for in RTFC Phases 1-3.

By and large the feedback that many lawyers have been giving me is that many routine matters should continue indefinitely as the technology allows attorneys to be more efficient and attend to multiple matters that are being heard in courts that are substantially distanced geographically. The expansion of electronic filings has substantially saved on expenses related to hand delivery or mailing pleadings to the court.

What does this mean for us? As many practitioners are aware, the response to this memorandum has been all across the board. While some courts have continued to conduct themselves nearly entirely via Zoom other courts have taken the position that business is going to resume in the very same way that they did two years ago. Even different judges within the same courthouse will handle their dockets in very different ways.

The Macomb Bar Association wants to hear input from both the bench and the bar about how we can still conduct hearings to the fullest extent possible electronically, serve the interest of justice and make matters more efficient for all parties.

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We're Back!

*By Rick R. Troy, Executive Director,
Macomb Bar Association*

In-person concerts, weddings, sports and Bar Association events are back!

Throughout 2020 the Macomb Bar hosted virtual events that kept you connected to each other and the community. As we moved into 2021 we hosted a mix of live and virtual events for you and the community at large.

The Top Golf event on March 25, 2021 was a smashing success with over 60 people in attendance. Thank you sponsors:

Nationwide Interlock • Freedom Boat Club
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The Young Lawyers Section brought back the 586-248 Challenge with a trivia event this spring and added 313 to the mix. The “challenge” event goes back about twenty years and was developed as a way for younger lawyers to get to know their counterparts across Dequindre. Each year, the previous winning organization chooses a contest, bowling, trivia, dodgeball, etc., and the winner receives the Dequindre Cup to proudly display in their bar office.

In April, the Foundation’s Law Day was held virtually. Even though the format did not allow for personal introductions, the elementary, middle and high school students and their parents truly enjoyed being a part of the Law Day ceremony. Thank you Hon. Annemarie Lepore, Hon. Joseph Toia, and Hon. Matthew Switalski for presenting awards to the students.

As you can see on page 12, the Macomb Bar Annual Meeting was truly a special occasion. Thank you Justice McCormack for your leadership!

June 22 was the Macomb Bar golf outing at Greystone Golf Club. It was so much fun to see people, talk with people and laugh with people again. Congratulations to our winning foursome (John Bommaritto, Henry Sachs, Brad Noblit, and James Tousignant) and thank you to all of our sponsors. A special thank you to our grand prize sponsor Freedom Boat Club that provided the winning foursome a trip out on Lake St. Clair. Actually, we had a tie score this year that left the golf pro to calculate the #1 and #2 based on course rules. The second place team (Lou Corey, Hon. Mark Switalski, Hon. Joseph Boedeker, and Ken Lombardo) received a gift package of fresh lobster rolls from The Clam Shack in Kennebunkport, Maine compliments of sponsor Charles Trickey, III.

On July 9 the Official Macomb Bar Boat outing saw a super fun comeback. We partnered up with the Detroit Bar for a fantastic time on Harsens Island. Thank you Donn Fresard for opening your home and for being such a wonderful host. Thank you Detroit Bar Executive Director Julie Van Hove and Karen Raudabaugh for all of the organizing. The Macomb Bar came away with the newest traveling trophy now on display in the bar office. We won the very first Bar Boat Outing Tug of War. It was a lot of fun with Macomb Bar Past President Karen Trickey Pappas as our lead and Judge Richard Carretti as our coach.

Although not an official Bar Association event, I am super happy to share that the Lawyers Softball League started playing in July with a championship playoff run slated for late August. Thank you to Softball Commissioners, Judge Mark Switalski and Charles Trickey III, all of the players and sponsors for keeping this tradition going in our legal community. Good luck to all this season!

The calendar of events is filling up and details are being worked out as this goes to print. For up to date details

I encourage you to visit www.MacombBar.org and click on calendar of events.

Cornhole Tournament 2021 at Sugarbush Tavern is on for Friday, August 27. Cost per team is just \$50 with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The tournament field is limited to the first 14 paid teams. Spectators are encouraged to come out and enjoy free appetizers that are compliments of our super sponsors Macomb Law Group, Nationwide Interlock, ASG and Charles Trickey III.

