

BAR BRIEFS

Official Publication of the Macomb Bar Association

July 2026



**98th Macomb County Bar Association President
Sherrie L. Detzler**

Volume 45 | Number 1

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Macomb Bar Association

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Introducing MCBA President Sherree Detzler

By Hon. Ryan Zemke, 41B District Court Magistrate and Deputy Court Administrator

Every organization hopes to find leaders who bring people together. Leaders who make others feel welcome. Leaders who remember that relationships matter. Leaders who are willing to roll up their sleeves, do the work, and leave things better than they found them.

As the Macomb County Bar Association begins its 2026-2027 bar year, it is fortunate to have exactly that kind of leader in its new president, Sherree Detzler. To those who know her, kindness, community, family, and getting things done are themes that have defined her life, her career, and her service to the legal profession.



Family First

At the center of everything Sherree does is family. She and her husband, Stan, have been married for nearly fifty years. Together they have built a life rooted in love, friendship, and community as longtime residents of Utica. Their son Scott and daughter-in-law Amber have blessed them with four grandchildren: Lindsay, Raegan, Lucas, and Drew. And of course, no discussion of the family would be complete without mentioning Trixie, the family grand-dog, who enjoys a level of affection and attention that rivals any member of the family.



Family extends beyond the traditional definition as well. One of nine children, Sherree remains deeply devoted to caring for her sister Melinda, who many members of the Macomb legal community have likely seen accompanying her at events over

the years. The two can often be found enjoying each other's company, visiting with friends, and making every gathering a little more fun.

When she does manage to find a rare moment away from her professional, volunteer, and social commitments, Sherree enjoys spending time at her family's retreat in Caseville. There, surrounded by family and friends, she can often be found making memories with her grandchildren, enjoying Michigan summers, and hosting the kind of gatherings that have become a hallmark of her life. Of course, even in Caseville, "relaxing" may not be the right word—Sherree has never been one to sit still for very long.



The Woman Who Never Stops Moving

There are busy people. There are very busy people. And then there is Sherree Detzler.

Whether she is attending a bar event, volunteering for a charitable cause, supporting a community organization, spending time with family, mentoring attorneys, planning an event, or helping a friend, she always seems to be moving.

In fact, many who know her have reached the same conclusion: We are not entirely convinced she sleeps. When she does find time for herself, she enjoys spending it with her beloved "Gal Pals" and fellow "Divas," whose annual golf trips and outings have become legendary traditions among friends. And if Rod Stewart announces a concert somewhere within driving distance, flying distance, or perhaps even another continent, there is a reasonable chance Sherree is already checking flights and booking hotels.

After decades of community involvement in her hometown, there is a compelling argument that she may know more residents and local business owners than anyone else in town. And if she doesn't know them, she probably knows someone who does. Given the number of people she has connected with over the years, there is a growing belief among her friends that she should simply skip the legal profession altogether and run for Mayor. She would probably win.



Sherree has become a fixture within the legal community through her involvement with the Macomb County Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, mentoring programs, admissions ceremonies, and countless community and charitable initiatives. Anyone who has attended a bar event over the years knows there is a good chance Sherree was either helping organize it, volunteering at it, mentoring someone at it, or enthusiastically encouraging others to get involved.

A Career Built Through Determination

Sherree's journey into the legal profession did not follow a traditional path. She began her career as a paralegal, working in the legal field while pursuing her dream of becoming an attorney. Through hard work, persistence, and determination, she worked her way through law school while growing as a family and ultimately joined the profession she had long admired.

That experience has never left her. Because she earned every step of her journey (ask her about serving wine in coffee cups while working at Luciano's), she understands the challenges faced by young professionals, working parents, and those trying to balance career ambitions with life's many responsibilities. It is one of the reasons she has become such a dedicated mentor and advocate for others throughout her career.

Long before specialty courts became common throughout Michigan, Sherrie served as the first assigned defense attorney for the 41B District Court Veterans Treatment Court, helping veterans find a path toward accountability, treatment, and success at a time when problem-solving courts were still in their infancy locally. Naturally, one treatment court was not enough for her and as more courts developed



(combined with her inability to say "no" to anyone) led her to work as defense counsel for multiple specialty courts throughout the county. Whether working in veterans, sobriety, or other treatment court programs throughout Macomb County, Sherrie has spent

years helping individuals at some of their greatest times of need, offering not only legal guidance but also encouragement, compassion, and hope for a better future. While the work can be difficult, Sherrie will tell you that seeing a participant graduate from a specialty court program and reclaim their future is one of the greatest rewards the profession can offer.

