

MICHIGAN
Super Lawyers[®]
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THE TOP
ATTORNEYS
IN MICHIGAN

THE GRAND PLAN

Richard Victor plays by heart

PERSONAL TOUCH

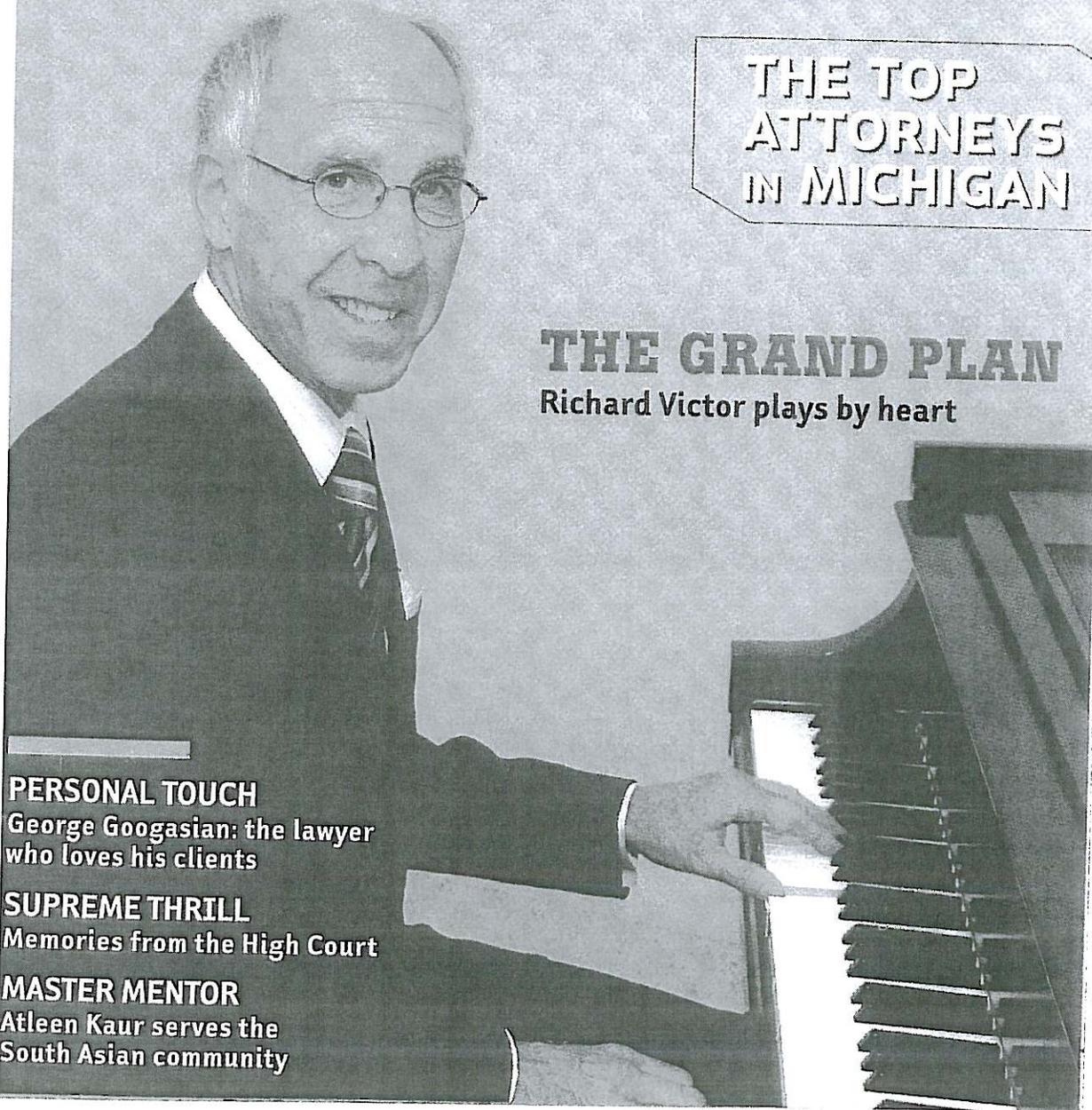
George Googasian: the lawyer
who loves his clients

SUPREME THRILL

Memories from the High Court

MASTER MENTOR

Atleen Kaur serves the
South Asian community



This is the 2008 *Michigan Super Lawyers* listing, arranged by primary area of practice. Names and page numbers in **RED BOLDFACE** indicate a profile on the specified page.

Family Law cont'd from page 35

Vogt, Kathy J., Garton & Vogt, Clinton Township, 586-226-3100

Zerrenner, James W., James W. Zerrenner, Grand Rapids, 616-774-4414

FIRST AMENDMENT/MEDIA/ADVERTISING

Fink, Herschel P., Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, 313-465-7400

Niehoff, Leonard M., Butzel Long, Ann Arbor, 734-213-3625

FRANCHISE/DEALERSHIP

Weller, Il, Robert Y., Abbott Nicholson, Detroit, 313-566-2500

Youngblood, John F., Abbott Nicholson, Detroit, 313-566-2500

GENERAL LITIGATION

Bengtson, Thomas A., Hubbard Fox Thomas White & Bengtson, Lansing, 517-886-7176

Waldmeir, Peter W., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Detroit, 313-496-7660

Wallace, Bruce T., Hooper Hathaway Price Beuche & Wallace, Ann Arbor, 734-662-4426

Wasinger, Stephen F., Stephen F. Wasinger, Royal Oak, 248-554-6306

GOVERNMENT/CITIES/MUNICIPALITIES

Adkison, Phillip G., Adkison Need & Allen, Bloomfield Hills, 248-540-7400 **Pg. 43**

Andrews, Clark A., O'Reilly Rancilio, Sterling Heights, 586-726-1000

Barr, John M., Barr Anhut & Associates, Ypsilanti, 734-481-1234

Beach, William B., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Detroit, 313-963-6420

Beckerleg, Derk W., Secrest Wardle Lynch Hampton Truex & Morley, Farmington Hills, 248-851-9500

Berardo, Patrick J., Thrun Law Firm, East Lansing, 517-484-8000

Bloom, Clifford H., Law Weathers & Richardson, Grand Rapids, 616-459-1171

Bluhm, Lori Grigg, City of Troy, Troy, 248-524-3323

Bogren, Michael S., Plunkett Cooney, Kalamazoo, 269-226-8822

Staran, John D., Hafeli Staran Hallahan Christ & Dudel, Bloomfield Hills, 248-731-3080

Tucker, Donald F., Clark Hill, Birmingham, 248-988-5844

HEALTH CARE

Abrahamsen, Maria B., Dykema Gossett, Bloomfield Hills, 248-203-0818 **Pg. 20, 22**

Aoun, Joseph T., Nuyen Tomtishen & Aoun, Ann Arbor, 734-372-4100

Burns, Lawrence P., Varnum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett, Grand Rapids, 616-336-6000

deVaux, Arthur F., Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman, Troy, 248-740-7505

Drutchas, Gregory G., Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti Sherbrook, Detroit, 313-965-7930

Elkins, Bettye S., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Ann Arbor, 734-663-2445

Gilchrist, Alan G., Foster Swift Collins & Smith, Farmington Hills, 248-539-9900 **Pg. 44**

Hessburg, John P., Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook, Detroit, 313-965-7900

Hodgman, William D., Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti Sherbrook, Detroit, 313-965-7900

Hoffman, Jr., Max R., Butzel Long, Lansing, 517-372-4374

Kudner, Kathrin E., Dykema Gossett, Detroit, 313-568-6896 **Pg. 22**

Lezotte, Mark R., Oakwood Healthcare, Dearborn, 313-586-5730

Lockman, Stuart M., Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, 313-465-7500

Marcus, Kenneth R., Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, 313-465-7470

Marsich, Veronica A., Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge, Ann Arbor, 734-213-8000

McGraw, Thomas J., Dykema Gossett, Detroit, 313-568-6500

McRay, Gary J., Foster Swift Collins & Smith, Lansing, 517-371-8285

Navarro, Monica P., Frank Haron Weiner & Navarro, Troy, 248-952-0400 **Pg. 22, 46**

Nuyen, Jr., Joseph G., Nuyen Tomtishen & Aoun, Ann Arbor, 734-372-4100

Page, III, Joseph F., Giarmarco Mullins & Horton, Troy, 248-457-7155

Panah, Lisa, Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook, Detroit, 313-965-7527

Rogalski, Alan T., Foster Swift Collins & Smith, Farmington Hills, 248-539-9900 **Pg. 46**

Rogers, David L., Rogers Mantese & Associates, Royal Oak, 248-691-1614

Ross, Linda S., Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, 313-465-7526 **Pg. 20, 22**

Rossman, Chris E., Foley & Lardner, Detroit, 313-234-7100

Shannon, Margaret, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, 313-465-7000

