

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF JUSTICES



**CHIEF JUSTICE  
ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR.**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. has been a member of the Michigan Supreme Court since 1999. He became Chief Justice in 2011. Before joining the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Young served as a judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Chief Justice Young graduated in 1974 from Harvard College with honors and from Harvard Law School in 1977. In 1978, he joined the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman, becoming a partner in the firm in 1982. From 1992, until he joined the Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Young was the vice president, corporate secretary, and general counsel of AAA Michigan.

Chief Justice Young has had significant involvement in numerous civic and charitable activities during his career. His varied community activities include being a member of the Advisory Board of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit and a trustee of the Grosse Pointe Academy, University Liggett School and Cranbrook Schools. Chief Justice Young is most proud of his service as a trustee of charitable and civic organizations devoted to the interest of children such as the Detroit Institute of Children, Vista Maria, the Detroit Historical Society, and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice Concerning Child Abuse and Neglect. Chief Justice Young is also a former commissioner of the Michigan Civil Service Commission, a former trustee of Central Michigan University, and a former chair of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce Leadership Detroit program. He has served on the boards of many other civic organizations.

Chief Justice Young is a frequent lecturer on judicial philosophy and the role of courts in our constitutional Republic. He has been an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School for more than 20 years and is a co-editor of *Michigan Civil Procedure During Trial, 2d Ed.* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1989), *Michigan Civil Procedure* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1999), *Michigan Civil Procedure, 2d Ed.* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 2012) and is the author of a book chapter, "Active Liberty and the Problem of Judicial Oligarchy," in *The Supreme Court and the Idea of Constitutionalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), as well as "A Judicial Traditionalist Confronts Justice Brennan's School of Judicial Philosophy," in the *Oklahoma City University Law Review* (2008) and "A Judicial Traditionalist Confronts the Common Law," in the *Texas Review of Law & Politics* (2004).

In 2001 and 1999, Chief Justice Young was awarded honorary degrees respectively from Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. In 1999, Chief Justice Young was named Detroit Country Day School's Alumni of the Year. In 2012, he was named Lawyer of the Year by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*.

Chief Justice Young has been married for more than 30 years to his college sweetheart and is the father of 2 adult sons.



**JUSTICE**  
**MICHAEL F. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Justice Michael F. Cavanagh received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1962 and a juris doctorate in 1966 from the University of Detroit Mercy Law School.

His initial legal employment was as a judicial law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1966. He was chosen to represent the city of Lansing as City Attorney in 1967 and served in that position until 1969, when he entered private practice in Lansing. In 1973, he was elected District Judge of the 54-A Judicial District and served until January 1, 1975. He was elected to a ten-year term on the Court of Appeals beginning January 1, 1975.

After serving on the Court of Appeals for 8 years, Justice Cavanagh successfully ran for a seat on the Michigan Supreme Court. He assumed the office of Justice on January 1, 1983. He was elected Chief Justice on January 8, 1991, reelected Chief Justice on January 7, 1993, and served until January of 1995. Justice Cavanagh commenced his fourth 8-year term on the Court on January 1, 2007.

Justice Cavanagh and his wife, Patricia, are the parents of three children, and have three grandsons and two granddaughters. The Cavanagh family resides in East Lansing.