A graduate of Wayne State University Law School and a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1998, Sherrie has built a distinguished career dedicated to serving others. Today, she serves as a Compliance Attorney with the Macomb County Office of Public Defender, helping ensure quality representation for indigent defendants throughout the county.

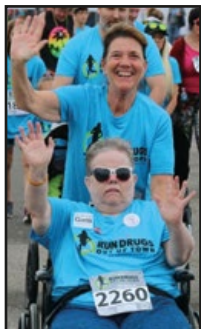


A Community Builder

Some people participate in organizations. Others become the glue that holds them together.

Sherrie has spent years strengthening not only the Macomb County Bar Association, but the broader community around it. Whether serving in leadership positions, volunteering for charitable causes, mentoring attorneys, or supporting community events, she has always understood that strong organizations are built through relationships. She is involved in numerous charitable organizations and community initiatives, but what may be most remarkable is that formal involvement has never been a prerequisite for support.

In fact, those who know her well often joke that Sherrie has never met a cause she wasn't willing to support. If someone is trying to make their community better, chances are she is willing to help. Need volunteers? Call Sherrie. Need an event sponsor? Call Sherrie. Need someone to show up? Call Sherrie. Need someone to convince others to show up? She is probably already working on it.



Her commitment to helping others extends so far that everyone knows exactly who to visit when fundraising season arrives. Popcorn sales. Candy sales. Pizza kits. Raffle tickets. Cookie dough. School fundraisers. Sports teams. If a cause is worthy, Sherrie is probably buying. And if it isn't, she is probably buying anyway because she wants to support the person standing in front of her. Not because she feels obligated, but because she genuinely wants to support people and the causes that matter to them.

The Definition of Kindness

It is difficult to write about Sherrie without talking about kindness. Many people are friendly. Many people are generous. Few possess the natural warmth that Sherrie brings to every interaction. The

first time you meet her, it feels less like meeting a stranger and more like reconnecting with an old friend. She remembers names. She remembers families. She remembers stories. She makes people feel welcome. And she has an extraordinary ability to make everyone around her feel that they belong.

Sherrie's positive outlook has also been shaped by personal challenges. As a breast cancer survivor, she has demonstrated remarkable resilience, courage, and determination. Rather than allowing adversity to define her, she has continued to move forward with the same optimism and energy that have always characterized her approach to life. Those experiences have deepened her appreciation for family, friendship, and community and reinforced her commitment to helping others whenever possible.



The phrase "she would give you the shirt off her back" is often overused, but in her case it fits perfectly. Helping others is not something she does occasionally. It is simply who she is.

A Mentor to Generations of Lawyers

Throughout her career, Sherrie has served as a mentor to countless attorneys. For many young lawyers entering the profession, she has been a source of encouragement, guidance, and practical advice. She understands that success in the legal profession is not simply about mastering legal concepts. It is about building relationships, earning trust, and helping others along the way.

Long before "mentorship programs" became popular, she was mentoring people simply because it was the right thing to do. Her willingness to share her experience and invest in others has strengthened the profession throughout Macomb County and beyond. She understands the value of opportunity because she created many of her own. Many of you may have first met her in law school at a BarBri table where she demonstrated how important it is to have people willing to offer encouragement, guidance, and support.

Leading the Macomb County Bar Association Forward

As President of the Macomb County Bar Association, Sherrie brings a leadership style grounded in compassion, collaboration, and



action. She believes in kindness. She believes in community. She believes in family. She believes in mentorship. And perhaps most importantly, she believes in getting things done.

The coming year will undoubtedly bring opportunities and challenges for the legal profession. The Macomb County Bar Association is fortunate to have a leader whose career has been defined by bringing people together, supporting her community, mentoring others, and leading by example. For years, Sherrie has been one of the most visible and active members of the Macomb County Bar Association. Whether serving on committees, welcoming new members, volunteering for events, mentoring young lawyers, or supporting charitable causes, she has become one of the people who simply makes things happen.

For those who know her, there could not be a more fitting president. And for those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting her, don't worry. Give it five minutes. You'll feel like you've known her forever. Please join me in welcoming your 2026-2027 Macomb County Bar Association President – Sherrie Detzler!