Soltis, Keith J., Kotz Sangster Wysocki & Berg, Birmingham, 248-646-1050

Wachler, Andrew B., Wachler & Associates, Royal Oak, 248-544-0888

IMMIGRATION

Allen, Christian S., Ellis Porter, Troy, 248-519-9900

Basmaji, Dorothy Hanigan, Verccruyse Murray & Calzone, Bingham Farms, 248-540-8019

Bassett, Thomas A., Thomas Bassett & Associates, Southfield, 248-827-4110

Brey, Ingrid K., Law Offices of Ingrid K. Brey, Grosse Pointe, 313-822-8888

Clephane, Debra Auerbach, Verccruyse Murray & Calzone, Bingham Farms, 248-540-8019

Cooper, Scott F., Fragomen Del Rey Bernsen & Loewy, Troy, 248-649-5404 **Pg. 44**

Hanenburg, Kathleen M., Warner Norcross & Judd, Grand Rapids, 616-752-2151

Levasseur, Elise S., Dickinson Wright, Bloomfield Hill, 248-433-7200

Mager, Clara D., Butzel Long, Detroit, 313-225-7000

Mann, George P., George P. Mann & Associates, Farmington Hills, 248-932-0990

Paruch, David H., Law Offices of David H. Paruch, Troy, 248-743-0470

Pastor-Cardinale, Carrie, Pastor & Associates, Troy, 248-619-0065

Piston, Michael E., Attorney at Law, Troy, 248-680-0600

Tao, Dehai, Dehai Tao, Ann Arbor, 734-930-7300

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”

— Robert F. Kennedy (1925-1968)

Bos, Carole D., Bos & Glazier, Grand Rapids, 616-458-6814

Bush, Mark A., Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap, Lansing, 517-482-5800

Costello, Margaret A., Dykema Gossett, Detroit, 313-568-5306

DeJong, Robert L., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Grand Rapids, 616-776-6308

Dille, Frederick D., Dille Haney, Grand Rapids, 616-235-2300

Ensten, Pamela C., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Kalamazoo, 269-381-7030

Faison, W. Mack, Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Detroit, 313-963-6420

Frey, William F., Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, 313-465-7386

Galvin, Joseph F., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Detroit, 313-496-8440

Garton, Arthur A., Garton & Vogt, Clinton Township, 586-226-3100

Googasian, George A., The Googasian Firm, Bloomfield Hills, 248-540-3333 **Pg. 20, 52**

Hartmann, Michael W., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Detroit, 313-963-6420

June, Robert B., Law Offices of Robert B. June, Ypsilanti, 734-481-1000

Kantor, Allyn D., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Ann Arbor, 734-663-2445

Leitman, Matthew F., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Troy, 248-267-3294

Muth, Jon R., Miller Johnson, Grand Rapids, 616-831-1700 **Pg. 20**

Noland, Craig R., Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge, Grand Rapids, 616-458-9466

Pabst, Tom R., Tom R. Pabst, Flint, 810-732-6792

Postema, Stephen K., City of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, 734-994-2670

Seifman, Barry A., Seifman & Guzell, Farmington Hills, 248-538-0711

Steele, Daniel P., Vandever Garzia, Troy, 248-312-2917

Stek, Stanley J., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Grand Rapids, 616-776-6324

Timmis, David B., Vandever Garzia, Troy, 248-312-2800

Toy, Charles R., Farhat & Story, Lansing, 517-351-3700

Brown, James R., Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, Grand Rapids, 616-632-8000

Currier, Timothy J., Beier Howlett, Bloomfield Hills, 248-645-9400

Dovre, Gary L., Secrest Wardle Lynch Hampton Truex & Morley, Farmington Hills, 248-851-9500

Eggan, Eric J., Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, Lansing, 517-484-8282

Elias, Abigail, Ann Arbor City Attorney's Office, Ann Arbor, 734-994-2670

Fisher, Michael E., City of Livonia, Livonia, 734-466-2520

Hampton, William P., Secrest Wardle Lynch Hampton Truex & Morley, Farmington Hills, 248-851-9500

Huff, John M., Law Weathers & Richardson, Grand Rapids, 616-459-1171

Ihrle, Robert D., Ihrle O'Brien, Saint Clair Shores, 586-778-7778

Joppick, Steven P., Secrest Wardle Lynch Hampton Truex & Morley, Farmington Hills, 248-851-9500

Kovinsky, Allen J., Sommers Schwartz, Southfield, 248-746-4037

Lax, Jerold D.E., Bodman, Ann Arbor, 734-930-2491

Linn, Thomas W., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Detroit, 313-963-6420