The Macomb Bar has a decades long tradition of hosting an event to celebrate the installation of its newly elected President, Officers and Board members. Over time this event was referred to as the “Installation Ball” or the “Installation Dinner Dance”. It used to be *the* can’t miss black tie event complete with limos and glamorous afterglow parties. Coming out of the Covid pandemic we are excited to bring the Installation back and this time we are going to provide all guests with a fancy car..., to look at. Join the fun at Stahl’s Automotive Museum with catered food stations and a bar. For the latest details and to register for the 2021 Installation, visit MacombBar.org.

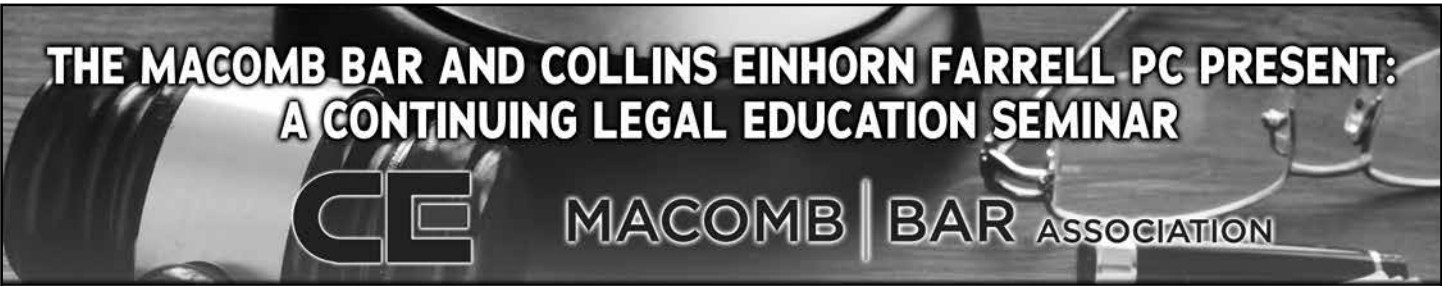
The Foundation is also getting back to live events with the return of the Foundation Gala tentatively scheduled for early October. Be on the lookout for this special evening that celebrates and supports the charitable work of the Foundation.

Feed the Needy is one of the projects supported by the Foundation. Early planning has the event happening on Sunday, December 19 at the Rec Bowl in Mt. Clemens. In addition to a turkey and ham dinner, there will be pizza, coneys, fruit and salads. New this year is an appeal for personal care packages of winter hats, gloves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other personal items. Several people have already gotten behind this project, including of course the wizard behind the scenes, Steve Steinhardt.

The Young Lawyers Section is also planning a few events including the return of the Holiday Party in December, meet the newer Judges and more. (See page 16)

It’s a great time to be a member of the Macomb Bar.

PS Be on the lookout for information on our grand re-opening celebration.



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Crawling, Indexing, and Ranking

By Dawn M. Fraylick, Associate Executive and Communications Director of the Macomb Bar Association

Do you ever wonder how search engines give you the answers to what you are searching for? Search engines are complex computer programs and they start to prepare for your search even before you type anything. They do this by crawling, indexing, and ranking.

The first step is crawling. Web crawlers, also known as spiders, are responsible for finding public information on the internet. They scan the internet and find servers hosting websites. These crawlers search every website for information including number of pages, content, images, video, formatting and links leading to more pages and websites. There are over 130 trillion pages on the internet that crawlers continuously search.

The information the crawlers find needs to be organized, sorted, and stored. This is called indexing. The more pages of your website that are indexed the more chances your website will appear in search results. If your site is not indexed, it will not appear in searches.

The last step the search engine uses is ranking. Google uses 255 ranking factors in their search engine. Ranking decides what order your search engine results page (SERP) are displayed. The user types in keywords in the search engine and it then gives a list of results. The order of the list is determined by the ranking factors.



What does this all mean?