Justice Cavanagh has participated in numerous community and professional activities, including Michigan Indian Tribal Courts/Michigan State Courts, *Supreme Court Liaison* (1990-present); the Hall of Justice Project, *Supervising Justice* (2001-present); Michigan Judicial Institute, *Supervising Justice* (1986-1994) and (2001-present); Supreme Court Sentencing Guidelines Committee, *Supervising Justice* (1983-1994); American Judicature Society; American Bar Association; Federal Bar Association; Michigan Bar Association; Ingham County Bar Association; Institute of Judicial Administration, New York University Law School, *Member*; Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers (1970-present), *President* (1987-1988); Commission on the Future, University of Detroit Mercy (1995-1996); Conference of Chief Justices, *Second Vice President* (1992-1994); Conference of Chief Justices, Courts and Children Committee, *Chair* (1992-1994); National Interbranch Conference of Funding the State Courts, *Chair* (1994-1995); National Center for State Courts, Court Improvement Program, *Member* (1994-1995); Michigan Justice Conference (1994-1995); Michigan Justice Project (1994-1995); Michigan Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review, *Chairman* (1981-1982); Michigan Judicial Planning Committee, *Chairman*; Judicial Coordinating Committee; Committee on Statewide Funding of the Judicial System; Michigan Crime Commission; Michigan Legislative Commission on Courts; Felony-Sentencing Steering Committee; Court of Appeals Committee of State Bar of Michigan; Rules Committee, Michigan Court of Appeals; The Rotary Club of Lansing, *Honorary Member* (1993-1996); Thomas M. Cooley Law School, *Board of Directors* (1979-1988); and Lansing YMCA, *Board of Directors* (1977-1978).

With the American Heart Association of Michigan (1970-present), he has handled the following responsibilities: *Chairman of the Board* (1984-1985); *Member*, Administrative Council; *Member*, Legislative and Policy Committee; *Member*, Long Range Planning Committee; *Member*, Research Council; and *President*, Tri-County Heart Unit (1976-1977).

Justice Cavanagh has contributed to the following publications: *Michigan's Story: State and Tribal Courts Try To Do the Right Thing*; *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review*, Volume 76, page 709 (1999); *Appellate Courts*, *Michigan Bar Journal*, Volume 72, No. 9, page 892 (September 1993).



**JUSTICE**  
**MARY BETH KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Justice Mary Beth Kelly was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in November 2010 and will serve a term that ends December 31, 2018. She served on the Wayne County Circuit Court for 11 years, having been appointed by Governor John Engler in 1999; she was elected to the court in 2000 and reelected in 2002 and 2008.

In 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court appointed her the chief judge of the Wayne Circuit Court, making her the first woman to lead that bench. She served as chief judge through 2007, focusing on budget deficit reduction, timely dockets, jail overcrowding, and the court's Family Division. Under her leadership, the Family Division doubled in size to devote more judicial resources to cases concerning children and families. She also led efforts to improve the racial diversity of the Wayne County jury system, working with the National Center for State Courts to gather data and recommend county-wide solutions. Her leadership on this issue has been recognized by the *Detroit News*. She has been praised as "one of the most effective chief judges in the history of the Michigan Court system" by then-Chief Justice Clifford Taylor.

Justice Kelly has received numerous honors for her judicial leadership, including the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Council's Distinguished Leadership Award. For her work on children's issues, she was named Vista Maria's Child Advocate of the Year and was also recognized by the Ennis Center for Children as Advocate of the Year. Justice Kelly serves as an advisor to Vista Maria and to the University of Michigan's Detroit Center for Family Advocacy. She was an adjunct law professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Kelly was a successful commercial litigation partner with the law firm Dickinson Wright, which she joined in 1987. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan at Dearborn and her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Justice Kelly is an active member of Sacred Heart-Grosse Ile parish, where she has taught Catechism; she has also chaired the parish's Youth Commission and served on the pastoral council. Justice Kelly resides in Grosse Ile with her husband Kevin and their 13-year-old son Jackson. In addition to her professional and community achievements, Justice Kelly is an avid runner and continues to run competitively.



**JUSTICE**  
**STEPHEN J. MARKMAN**

Term expires January 1, 2021

Stephen Markman was appointed as a justice of the Michigan Supreme Court on October 1, 1999. Before his appointment, he served as judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals from 1995-1999. Prior to this, he practiced law with the firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone in Detroit.