Spring 2026 Macomb County Admissions Ceremony



M | B
2026 CRIMINAL LAW
THINK TANKS


03 12 PM AUGUST	The Price of Justice: Indigency and Ability to Pay Presented by Elisha Oakes
14 12 PM SEPTEMBER	Bearing Witness: Understanding and Managing Secondary Trauma, Compassion Fatigue, and Resilience in Criminal Defense Work Presented by Theresa Cipponeri
05 12 PM OCTOBER	Take the Fifth: Advising Your Client as a Witness Presented by Stephen Rabaut
23 12 PM OCTOBER	BONUS! PPO Violations and Show Cause Hearings Presented by Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
02 12 PM NOVEMBER	Objection, Jurisdiction! Your Client, the Sovereign Citizen Presented by Catherine O'meara Bolden
07 12 PM DECEMBER	Take It Up: Interlocutory Appeals Presented by Kathy Swedlow

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Special Unit Spotlight: Auto Theft Unit

*By Nancy Zieah, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Macomb County Prosecutor's Office*



In a time where vehicle theft and organized criminal enterprises continue to evolve in sophistication, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office remains committed to protecting residents through the dedicated work of its Auto Theft Unit. This specialized unit plays a critical role in investigating and prosecuting some of the most impactful property crimes affecting our community.

Auto theft is far more than the theft of a vehicle. Many cases involve organized criminal enterprises, sophisticated fraud schemes, and repeat offenders whose activities affect vehicle owners, insurance companies, businesses, and public safety throughout the county. Through aggressive prosecution and close collaboration with the Macomb Auto Theft Squad (M.A.T.S.), the Auto Theft Unit plays a dynamic role in disrupting these criminal operations and holding offenders accountable.

Meet the Team



Jeffrey Hall
Chief, Auto Theft Unit

Chief Jeff Hall brings a unique combination of legal expertise, leadership experience, and business acumen to the Auto Theft Unit. A graduate of Wayne State University, Jeff earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2005. While simultaneously earning his Master of Business Administration, he obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy School

of Law in 2009. In law school, Jeff became familiar with the Macomb County justice system when he interned for the Honorable Peter J. Maceroni and participated in the Veterans Law Clinic.

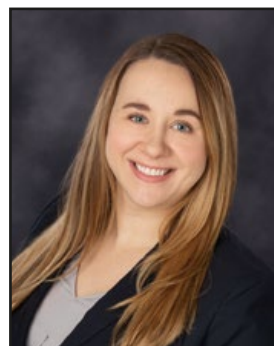
After graduating from law school, Hall began his legal career with the Miller Law Group before joining the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. Over the course of his career, he has developed extensive courtroom and leadership experience, serving in district courts before advancing through several circuit court assignments. Hall worked as a second-chair prosecutor in the courtroom of Judge Edward A. Servitto before being promoted to first-chair prosecutor, where he successfully handled complex felony cases before Judges Jennifer M. Faunce, Michael E. Servitto, Kathryn A. Viviano, and Carl Marlinga.

In 2018, Jeff was selected to lead the Senior Crimes Unit, where he oversaw the prosecution of crimes targeting some of the community's most vulnerable residents. His success in that role led to his appointment as Chief of the Auto Theft Unit, a position he has held for the past three years.

As Chief of the Auto Theft Unit, Hall's diverse background has proven invaluable. His business acumen provides insight into the financial and organizational structures often involved in sophisticated auto theft operations, while his extensive trial experience enables him to effectively prosecute complex cases ranging from carjackings and chop-shop

investigations to organized theft rings. Jeff has also been recognized for his collaborative approach to law enforcement partnerships, earning the Merit Service Award from the Troy Police Department for his exceptional assistance in investigations across county lines.

Under Hall's leadership, the Auto Theft Unit continues to play a critical role in combating vehicle-related crime throughout the region. His commitment to thorough investigations, strong interagency partnership with M.A.T.S., and aggressive prosecution helps ensure that offenders are held accountable while protecting the community from increasingly sophisticated auto theft schemes.



Emily Annal
Deputy Chief, Auto Theft Unit

Emily Annal serves as Deputy Chief of the Auto Theft Unit, bringing extensive prosecutorial experience and a strong background in criminal litigation. Since joining the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office in 2022, she has handled a broad range of felony and misdemeanor matters. Emily also served in the Child Protection and Sexual Assault Unit where she worked

closely with law enforcement agencies on investigations and prosecutions involving serious offenses against vulnerable victims.

Before joining the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, Emily served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Royal Oak. A graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor cum laude, Emily is admitted to practice in Michigan and Florida and is an active member of the legal community through her involvement with the Macomb County Bar Association.

Emily's diverse prosecutorial background is significant as her experience reviewing warrants, advising law enforcement agencies, managing complex investigations, and litigating serious felony cases has equipped her with the analytical and courtroom skills necessary to address the increasingly sophisticated nature of vehicle theft offenses. Her work in specialized units handling child protection and sexual assault cases also strengthened her ability to evaluate intricate evidence, collaborate with multidisciplinary teams, and navigate challenging legal issues. As Deputy Chief, she applies these skills to support effective case development, foster strong partnerships with law enforcement, and help ensure successful outcomes in the prosecution of auto theft and related crimes.