When you develop your website you need to make sure the crawlers and spiders can find your website easily. You do this using Technical

Search Engine Optimization (Technical SEO) which is the infrastructure of your website. If you already have a website, you can do a Technical SEO audit. In most cases, once you get your technical SEO correct on your website, you won't have to deal with it again. Technical SEO is necessary, otherwise your website will not reach its full potential. Find out next month, how to do a Technical SEO audit.

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Circuit Court Corner

By Macomb County Circuit Court Administration

Courts Move to Phase IV of Reopening Plan

On Monday, June 21, the State Court Administrative Office moved all courts in the State to Phase 4 of their four-phase Return to Full Capacity Plan. The pertinent Local Administrative Orders restricting court activities, including jury trials, were administratively closed and rescinded, and replaced by directives that all Court's comply with local county health department directives and MIOSHA requirements. MIOSHA, in turn, removed the majority of its mandatory restrictions as well.

Consistent with the Macomb County Health Department and MIOSHA, masks, social distancing, capacity limitations, and health screening will no longer be *required* to enter the County Courthouse, the Old County Building (location of Friend of the Court, the Juvenile Division, and the Legal Self-Help Center), 42-1 District Court, and 42-2 District Court. Individual judges retain the discretion to require masks, and any person who wishes to continue to wear a mask will be allowed to do so. Masks will continue to be provided if necessary or requested. Protective measures have been implemented, including installation of hand sanitizing stations, protective shielding, and physical barriers within court areas.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should contact the Court for further instructions. Individuals who have recently tested positive for COVID-19 or who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should not enter the building.

Chief Judge James Biernat and court officials will continue to monitor local COVID-19 data and adjust plans related to staffing and public access to court facilities, as needed.

16th Judicial Circuit Court (including Juvenile Division)

The 16th Judicial Circuit Court has resumed in-person proceedings. While proceedings are still being

conducted virtually to the maximum extent possible, in-person proceedings, including jury proceedings, are now permitted and are resuming at the 16th Judicial Circuit Court.

Scheduling matters onsite or remotely will be determined by each individual judge, and will be reflected in hearing notices and on the judge's webpage. See: <https://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/CircuitCourt-Judges>

In-custody matters will continue to be conducted remotely unless an in person hearing is necessary.

The Circuit Court, including the Juvenile Division, the Macomb County Legal Self-Help Center, the Turning Point PPO Office, and the County Clerk's Office are open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Macomb County Friend of the Court

The Macomb County Friend of the Court will continue to conduct Referee hearings and motions, investigations, and enforcement hearings remotely to the greatest extent possible. The Friend of the Court office is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. The office is open for walk-ins for child support enforcement, interstate, and medical enforcement from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and from 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Inquiries regarding the enforcement of parenting time should be made via email, mail, or fax. The Friend of the Court drop box is available in our lobby from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all Friend of the Court documents, but no cash payments. Payments can be made in our cashiers department from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information please visit friendofthecourt@macombgov.org.

Macomb County Probate Court

The Macomb County Probate Court will continue to process emergency petitions remotely, new filings or pleadings to be filed can be mailed to the court or dropped off to a drop box on the 5th Floor of the

Courthouse. Additionally, the office will be open to the public from 1:30 pm -4:30 pm daily. If pleadings are left with a clerk, they will be date stamped as received only, nothing will be processed at that time. Judge Sandra Harrison will be conducting in-person hearings effective immediately. Please check our website for further information. <https://probatecourt.macombgov.org/>

42-1 District Court - Romeo

The 42-1 District Court has resumed in-person hearings; virtual appearances will be used for many proceedings going forward, such as informal traffic hearings and prelims on landlord-tenant matters. In-person hearings will be scheduled beginning in July for other proceedings, including jury trials. In-custody matters will continue to be conducted remotely unless an in person hearing is necessary. Notices for hearings will clearly indicate the type of appearance required. The Court hours are 8 to 4:30, closed from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. For payment options and other court information, please see our website at <https://42romeo.macombgov.org>.

