



# Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office  
Child Welfare Services

**Foster Care Review Board**  
3034 W. Grand Boulevard, #8-400  
Detroit, Michigan 48202  
Phone (313) 972-3280



Kelly Howard  
Director

## PARENT ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

On an annual basis, the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) will recognize one parent attorney for their exemplary work within the Family Division Court representing the parents of abused/neglected children. Nominations will be accepted from child welfare agencies, local courts, CASA's, foster parent organizations, or any interested person familiar with nominee(s). **The FCRB will accept nomination forms through September 15, 2010.** They may be submitted by email (preferred), fax, or postal service. Nomination forms are available on the Foster Care Review Board Program page of the Michigan Courts web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/ferb/fcrb.htm>.

Persons interested in nominating a parent attorney should consider the following attributes and criteria related to leadership, quality of representation, client advocacy, and community involvement and contributions to the profession:

- Takes the necessary steps to independently investigate and vigorously represent the rights and needs of the parents he or she represents.
- Complies with the Cannons/Parent Attorney Protocol/best practices, etc..
- Strongly advocates with the court for the needs of his or her clients, especially with regard to reunification with their children.
- Takes time, outside of court, to counsel and support the client parents through the duration of the case.
- Is knowledgeable about the array of services available in the community and their relevance to the needs of the parents represented, and actively works to access these services for the client parents.
- Provides the court with clear, relevant, and independent information so that timely and appropriate permanency decisions can be made.
- Seeks the support and assistance of others (foster care workers, therapists, CASAs, etc.) in order to provide the most effective representation possible.
- Works to improve the quality of child welfare services in the community and the state.
- Has a minimum of 5 years of experience as a parent attorney.

You are encouraged to nominate any attorney who represents parents in child abuse and neglect cases who you feel meets the above criteria. The recipient of this award will be selected by a committee comprised of FCRB board members, advisory committee professionals and advocates, child welfare professionals, and FCRB program staff. The award recipient will be recognized at the FCRB annual training conference in early November.

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Please submit the attached nomination form via email, fax, or postal service **no later than September 15** to:

Email (preferred):  
[FalconelloK@courts.mi.gov](mailto:FalconelloK@courts.mi.gov)

Fax:  
**313-972-3289**

Mail:  
**FCRB Award Nomination**  
**Attn: Kathy Falconello**  
**3034 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 8-400**  
**Detroit, MI 48202**

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## NOMINATION FORM

# PARENT ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

### Nominee:

Name

Court

Address

City, State, Zip

County

Phone

Email

### Nominator:

Name

Company

Address

City, State, Zip

County

Phone

Email

**Years of experience as a parent attorney:**

**Court and/or legal experience:**

**Please describe and provide examples related to the following:**

- Quality of client representation and advocacy in court:
  
- Quality of client representation and advocacy outside of court:
  
- Relationship with clients:
  
- Outstanding leadership abilities:
  
- Significant contributions to the profession and/or community related to child welfare:
  
- Other significant contributions: