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**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES 2020 AWARD WINNERS**

Bloomfield Hills, MI: The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Michigan is proud to announce that the following individuals are the recipients of the ADR Section's major awards in 2020. The award recipients will be honored at an awards ceremony on Oct. 16 as part of the ADR Annual Conference.

The Diversity and Inclusion Award is given in recognition of significant contributions concerning diversity and inclusion in the field of alternative dispute resolution. **Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Bridget Mary McCormack, is the inaugural award recipient.**

Chief Justice McCormack became a Michigan Supreme Court Justice in January 2013. She was unanimously elected by her fellow Justices to be the Chief Justice in January 2019. Chief Justice McCormack has made significant contributions concerning diversity and inclusion in the field of alternative dispute resolution. She helped implement the Online Dispute Resolution initiative in Michigan's courts, launched the Mediation Clinic at Michigan Law School, helped initiate the first expungement clinics in Michigan, helped create Michigan's participation in the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative, and co-launched the Elder Abuse Taskforce. She spoke at the ADR Section's 2018 and 2019 Annual Meeting and will be the keynote speaker and a panelist at this year's ADR Virtual Conference on October 16-17, 2020.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual, program, or entity in recognition of significant contributions to the field of dispute resolution. **Jon R. Muth is the 2020 award recipient.**

Jon Muth has been a pioneer of alternative dispute resolution in Michigan, as he was among the few attorneys certified as a federal court mediator by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan in the inaugural federal program in 1996. Twice retained by the U.S. District Court to conduct its annual CLE program for certified mediators, he also served on the panel of the Federal Judicial Center mediation training program for federal judges. During his exceptional career he has mediated approximately 1000 disputes.

He is a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, the Association of Professional Responsibility Counselors, the AAA National Roster of Neutrals for Commercial Arbitration, and the Association for Conflict Resolution. He has been listed for years in *Best*

Lawyers in America for Alternative Dispute Resolution, and was named Lawyer of the Year in Mediation in 2012 and 2016. Jon is a past President of the State Bar of Michigan and was retained by the SBM Board of Commissioners as the Acting Executive Director of the State Bar in 1994, following the untimely death of Michael Franck.

Jon's extensive legal and ADR expertise transcends mediation. He is a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, and was named six times as one of the Top 100 lawyers in Michigan by *Michigan Superlawyers*. Among a long list of awards and honors, in 1998 Jon received the State Bar's Roberts P. Hudson Award, its' highest recognition, given to a member who "best exemplifies that which brings honor, esteem and respect to the legal profession."

The George M. Bashara Award (the Chair's award) is presented to an individual, program, in recognition of exemplary service to the Section and its members. **William D. Gilbride, Jr. is the 2020 award recipient.**

Since joining the State Bar ADR Section Council in 2014, Bill Gilbride has worked tirelessly on behalf of the section and its members, serving as chair from 2018-19, and as Section treasurer from 2015-17. Most recently, he chaired the Council's Nominating Committee, overseeing the screening and recommendation of the many applicants wishing to join the Section Council. Bill was also instrumental in organizing the Council's first Diversity and Inclusion Action Team and in adding to our Mission Statement the principle of "Promoting diversity and inclusion in the training, development and selection of ADR providers and encouraging the elimination of mediator bias."

Bill has practiced with Abbott Nicholson, PC in Detroit since 1989, and served for 11 years as the law firm's managing partner. He has earned the respect of his peers and colleagues, as evidenced by recognition as a Michigan Super Lawyer, a *dBUSINESS* Magazine Top Lawyer, a *Law Bulletin Publishing* Leading Lawyer, and an AV Preeminent Lawyer rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He was also inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates, an invitation-only group of accomplished trial lawyers who demonstrate high personal character and honorable reputation. In November 2020, Bill will join the American Arbitration Association panel for commercial and complex cases.

Throughout his career, Bill has represented a variety of clients in a broad assortment of legal matters in state and federal courts and administrative tribunals. He has also served as outside general counsel and a trusted business advisor to for-profit and non-profit organizations alike. Bill remains active as a Business Court case evaluator for Wayne County and on the rosters of Oakland and Macomb counties for case evaluation. This diversity of professional experience provides a collection of perspectives and insights that now enhance his role as a neutral mediator and arbitrator.

The Nanci S. Klein Award is presented to an individual, program, or entity in recognition of exemplary programs, initiatives, and leaders in community dispute resolution. **Craig R. Pappas is the 2020 award recipient.**

Craig is the Executor Director of The Resolution Center in Mount Clemens, Michigan. He is the longest-serving Community Dispute executive director, serving since July 1999. His Center was an early adopter of the special education mediation program, Postal Service (USPS) mediation program, and a range of services in restorative practices for schools. He has guided The Resolution Center to successfully implement various mediation programs such as Americans with Disabilities, Parenting Time, Employment Discrimination, Special Education, and Victim-Offender. He serves on the RoundTable Strategies ("RTS") board, a state-wide non-profit that administers the grant from the Office of Special Education to fund services at various stages in work done between schools and families.

The Hero of ADR Award is presented to a person or entity for supporting the ADR Section's mission or the field of conflict resolution generally, by providing exemplary assistance. **John A. Obee is the 2020 award recipient.**

John is that rare individual who is genuine, selfless, and committed. He has mentored many rising arbitrators who seek to expand their experience but might not otherwise have the opportunities to do so, due to their race or gender. He has a hands-on approach and is widely known for promoting networking and mentoring opportunities, introductions, and constructive criticism necessary for up and coming professionals. John is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators. He served in the civil rights movement in Mississippi in the 1960s, and co-authored *Mississippi's Exiled Daughter* with noted civil rights icon Brenda Travis, released in June 2018.

For more information about the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar of Michigan and the ADR annual conference and awards ceremony, Oct. 16-17, visit: <https://connect.michbar.org/adr/home>.