42-2 District Court - New Baltimore

The 42nd District Court has resumed in-person proceedings, with the exception of landlord-tenant cases which will be conducted virtually. In-custody matters will continue to be conducted remotely unless an in person hearing is necessary. Virtual hearings will be granted upon request. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For your convenience, the court remains open during the lunch hour between 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is an after hour drop box located in front of the courthouse for any court documents or payments.



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Macomb Bar Annual Meeting

April 19, 2021

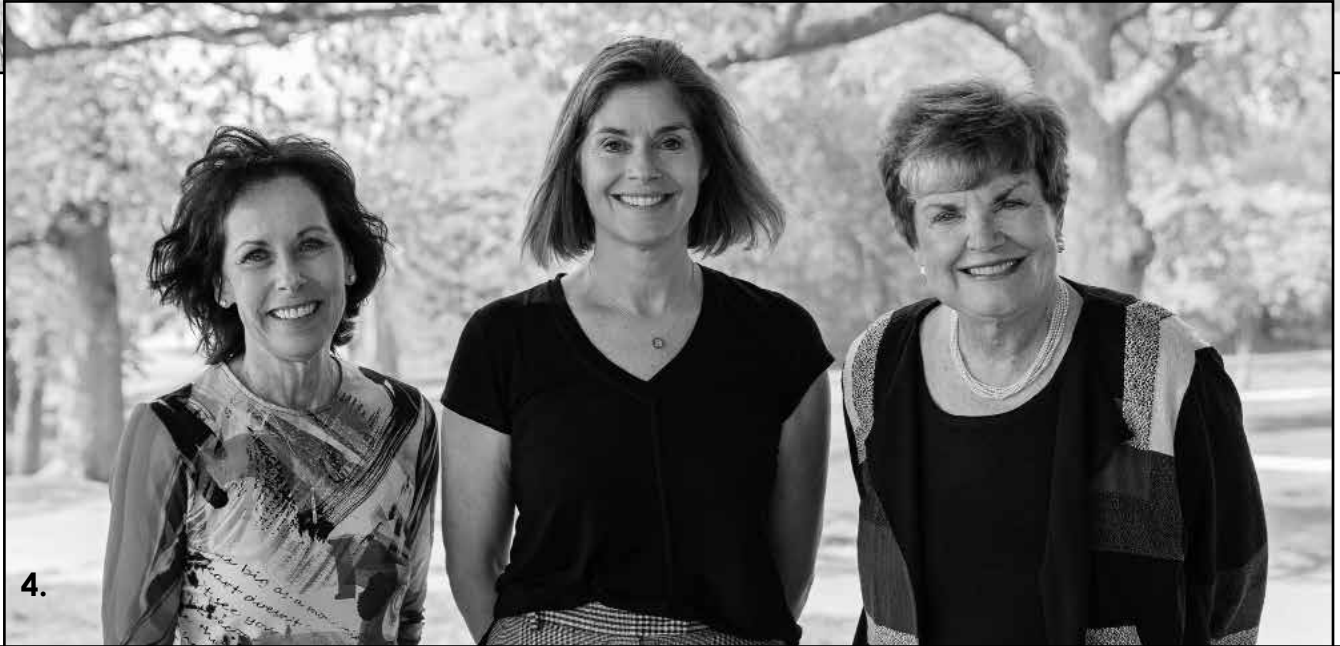
Macomb Bar Association Annual Meeting featuring the
Distinguished Public Service Award Recipient
Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack



1. Macomb Bar Association Executive Board of Directors: Ryan Zemke, Secretary, Dana Freers, Treasurer, Lori Smith, President-Elect and Frank Briguglio, President
2. Distinguished Public Service Award Recipient Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack.
3. Young Lawyers Section Board Members: Alecia Golm, Chair, Laura Polizzi, Immediate Past Chair, Aaron Hall, Chair-Elect, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack and Alexandra Fedorak, Director.
4. Hon. Tracey Yokich, Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack and Justice Maura D. Corrigan, retired.
5. Hon. James Biernat, Jr., Hon. Stephen Sierawski, Hon. Annemarie Lepore, Hon. Alyia Hakim, Hon. Tracey Yokich, and Hon. Kimberley Weigand.



