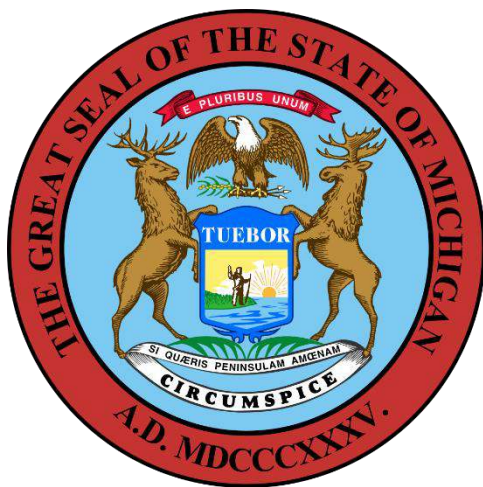


JJAM | Juvenile Justice Association of Michigan

June 2024 NEWSLETTER

In this issue:

- 2024 Mid-Winter Conference Wrap-Up
- 2024 Fall Conference – Sneak Peek
- Association Awards
- Region Spotlight
- Your Region and Contact
- Region Map



The Juvenile Justice Association of Michigan is an organization formed in 1973 by the merger of the County Juvenile Officer's Association and the Family Court Workers Association. JJAM is concerned with providing representation for all juvenile justice personnel, promoting and maintaining standards of efficiency within the Michigan Family Justice System and encouraging progressive legislation, resolutions, and other desirable programs representing the common interest of children and families in the State of Michigan.

A Message from your JJAM President

As we move forward in 2024 and beyond, many changes will occur in the system as we know it. These changes will affect both our membership and the families we assist.

In preparation for this we need to continue to have a strong association to address our concerns. One such step was for JJAM to collaborate with MAFCA, NMJOA and MJDA in retaining lobbyist, Ben Bodkin, as our collective voice in Lansing to advocate for our Juvenile Justice system. We will also be partnering together to host our Fall Annual Conference on September 11-13, 2024, at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, MI. We are very excited to be collaborating with these organizations as we believe this joint effort will be beneficial for all of our members.

-Jeff Damore



2024 Mid-Winter Conference Wrap-Up Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino / March 13-15, 2024

We had a successful 2024 Mid-Winter Conference!!! We had approximately 100 members who attended this conference!!!

We would like to thank our 2024 Mid-Winter Conference Speakers: Dr. Jeremy Norwood, Joyce Dixon, Kyler Rilett, Ron Grooters, and Clint Wertz, and Tanya Morrow and SCAO Team.

Lastly, a huge shout out to all of our 2024 Mid-Winter Conference Vendors: Rite of Passage, Youth Center, Boystown, Total Court Services, Forensic Fluids, Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, Pineview Homes, Pharm Chem, House Arrest Services, and Smart Start of Michigan.

We could not do this without your support!!



2024 Fall Conference – Sneak Peek Shanty Creek Resort / September 11-14, 2024

Join us at the first Michigan Joint Juvenile Justice Conference at Shanty Creek in Bellaire, MI. This educational conference is being presented by the Juvenile Justice Association of Michigan (JJAM), the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association (MJDA), the Michigan Association of Family Court Administrators (MAFCA), and the Northern Michigan Juvenile Officers Association (NMJOA).

More details coming soon!

Association Awards

The association presents two awards annually. The Mary S. Coleman recognizes special individuals at the Annual Fall Conference and the Marylynn Morawa Youth Achievement Award during our Midwinter Conference

The Mary S. Coleman Nomination form can be downloaded at:

<https://juvenilejusticemi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2015-Mary-S.-Coleman-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf>

The Marylynn Morawa Youth Achievement Award nomination form can be downloaded at:

<https://juvenilejusticemi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/NEW-YOUTH-ACHIEVEMENT-NOMINATION-FORM-2024-Feb-1.pdf>

MARYLYNN MORAWA YOUTH ACHIEVMENT AWARD

Take the time to identify and honor a youth who has succeeded in our programs and has turned their life around.

Nominations should be sent by February 1st of the conference year to:

Jeff Damore
Calhoun County Juvenile Court
161 E. Michigan Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-969-6768

scan to email to: jdamore@calhouncountymi.gov.

MARY S. COLEMAN AWARD

The Mary S. Coleman Award is intended to honor the court worker whose contributions cast a special glow upon their court. Past winners tend to be individuals who:

- Make coming to work a pleasure for their judges and their co-workers.
- Turn obstacles into challenges.
- Perform their job competently and professionally.
- Freely give their assistance and talents to others.
- Tend to look for the brighter side of a situation.
- Perform their jobs without self-serving or hidden agendas.
- Treat judges, co-workers, and clients with respect and positive regard
- Contribute heavily to their court's being viewed in a very positive light by the manner in which they conduct themselves privately and professionally in the community.

Take the time to identify and honor those special individuals within your workplace by completing the enclosed nomination forms today. Win or lose, it's a nice feeling to be recognized and appreciated by those with whom we work.

Nominations should be sent by August 1st of the conference year to:

Jeff Damore,
Calhoun County Juvenile Court
161 E. Michigan Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-969-6768

scan to email to: jdamore@calhouncountymi.gov.

Region Spotlight

REGION 2

Charlevoix County Family Court welcomes our newest Probation Officer, Madison Trumbull. Madison comes to us from the Antrim County Sheriff's Department. She is a lifelong resident of Michigan and enjoys reading and spending quality time with her family.

In October of 2023 the Court entered a partnership with our local Intermediate School District to provide the Educational component at Our Round Lake Education Center Court School. We had a successful school year and are in the middle of our summer school program.