Cases Assigned to the Auto Theft Unit

From the earliest stages of a criminal investigation through trial and sentencing, the Auto Theft Unit provides comprehensive prosecutorial oversight. Auto Theft Unit prosecutors review cases for warrant authorization, work closely with investigators to develop evidence,

and aggressively pursue convictions against individuals and organizations responsible for significant auto theft activity. Their involvement throughout the life of a case ensures consistency, accountability, and a thorough understanding of the often-complex facts and legal issues involved.

The Auto Theft Unit handles a wide range of vehicle-related crimes, including:

- Carjacking
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Organized Auto Theft Rings
- Chop Shop Operations
- Insurance Fraud
- VIN Alteration and Vehicle Fraud
- Receiving and Concealing Stolen Vehicles
- Criminal Enterprises and Conspiracy Cases

Unit Significance

Beyond courtroom advocacy, the Auto Theft Unit serves as a trusted legal resource for law enforcement agencies across the region as the Auto Theft Unit works directly with M.A.T.S. on matters including evidence development in organized crime investigations. This collaborative approach strengthens investigations and enhances the ability of law enforcement agencies to dismantle criminal enterprises that profit from vehicle theft.

The Auto Theft Unit's work extends beyond recovering stolen property. By targeting organized theft networks and repeat offenders, the unit helps protect consumers, insurance providers, businesses, and the public from the significant financial and safety impacts associated with auto theft crimes. Its efforts contribute to reducing criminal activity, disrupting illicit markets, and holding offenders accountable.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Macomb Auto Theft Squad (M.A.T.S.)?

The Macomb Auto Theft Squad (M.A.T.S.) is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force in Macomb County, Michigan, dedicated to investigating and combating vehicle-related crimes. M.A.T.S. is comprised of a collaborative effort utilizing investigators from multiple agencies, including the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, and local departments (Center Line, Chesterfield, Clinton, Eastpointe, Roseville, Sterling Heights, and Warren).

Why does the Prosecutor's Office have a dedicated Auto Theft Unit?

Auto theft investigations often involve specialized evidence, multiple jurisdictions, organized criminal enterprises, and complex legal issues. A dedicated unit allows prosecutors to develop expertise in these cases and provide focused support to law enforcement agencies.

How does auto theft affect the community?

Vehicle theft impacts more than individual victims. It can increase insurance costs, support organized criminal activity, create public safety risks, and result in significant economic losses for businesses and consumers.

Conclusion

The continued success of the Auto Theft Unit is made possible through funding provided by a grant from the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA), with support from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. This investment reflects a shared commitment to public safety and the prevention of vehicle theft throughout Macomb County.

Through specialized expertise, strong partnerships with law enforcement, and a steadfast commitment to justice, the Auto Theft Unit remains an essential component of the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office's mission to safeguard the community and combat organized criminal activity.



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SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 3, 2027

Opportunity to be sworn in before the United States Supreme Court

The opportunity to be sworn in before the US Supreme Court is a prestigious honor for attorneys. The Macomb County Bar Association (MCBA) is hosting a US Supreme Court swearing-in trip, where attendees can meet and learn about the significance of the experience. This trip is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for attorneys to gain insights into the Supreme Court and the legal profession. Space is Limited---Details to Come!



Reflections on a Year of Purpose, Impact, and Community Support

*By Sherrie L. Detzler, Outgoing President,
Macomb County Bar Foundation*

Serving as President of the Macomb County Bar Foundation this past year has been an extraordinary privilege. Together, we turned legal education and philanthropy into tangible community impact. Our collective efforts expanded civic awareness, supported families in need, and invested directly in the future of the legal profession.

Signature Outreach and Educational Accomplishments

- **Charity Volleyball Challenge**

Brought legal professionals together for friendly competition, successfully raising hundreds of dollars for our charitable initiatives.

- **Constitution Day**

Placed volunteer attorneys into local elementary schools, delivering interactive lessons on foundational civic rights to hundreds of students.

- **Feed the Need**

Mobilized critical resources and volunteer hours to directly combat food insecurity and support vulnerable families across Macomb County.

- **High School Mock Trial**

Hosted a rigorous courtroom competition for local students, sharpening their public speaking, analytical thinking, and advocacy skills.

- **Law Day Essay and Artwork Competition**

Celebrated student creativity and legal understanding by honoring local youth for their insightful expressions on the rule of law.

- **Law School Scholarship Program**

Advanced our commitment to legal education by awarding six life-changing scholarships to exceptional, deserving law students.