3.



4.



5.

Macomb Bar Annual Golf Outing - June 21, 2021



1. Most honest team: Sara Schimke, Lauren Strach, Alison Bowden and Angela Medley

2. Executive Director Rick Troy with Longest Drive winner and Golf Hole Sponsor John Bommaritto, Attorneys Title Agency.

3. Executive Director Rick Troy with Longest Drive winner and Golf Hole Sponsor Dan Garon, Fischer Garon Hoyumpa.

4. Golf Outing Second Place Winners: Lou Corey, Hon. Mark Switalski, Hon. Joseph Boedeker, and Ken Lombardo.

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8 Lawyers Listed in Michigan Super Lawyers



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Greetings from the 2021-2022 Young Lawyers Section

By: Alecia Golm, Chair of the Young Lawyers Section

Welcome to another year with the Macomb County Bar Association and Young Lawyers Section! The YLS Board is full, active, and ready to take on the 2021-2022 year. This year, like every year, our Board is full of talented, involved attorneys and we're ready to kick it back into high gear and provide great services, networking, and learning services to our Bar Association members.

For those of you I have not yet had the chance to meet, my name is Alecia Golm and I am the Chair/President of the YLS for the 2021-2022 year. I am currently one of two Custody & Parenting Time Judicial Service Officers for Macomb County Friend of the Court. I have been a member of the MCBA and YLS since my swearing in ceremony, and have been a part of the YLS Board since being elected a Director back in 2017. It is an honor have been on the YLS Board for 4 years and now take on the maximum responsibility as the current President. I hope to make the past Presidents proud and lay a good foundation for our next term to continue on with a seamless transition.

Allow me to do a quick introduction of our 2021-2022 Board members. Serving with me this year are the following: Aaron Hall, Chair-Elect/Vice President; Chris Metry, Treasurer; Grace Crivello, Secretary; Mickey McCullough, Director; Zachary Morgan, Director; Alexandra (Lesia) Fedorak, Director; and Matthew Capone, Director. We also have the fabulous Laura Polizzi as the Immediate Past Chair.



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

The YLS plans for the 2021-2022 year are to make up for some lost time with the pandemic. We were not able to hold our usual social events or our Judge introductory events, as past practice allowed, but we do have plans to hopefully hold those events again this year.

Brainstorming has started with the hopes to be able to host our Meet the Judges events for our newly elected Judges from the 2020-2021 year as well as an event for our new Macomb County Prosecutor. We would also like to hold an event for our Macomb County Magistrates that has been pushed back from the pandemic as well. We have great ideas for some continuing education

Young Lawyers Section Board of Directors

Chair	Alecia Golm	Macomb County FOC	aleciagolm@gmail.com
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webinars as well as some introductory webinars for our newer and more established members. We would like to provide some training/refresher sessions for basic practice functions like navigating and utilizing resources at FOC, Probate Court, Prosecutor's Office, and more. We are also hoping to provide from cross-section training and comparisons from our Oakland County and Wayne County Courts and services as well. Last but not least, we hope to bring back our annual Christmas party, in a safe manner, to bring our members together again for some good, social fun.

The YLS strives to be a functional, informative, and social section in the Bar Association and stay up to date with the most beneficial and relative practices to relay to our members. We will be increasing our social media presence and promotions for this year's events, so please keep an eye out on the monthly Bar Briefs, E-Briefs, and MCBA Facebook page for our upcoming events and programs. We look forward to engaging with our members this term and providing some great services for our Bar Association and continuing to be an active and informative section for new and established members alike. Enjoy the summer and stay tuned for our upcoming YLS events!

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40 N. Main St., Suite 435
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
MacombBar.org

Macomb Bar CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Friday, August 27, 2021

Sugarbush Tavern 27900 21 Mile Road • Chesterfield, MI
Open practice 4:30pm • Bags Fly at 5:15pm

€50 per team • Free for Spectators • Free appetizers for all

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CASH PRIZES for 1st, 2nd, € 3rd
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Please register online at Macombbar.org or call (586) 468-2940.