REGION 5

With Juvenile Competency evaluations and restoration services being a hot topic of conversation across the state, I wanted to share a few resources. The statute may be reviewed in its entirety at MCL 712A.1(0) and an excellent MDHHS training video may be viewed at www.michigan.gov/juvenilejustice/juvenile-competency. In Isabella County we generally send kids to our local Community Mental Health for restoration services when absolutely necessary. Other counties have used BRAINS Clinic at 616-365-8920 and HRA Psychological Services at 616-485-0692.

REGION 6

On August 11, 2023, the Calhoun County Youth Center held a Groundbreaking ceremony to kick off the start of a \$13 million renovation that will improve safety for residents and staff, as well as enhancing the environment to increase restorative potential for residents.

Building improvements include:

- design
- All resident activities will take place on the main level; no stairs required for youth movement around the facility
- Thoughtful design will improve sightlines from master control to all areas of the main level
- Podular residential areas provide designated space for cohort activities, while minimizing resident movement around the facility
- New design incorporates natural lighting and even virtual skylights, which makes the environment more calming
- Updated security cameras and building communication systems, plus replaced mechanical systems ensure staff have the resources they need
- Additional space will ensure more purposeful use of spaces where the residents are admitted, visit with family, or have medical appointments

Renovations will expand the building's footage from 15,117 square feet to 29,941 square feet, increase capacity from 42 beds to 52 beds. Seventy-two percent of the existing building will be completely replaced.



Region Spotlight (cont)

REGION 7

Eaton County Probate Court

Amanda Pollard is an Attorney Referee and Juvenile Division Director for the 56th Circuit Court, Family Division. She served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office and an associate attorney for Gaydos and Leckie, PLLC prior to this role. She is the co-chair of the Legislative and Court Rules Committee for MAFCA's Executive Board, an advisory board member for the Youth Defense Project, the Secretary for the Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, and liaison to the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Amanda is an active participant in local organizations and within the legal community in the areas of juvenile justice reform, community engagement, and equitable legal representation.

Amanda received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Ball State University and her Juris Doctor from Michigan State University College of Law.

"I thank Governor Whitmer for this tremendous opportunity and appointment to serve as the Probate Judge for Eaton County," **Pollard** stated. "I look forward to serving the people of our community in this new role, providing fair and timely decisions on all legal matters, and continuing my practice of treating all who appear with equity and dignity."

This appointment was made to fill a partial term following the resignation of Judge Thomas K. Byerley. Ms. Pollard's term will commence on March 4, 2024, and expire at twelve o'clock noon on January 1, 2025.



Kathrine Price has accepted the position as our new **Attorney Referee/Juvenile Division Director**, a position that was vacated upon Judge Pollard's appointment to the Probate Court bench. Kathrine is currently an assistant public defender in Eaton County and a former law clerk for Judge Maurer. She will begin her new role on April 24th.



*"THE SECRET
TO SUCCESS IS
GOOD
LEADERSHIP,
AND GOOD
LEADERSHIP IS
ALL ABOUT
MAKING THE
LIVES OF YOUR
TEAM
MEMBERS OR
WORKERS
BETTER."*

-Tony Dungy

Region Spotlight (cont)

REGION 10

Currently, like the majority of the courts across Michigan, many of us at this time are trying to stay ahead of the game and plan for the upcoming implementation of the reform requirements coming in October, identifying potential obstacles and difficulties that we may incur due to the typical resource voids we encounter up here in the UP. Collectively, ensuring that we are working together with other counties in the UP and across the State, exploring the option of sharing resource and reducing expenses for successful implementation of programs for our youth and their families. The increased trainings have been very appreciative and helpful as we navigate into the fall.

Locally here in Houghton County, we have a few new projects happening in our courts. Currently, our Probate and District staff are training and working through the implementation of the MiFile system. Both courts will be going live with MiFile on June 27, 2024. The Probate and Family Court Administrator has collaborated with our local library to provide a self-help center for pro se litigants to utilize. This will allow various staff within the courts to provide informational sessions for the public to attend, which will include the juvenile court, to assist not only with e-filing but to also provide increased education and familiarity with the courts, their processes and programs.



YOUR REGION AND CONTACT

REGION 1

Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee, Schoolcraft.

Vacant

REGION 2

ANTRIM, BENZIE, CHARLEVOIX, EMMET, GRAND TRAVERSE, KALKASKA, LAKE, LEELENAU, MANISTEE, MASON, MECOSTA, MISSAUKEE, NEWAYGO, OSCEOLA, WEXFORD

Heather Streicher

hstreicher@18thprobatecourt.org

John McLean

mcleanj@charlevoixcounty.org

REGION 3

Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon

Megan Fenlon

megan@cheboygancounty.net

REGION 4

Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa

Gary Lehmann gary.lehmann@kentcountymi.gov

Amy Hollern

amy.hollern@kentcountymi.gov

REGION 5

Bay, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Tuscola

Linda Strasz

lstrasz@tuscolacounty.org

DeAnn Crowley

dcrowley@isabellacounty.org

REGION 6

Barry, Berrian, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren

Jeffrey Damore

jdamore@calhouncountymi.gov

Alyssa Kennedy

kennedy@vanburencountymi.gov

REGION 7

Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Lapeer, Livingston, Shiawassee, St. Clair

Elizabeth Grounds

egrounds@eatoncounty.org

Chris Elmore

celmore@ingham.org

REGION 8

Macomb, Oakland, Wayne

Vacant

REGION 9

Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw

Marsha Hamman

mhamman@mijackson.org

Kendall Hunt

khunt@mijackson.org

REGION 10

Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Ontonagon

Kelly Olson

kelly@houghtoncounty.net

Dawn Howe

howed@baragacounty.org

JJAM Regions