From 1989-93, Justice Markman served as United States Attorney, or federal prosecutor, in Michigan, after having been nominated by President George H. W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate. From 1985-1989, he served as Assistant Attorney General of the United States, after having been nominated by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the United States Senate. In that position, he headed the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy, which served as the principal policy development office within the Department, and which coordinated the federal judicial selection process. Prior to this, he served for 7 years as Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, and as Deputy Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.

Justice Markman has authored articles for such publications as the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, the *Detroit College of Law Review*, the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *American Criminal Justice Law Review*, the *Barrister's Law Journal*, the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, and the *American University Law Review*. He has also served as a contributing editor of *National Review* magazine, and has authored chapters in such books as "In the Name of Justice: The Aims of the Criminal Law," "Still the Law of the Land," and "Originalism: A Quarter Century of Debate."

Justice Markman has taught constitutional law at Hillsdale College since 1993. He has traveled to Ukraine on two occasions on behalf of the State Department, to provide assistance in the development of that nation's post-Soviet constitution. He is a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation, a Master of the Bench of the Inns of Court, and a member of the One Hundred Club. He has spoken before hundreds of youth, civic, charitable, and legal groups throughout Michigan and nationally and has coached Little League baseball and basketball. He lives with his wife Mary Kathleen in Mason, and has two sons, James and Charles.

Justice Markman was reelected to the Supreme Court in 2000, 2004, and 2012. His present term expires January 1, 2021.



**JUSTICE**  
**BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK**

Term expires January 1, 2021

Justice Bridget Mary McCormack joined the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2013. Before her election to the Court in November 2012, she was a law professor and dean at the University of Michigan Law School. Since joining the Court, Justice McCormack continues to teach at the Law

School as a lecturer.

Justice McCormack is a graduate of the New York University Law School, where she was a Root-Tilden scholar and won the Anne Petluck Poses Prize in Clinical Advocacy. She spent the first five years of her legal career in New York, first with the Legal Aid Society and then at the Office of the Appellate Defender, representing over 1,000 clients in New York's trial and appellate courts. In 1996, she became a faculty fellow at the Yale Law School.

In 1998, she joined the University of Michigan Law School faculty. At Michigan Law, she taught criminal law, legal ethics, and various clinical courses. Her scholarship focused on the professional benefits of clinical legal education. She also created new clinics at the law school, including a Domestic Violence Clinic and a Pediatric Health Advocacy Clinic.

In 2002, she was made Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Responsible for the continuing development of the law school's practical education, she continued to expand the clinical offerings at Michigan Law School, launching a Mediation Clinic, a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, an International Transactions Clinic, a Human Trafficking Clinic, a Juvenile Justice Clinic, and an Entrepreneurship Clinic. In her capacity as professor and associate dean, she conducted and supervised many types of civil and criminal litigation at all levels of the state and federal courts. The University of Michigan Law School's clinical programs are now recognized nationally as one of the best places to be trained as a lawyer.

In 2008, then-Associate Dean McCormack cofounded the Michigan Innocence Clinic, in which students represent wrongfully convicted Michiganders. The clinic has exonerated seven people so far, and has shined a light on the important justice issues underlying wrongful conviction. In 2010, McCormack won the "Justice for All" Award for the Clinic's work, and in 2011 the Washtenaw County Bar Association gave her the "Patriot Award." In 2012, she won the Cooley Law School's "Distinguished Brief Award" for the best brief filed in the Michigan Supreme Court during the term. Also in 2012, the Justice Caucus presented her with the Millie Jeffrey Award and the Washtenaw County Women Lawyers recognized her with the Mary Foster Award. In 2013, Justice McCormack was honored with the Hon. Kaye Tertzag Purple Sport Court Award.

Justice McCormack currently participates with a number of professional organizations including the American Bar Association Access to Justice committee, the American Bar Association Working Group on Pro Bono and Public Service, the advisory board of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, the judicial elections committee of the National Association of Women Judges, the State Bar of Michigan Planning Committee for Legal Services, and as a board member of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification.