Long, Wallace G., Howard & Howard, Bloomfield Hills, 248-645-1483

McCauley, Patrick B., Giarmarco Mullins & Horton, Troy, 248-457-7000

Otis, David K., Plunkett Cooney, East Lansing, 517-324-5613

Plato, Edward D., Johnson Rosati LaBarge Aseltyn & Field, Farmington Hills, 248-489-4100

Rosati, Michael E., Johnson Rosati LaBarge Aseltyn & Field, Farmington Hills, 248-489-4100

Schmidt, Don M., Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, Kalamazoo, 269-381-7030

Schultz, Thomas R., Secrest Wardle Lynch Hampton Truex & Morley, Farmington Hills, 248-851-9500

Sluggett, Jeffrey V.H., Law Weathers & Richardson, Grand Rapids, 616-459-1171

Smith, Roger A., Garan Lucow Miller, Troy, 248-641-7600

SELECTION PROCESS

Welcome to Michigan Super Lawyers & Rising Stars

Law & Politics strictly adheres to a rigorous selection process with the goals of casting as wide a net as possible, evaluating quality in the most objective possible terms and verifying and validating all data. The only way a lawyer can be listed in *Super Lawyers* magazine is through this selection process. The determination of whether a lawyer will be placed on the *Super Lawyers* list is independent of advertising or any other payments.

No other legal publisher identifies qualified candidates by using a multi-step evaluation process that incorporates peer recognition and professional achievement. Law & Politics uses a system of nominations, peer evaluation and internal research, which acts as a system of checks and balances. The resulting product is a diverse and comprehensive listing of outstanding lawyers.

MICHIGAN
Super Lawyers
& RISING STARS 2008

Ⓐ Top lists on pages 20 and 22 are composed of the attorneys with the highest point totals.

STEP ONE: CREATION OF THE CANDIDATE POOL STATEWIDE SURVEY OF LAWYERS

- ▶ Law & Politics invited Michigan lawyers to participate in the nomination process.
- ▶ Lawyers were asked to nominate the best attorneys they've personally observed in action.
- ▶ Nominees need not be in private practice. Lawyers were able to nominate legal aid attorneys, prosecutors and in-house counsel.
- ▶ Lawyers were able to nominate attorneys in their own firm, but those nominations counted only if each in-firm nomination was matched by at least one out-of-firm nomination.
- ▶ Each nomination carried a point value. An out-of-firm vote had substantially greater point value than an in-firm vote.
- ▶ Lawyers were not allowed to vote for themselves.
- ▶ Utilizing our database, researchers kept track of who voted for whom, a process that helped detect attempts to manipulate the nomination process.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE SEARCH

- ▶ Law & Politics' research department also searched for outstanding Michigan lawyers by:
 - Reviewing national and local periodicals as well as legal trade journals
 - Searching professional databases and online sources
 - Conducting in-person and telephonic meetings with law firms
- ▶ This step was designed to identify practitioners who may have been missed in the nomination process, particularly highly talented lawyers in specialty areas or those with low-visibility, yet high-quality, practices.

STEP TWO: EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

- ▶ Law & Politics' research department examined the background and experience of candidates, evaluating indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement.
- ▶ Factors considered in evaluating candidates were:
 - Verdicts and settlements
 - Transactions
 - Representative clients
 - Experience
 - Honors and awards
 - Special licenses and certifications
 - Position within law firm
 - Bar and/or other professional activity
 - Pro bono and community service
 - Scholarly lectures and writings
 - Education and employment background
 - Other outstanding achievements

STEP THREE: PEER EVALUATION BY PRACTICE AREA

- ▶ Those candidates with high point totals from the nomination and qualitative evaluation steps were asked to be on a blue ribbon panel for their practice area.
- ▶ Panelists reviewed and evaluated candidates from their practice area.
- ▶ Panelists added candidates who were then passed along to research for evaluation.

FINAL SELECTION

- ▶ Law & Politics divided candidates according to their firm size: large, medium and small (size categories vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction), and selected those with the highest point totals from each category. Only 5 percent of the total lawyers in Michigan are listed in *Super Lawyers* and 2.5 percent are listed in *Rising Stars*.

BEFORE PUBLISHING

- ▶ Law & Politics' research staff checked each candidate's standing with the local licensing authority.
- ▶ Candidates were asked to aver that they have not been subject to disciplinary or criminal proceedings, and to confirm the accuracy of contact and practice area information.
- ▶ Final Internet searches were performed on each candidate to ensure there were no outstanding matters that would reflect adversely on the lawyer.

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