Deepest Gratitude to Our Leadership

These achievements belong entirely to our dedicated Board of Directors. I want to extend a special thank you to **Chris Metry**, our incoming Foundation President, whose vision ensures a seamless transition and a bright future ahead. I am equally grateful to **Jenn Smith**, Director and President of WLAM-Macomb, for her incredible leadership and bridging of our legal communities. A warm thank you also goes to **Danielle Strace**, our newest Foundation Director, who hit the ground running with immense energy and dedication.



MACOMB BAR FOUNDATION

Looking Ahead & Get Involved

The momentum does not stop here. Please stay tuned for the details of this year's highly anticipated **Pros v. Cons Charity Volleyball Game!**

If you want to help shape the future of our legal and local communities, make a difference by getting involved. Contact the MCBA office to become a **Macomb County Bar Foundation Trustee** today!

Thank you to the entire Board and the MCBA membership for making this year an unforgettable success.

Contact the MCBA office to become a Macomb County Bar Foundation Trustee today!



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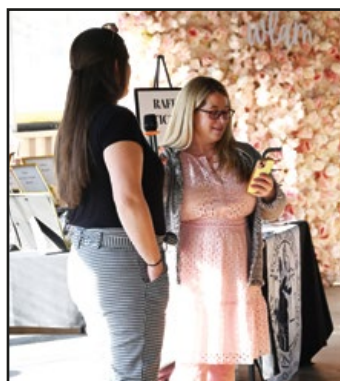
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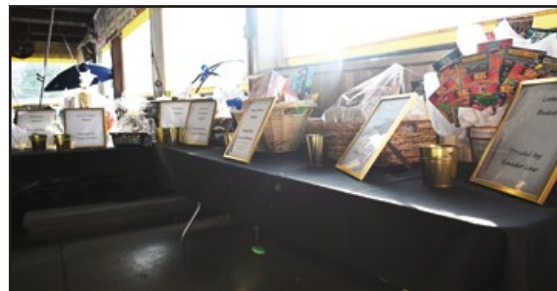
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The Rec Bowl

May 14th, 2026



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UPCOMING SEMINARS

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CDAM DETROIT TIGERS GAME

August 16, 2026 | 11:30 AM
Comerica Park

TRIAL COLLEGE: ADVANCED CASE DEVELOPMENT (IN PERSON)

August 23, 2026 | 1:00 PM
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Refer Your Injury Cases To Macomb County's Robert Lantzy

Attorney Robert Lantzy brings deep Macomb County connections to Buckfire Law. His perspective has been shaped by years in the local community, including by the influence of his father, Michigan high school Hall-of-Fame Football Coach, Bob Lantzy.

That familiarity with the community translates to real insight in serious, high-stakes cases.

Robert is trusted by attorneys and retired judges who refer him complex injury and wrongful death matters.



Coach Bob Lantzy, and Robert J. Lantzy, Attorney

ROBERT'S RESULTS IN SERIOUS CASES

\$9,000,000 Autistic child abuse settlement
\$6,000,000 Boating accident death
\$4,250,000 Carbon monoxide poisoning
\$4,000,000 Construction accident settlement
\$4,000,000 Police chase accident settlement
\$3,850,000 Truck accident settlement
\$3,000,000 Sexual assault settlement
\$2,000,000 Pedestrian death settlement
\$1,990,000 Auto accident settlement
\$1,400,000 Premises liability settlement
\$1,750,000 Macomb County premises liability jury verdict (2025)
\$1,000,000 Motorcycle accident settlement
\$ 465,000 Oakland County auto crash jury verdict (2025)

BUCKFIRE LAW HONORS REFERRAL FEES

We use sophisticated intake software to attribute sources of our referrals, and referral fees are promptly paid in accordance with MRPC 1.5(e). We guarantee it in writing.

HOW TO REFER US YOUR CASE

Referring us your case is fast and easy. You can:

1. Call us at **(586) 800-4004**
2. Go to **<https://buckfirelaw.com/attorney-referral>**
3. Scan the QR code with your cell phone camera

Attorney Lawrence J. Buckfire is responsible for this ad: (586) 800-4004

Refer Us These Injury Cases

- Auto Accidents
- Truck Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- No-Fault Insurance
- Dog Attacks
- Medical Malpractice
- Cerebral Palsy/Birth Injury
- Nursing Home Neglect
- Wrongful Death
- Police Misconduct
- Sexual Assault
- Defective Premises
- Poisonings
- Other Personal Injuries





Macomb County Bar Association

40 N. Main St., Suite 435

Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

MacombBar.org

MACOMB | BAR ASSOCIATION

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