Justice McCormack is married to Steven Croley, also a lawyer and law professor, currently on leave from the University of Michigan Law School to serve as Deputy Counsel to the President in the Office of White House Counsel. They have four children in the Ann Arbor public schools, and enjoy frequent family trips to west Michigan.



**JUSTICE**  
**DAVID F. VIVIANO**

Term expires January 1, 2015

David F. Viviano is the 109th Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder on February 27, 2013.

Justice Viviano previously served as Chief Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit and Macomb County Probate Courts, upon his appointment by the Supreme Court in 2011. He was first elected to the Circuit Court in 2006, and served in the court's Civil/Criminal Division. He was re-elected without opposition in 2012.

Justice Viviano has participated in a number of initiatives to improve the administration of justice. In 2008, Judge Viviano was one of a small group of judges chosen by the Supreme Court to test reforms to the jury system in Michigan. At the conclusion of the pilot project, the Supreme Court adopted a number of these reforms, which are now being used by judges throughout Michigan. Because of their efforts, Justice Viviano and his colleagues received the 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation from the National Center for State Courts.

Justice Viviano has also advocated for technological innovation in the court system for better public service. He led the Macomb Circuit Court's e-filing pilot project, working with the County's Information Technology Department and outside vendors. In addition to streamlining court operations, the e-filing project improved the court's ability to manage electronic data and share it with external users, including the public and other units of government. Justice Viviano also expanded the court's use of videoconferencing to conduct court hearings more safely and efficiently, and at less cost to taxpayers.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Viviano worked at two nationally recognized law firms, Dickinson Wright PLLC in Detroit and Jenner & Block LLC in Chicago. He then founded his own law firm in Mt. Clemens, Viviano & Viviano PLLC, where he concentrated his practice in commercial and criminal litigation, zoning, and real estate law. Justice Viviano also served as City Attorney for the City of Center Line.

Justice Viviano received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hillsdale College and his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Macomb County Bar Association, the Italian American Bar Association, and the Illinois State Bar Association.

Justice Viviano and his wife, Neran, live in Sterling Heights with their 2 children.



**JUSTICE**  
**BRIAN K. ZAHRA**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Justice Brian K. Zahra was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court on January 14, 2011, by Governor Rick Snyder, and won election in November 2012.

Justice Zahra received his undergraduate degree in 1984 from Wayne State University. To finance his education, he opened and operated a small health and personal care retail store in downtown Detroit, later opening a grocery outlet, also in Detroit, with two partners. In 1987, he graduated with honors from the University of Detroit Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review. While in law school, he also served as Articles Editor of the State Bar of Michigan's *Corporation and Finance Business Law Journal*. He then served as law clerk to Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for 2 years before joining the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman in 1989. In 1994, Governor John Engler appointed him to the Wayne County Circuit Court; he was elected to a 6-year term in 1996 and continued to serve on the circuit court until December 1998, when he was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor Engler. He was elected to 6-year terms in 2000 and 2006. From December 2005 to January 2007, he served as the Court of Appeals' Chief Judge Pro Tem.

Justice Zahra, who has taught evidence as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School, has served on many professional and legislative committees, including the Michigan Civil Jury Instructions Committee, the Circuit Court Appellate Rules Committee, the Domestic Violence Legislation Implementation Task Force, and the advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute Domestic Violence Benchbook. He has also served on the Michigan Board of Law Examiners, which drafts and grades the examination that law school graduates must pass in order to become licensed attorneys.

Justice Zahra has been active in many civic and charitable organizations, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Kiwanis Club International, Leadership Detroit, the Knights of Columbus, the Maltese American Community Club, and the Maltese American Benevolent Society, of which he is a past officer. He is a board member and former officer of the Catholic Lawyers Society, and is a member of the Federalist Society, having served as secretary and vice-president of the Michigan chapter.

Justice Zahra resides in Northville Township with his wife Suzanne and their 2 children.