MCMC 2025

JAMES GIBBS



James Gibbs has dedicated the past 30 years to serving Michigan's Judiciary. He began his career in 1995 at the 18th District Court before joining the 28th District Court in 1997.

Over the years, James has held a wide range of positions including Probation Officer, Director of Probation, and Court Administrator. In 2015, he returned to the 18th District Court, where he currently serves as Court Administrator.

James holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and earned a Master's Certificate in Judicial Administration from Michigan State University.

An active leader in the judicial community, James is the current President of the Michigan Court Administrators Association (MCAA) and has served on the MCAA Board since 2005.

DAVE WALSH



Dave Walsh enjoyed a 33-year career in Michigan court administration, serving as Deputy Court Administrator at the 22nd Circuit Court in Washtenaw County (1988–1996) and Court Administrator at the 47th District Court in Farmington/Farmington Hills (1996–2021). He managed the planning, design, and construction of the 47th District Court facility (opened 2003), now a model for new courthouses statewide.

A champion of court support staff development, he co-chaired Michigan's Court Support Staff Training Consortium (1994–1998), co-developed NACM-award-winning legal advice training (1998), launched the statewide clerk certification program (2015), and founded the Michigan Court Managers Conference (2001), chairing it 2003–2008, 2016, and 2020.

He holds an MPA from EMU (1989), is an ICM Fellow (1997), earned MCAA's "Court Administrator of the Year" (2003) and Wayne Berg Distinguished Service Award (2007)—renamed in his honor in 2019—and retired in July 2021.

JAY GROSS



Jay Gross is a dedicated English, Speech, and Debate educator whose career spans more than 30 years.

After surviving a serious 1986 motorcycle accident, he embraced teaching, using personal stories to make learning relatable. He retired from Shepherd High School, then joined Morley Stanwood High School and Montcalm Community College as an adjunct professor.

Jay founded Jay Gross Productions—managing rental properties, videography, speaking engagements, and ed-tech consulting—and collaborates with Best Keynote, School Pro K-12, and Signature Keynotes.

A devoted husband to band director JoAnn (2021 Michigan Band Teacher of the Year), father of three adopted sons, foster parent, rescue-dog owner, ordained minister, and co-author of a book on infertility, he balances a busy professional and personal life without missing a beat.

TOM BOYD



Tom Boyd took office in 2005 as a district court judge in Ingham County, MI. The people elected him to continue as a district court judge in 2006, 2008, and 2014. While on the bench, Tom led the mental health court team, and established and presided over the domestic violence court. He resigned from the bench in March 2020 to become Michigan's State Court Administrator.

Boyd is a recognized leader in Michigan's judiciary, having served on and chaired multiple commissions—including the Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, the Trial Court Funding Commission, and indigent defense advisory bodies—to develop reforms that protect rights, enhance safety, and optimize resources.

Appointed Assistant Attorney General in 1995 by AG Frank Kelley, he later joined the district court bench and led the Michigan District Judges Association as president (2016–17).

He holds degrees from Michigan State University's James Madison College (1985) and Wayne State University Law School (1990).

MIKE MCMILLAN



Mike McMillan began his career in the court system in 1997 as a student worker in the 72nd District Court in St. Clair County. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Western Michigan University and returned to the 72nd District Court as a Probation Officer.

In 2011, Mike earned a Master of Public Administration from Central Michigan University and was hired as the Family Court Administrator in Saginaw County. He was soon promoted to Circuit Court Administrator. In 2014, Mike returned to St. Clair County, where he now serves as the Circuit, Probate, and Family Court Administrator.

Mike is the Immediate Past President of the Michigan Association of Circuit Court Administrators and serves as Co-Chair of the Court Funding and Operations Committee for the Michigan Association of Family Court Administrators.

Beyond his professional work, Mike has served his community as a volunteer firefighter since 2003 and was Mayor of his town for 15 years. He also runs a small animal rescue from his home—for threatened baby unicorns.

DAVID WHEATLEY



David Wheatley specializes in guiding leaders through critical transitions—stepping into new roles, broadening responsibilities, and driving impactful outcomes. With over 25 years as a facilitator, trainer, and executive coach, he has supported leaders across government, healthcare, manufacturing, law enforcement, technology, and finance.

Originally from England, David began as a Scotland Yard police officer and graduated from Hendon Police Academy in London. He holds degrees in education and organizational management and has taught at Michigan State University and served as a Senior Fellow at the University of Maryland.

