



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

LAWYER-GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF THE YEAR

On an annual basis, the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) will recognize one lawyer-guardian ad litem (LGAL) for exemplary work on behalf of abused or neglected children. Nominations may be submitted by child welfare agencies, local courts, attorney organizations, CASA’s, foster parents, or any interested person familiar with the nominee. **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/fcrb/fcrb.htm>.

Persons interested in nominating an LGAL for this award should consider the following attributes and criteria related to leadership, quality of representation, client advocacy, community involvement, and contributions to the profession:

- Independently investigates cases and otherwise consistently represents children’s best interests.
- Complies fully with the mandates of MCL 712A.19d.
- Has extensive knowledge about the array of services available in the community and their relevance to the needs of the children represented.
- Provides the courts with clear, relevant, and independent information so that the courts can make timely and appropriate permanency decisions.
- 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 at least five years of experience as an LGAL.

You are encouraged to nominate any lawyer-guardian ad litem who 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

Fax:
313-972-3289

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