He has co-authored two influential leadership books: *50 DOs for Everyday Leadership* and *What Great Teams Do Great*.

Expertise:

- Leadership Coaching & Development
- Executive Transition
- High-Performance Teams
- Organizational Change Management

MELISSA NOLL



Melissa Noll is a Departmental Specialist for the Michigan Department of State, specializing as the Court Liaison for the Department. Melissa started in this position the end of 2018.

Melissa also handles the registration and renewal of service centers as a licensed BAIID Service Center for BAIID manufacturers.

Melissa's previous position with the Department of State was the Senior Executive Management Assistant to the Chief Legal Counsel under Secretary Ruth Johnson.

JOHN NIZOL



John R. Nizol is Director of the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI), the education arm of the Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). During his time with MJI, John has expanded MJI's remote and on-demand educational offerings and worked on implementing mandatory continuing judicial education for all judicial officers in the state.

Prior to joining MJI, John worked at the 16th Circuit Court (Macomb County) as a research attorney, legal services director/court counsel, and deputy court administrator responsible for the civil/criminal division. John also taught legal research and writing at Macomb Community College and provided literacy tutoring for individuals with limited English proficiency at the Detroit Public Library.

Along with various ex officio committee roles at SCAO, John currently serves on the Advisory Board for Macomb Community College's Legal Assistant Program and on the State Bar of Michigan's Character and Fitness District Committee.

MATT BRAUNING



Matt Brauning is an international keynote speaker and leadership trainer, a 3-time best-selling author, and a huge yo-yo nerd.

He has filmed in 2 movies, you've seen him all over morning television on ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX, and he has spoken at places like TEDx, McDonald's, NASDAQ, and the United States Air Force Academy.

Matt delivers engaging keynote talks that are equal parts inspiring, actionable, and fun for corporate events, conferences, and association gatherings all over the world. Leaders, sales teams, and entrepreneurs get the opportunity to learn, grow and laugh all at the same time!

Matt is also an avid motorcycle rider and rock climber, and pro wrestling fan! He currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his amazing wife Lola, and awesome son Valiant.

JAMES CARPP



James oversees the digital transformation strategic initiative. He works with a team to define, develop, and manage a diverse digital project portfolio. He is responsible for coordinating and managing comprehensive changes that address everything from updating existing business models to building out entirely new service lines.

James joined Rehmann in 1999, establishing and serving as Director of Consulting. His nearly four-decade career includes roles as Chief Information Officer, Chief Digital Officer, and Vice Chairman of the Board. James has delivered strategic technology solutions for diverse clients, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to entrepreneurial start-ups in sectors including high tech, finance, services, and manufacturing.
James completed specialized training programs with Oracle and EDS, including Oracle Application Sales and Manufacturing Applications, as well as EDS Manufacturing and Systems Engineering development programs.

Expertise:

- Digital Transformation
- Artificial Intelligence & Business Intelligence
- Technology Risk Management & Cybersecurity
- Technology Consulting

TOM CREMONTE



Tom Cremonte is a Senior Risk Control Consultant for Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) where he has worked since 2016. Cremonte previously worked in the public sector in Michigan for over 40 years in law enforcement and corrections. He is a retired Livingston County Sheriff's Office lieutenant/jail administrator and a retired Michigan State Police detective lieutenant. Cremonte's wealth of knowledge and subject matter expertise place him in high demand as a speaker and he is routinely consulted by jail administrators and other corrections officials for the benefit of MMRMA members across the state.

DENNIS MAC DONNELL



Dennis Mac Donell recently retired from his role as Court Security Specialist with the Michigan Supreme Court after 17 years.

As Court Security Specialist, he liaised between state and local judicial entities and law enforcement and conducted research and analysis of security procedures and best practices. He developed and presented security training and conducted safety/security evaluations.

Mac Donell previously dedicated 30 years of service in law enforcement, including as an Inspector with the Michigan State Police and Director of the Investigations Division for the Michigan Department of State. His leadership roles included Post Commander of the Brighton Post, Section Commander at LAWNET, and Platoon Commander at the Detroit Freeway Post. He also served as a narcotics team leader and held patrol and supervisory roles in several jurisdictions.

Mac Donell holds an A.B. in Law Enforcement from Lansing Community College and a B.S. with honors in Criminal Justice from Madonna University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (182nd session) and was a senior associate with MACNLOW Associates, instructing courses in police supervision and performance appraisal.

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