

Unsung Hero Award Nomination (2021) - Delicia Coleman Morson

From: [State Bar of Michigan](#)
To: _____
Subject: Unsung Hero Award
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 10:14:22 PM

Name of Nominee: *	Delicia Coleman Morson
Title:	Sr Attorney/Owner
Firm or Organization:	Cain-Taylor, Coleman, Morson and Assoc.
Address:	615 Griswold, Suite 700
Phone:	13135744607
Email:	dcain0723@aol.com
Name of Nominator: *	John F. Harris
Title:	Sr. Attorney/Owner
Firm or Organization:	Harris Law Partners
Address:	18500 Fairway Dr., Detroit, MI 48221
Phone:	313-917-6266
Email: *	harrisjohn393@gmail.com
Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.	<p>My name is John F. Harris, Esq. I am recently retired Vice President of Legal Affairs for Ford of Europe, Middle East & Africa, and CEO of Ford Global Technologies Inc. I now own the Detroit-based law firm Harris Law Partners.</p> <p>I write with honor to nominate Attorney Delicia Coleman-Morson for the 2021 State Bar of Michigan Unsung Hero Award. I have known Attorney Coleman-Morson personally and professionally for over thirty years. She is a colleague, friend, and someone whom I admire immensely. See attached ADC-M LoR.</p>

Currently Council on State Bar of Michigan Solo and Small Firm Section, Present – 2022
BWLAM Executive Board Member – Parliamentarian; Chair of Operation Good Cheer, 2020–2021
2017 – The Michigan Chronicle – Nominated top 10 "Best in Black" Lawyers in Detroit
DPS – 2014–2019 Career Day Participation Award
Mentor Midnight Golf Program 2014– Present – Mentoring High School Seniors in preparation for College, social skills and teaching the game of golf.
Minerva Education Development Fund Board of Trustee 2020–2022 (Delta Sigma Theta)
2021 MCCE Mock Trial Volunteer (Washtenaw, Oakland and Wayne) Regional Tournament

Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs). Feel free to include any hyperlinks to these stories, if they are still online.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2243228135908575&id=100006642317516
3/24/18 Moderator BWLAM "Flint Water- Where do we go from here"
8/20 SADO Criminal Defense Newsletter- Member Spotlight

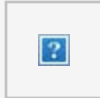
State date/page and media e.g.
12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"

Attach Document (Optional)



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My name is John F. Harris, Esq. I am recently retired Vice President of Legal Affairs for Ford of Europe, Middle East & Africa, and CEO of Ford Global Technologies Inc. I now own the Detroit-based law firm Harris Law Partners.

I write with honor to nominate Attorney Delicia Coleman-Morson for the 2021 State Bar of Michigan Unsung Hero Award. I have known Attorney Coleman-Morson personally and professionally for over thirty years. She is a colleague, friend, and someone whom I admire immensely.

Former President of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is quoted as saying, "[t]here are two kinds of heroes. Heroes who shine in the face of great adversity, who perform an amazing feat in a difficult situation. And heroes who live among us, who do their work unceremoniously, unnoticed by many of us, but who make a difference in the lives of others". This quote perfectly captures the essence of Attorney Delicia Coleman-Morson and how she lives her life. In service of others, in the pursuit of justice without seeking fanfare or acclaim.

In addition to being a great parent, foster parent, Godparent and wife, Attorney Delicia Coleman-Morson demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the practice of law, to being a tireless advocate for the voiceless and the underserved, to providing *Pro Bono* services to the poor, and a passionate supporter of her community. Attorney Coleman-Morson is intelligent, conscientious, and sincere. She models integrity, and her peers often refer to her as their "Pitbull for justice". She exudes confidence and has a vivid, outgoing, and friendly personality that allows her to get along with others very well in any setting. She is a regular mentor for high-school students in the transformative program called the Midnight Golf Program and always available to mentor new attorneys to the practice of Criminal law.

Attorney Coleman-Morson is a gifted lawyer. She is a fine writer and researcher who is able to process large volumes of information quickly and formulate an effective strategy for each case she evaluates. She is a gifted public speaker. She not only represents her clients in court with skill and professionalism but maintains an active public speaking calendar ranging from local churches to non-profit organizations. Her voice is respected in Michigan on a wide range of legal and social topics for its passion, objectivity, and clarity.

Attorney Coleman-Morson is committed and passionate about making the world a better place through her practice with a laser focused on *Pro Bono*. Her focus on *Pro Bono* began early in her practice looking for opportunities to simultaneously give back and develop her litigation skills. Attorney Coleman-Morson has been a tireless advocate in Detroit, Wayne County and throughout Michigan for citizens who are underserved and voiceless in the following five areas:

1. Protecting civil rights and liberties. Her commitment to protecting the civil rights of underserved groups encompasses the work she does providing free legal counsel to prisoners and those impacted by the criminal justice system and continues to be a fundamental part of her *Pro Bono* practice;
2. Reforming the criminal justice system. Even as the U.S. Constitution enshrines justice for all, the systems, and practices of the courts can discriminate against poor, minority, or disabled Americans, depriving them of their rights. Over her remarkable career, Attorney Coleman-Morson has secured major victories on behalf of vulnerable communities as part of an ongoing effort to help reform the criminal justice system; She has provided pro bono assistance to the "Bail Project" in Detroit in representing

those that could not afford cash bail in Detroit Metropolitan Area.

3. Supporting prisoners' rights. Attorney Coleman-Morson believes that everyone deserves equal and just treatment under the law and supporting prisoners' rights is an important pillar of her practice. Through litigation, advocacy, and partnerships with public interest organizations, she has fought tirelessly to reduce the number of people who are incarcerated and to preserve the rights of those currently or formerly in prison. Recently fighting tirelessly to get a client mistakenly sent to prison, when he reported to MDOC for probation on a misdemeanor charge.
4. Decriminalize homelessness. Attorney Coleman-Morson's work supporting the homeless has centered around providing transactional support to organizations devoted to serving homeless and low-income individuals, like Detroit Association of Black Organizations ("DABO"), a nonprofit that supports eradicating homelessness on all levels; and
5. Fighting for civil rights and social justice for the LGBTQ+ community remains a cornerstone of practice. Attorney Coleman-Morson has a long history of supporting LGBTQ+ rights, including representing individuals, undertaking a number of initiatives that take aim against institutional discrimination.

Perhaps most remarkable of all her "unsung" but critically important accomplishments is that Attorney Coleman-Morson is a wonderful parent, foster parent, and Godparent. Before she had her two biological children, Attorney Coleman-Morson was a foster parent to two African American teenagers, Emory, and David. Both from the inner city, who, without her love, guidance and support could very well have become just two other examples of lives unfulfilled because of the lack of a

stable home and a loving parent. But, because of her unwavering support and tutelage, you will not find two harder working, contributing fathers and members of the Detroit community than Emory and David.

I spoke with Emory and David about their time living with Attorney Coleman-Morson, and here is what they said (and I paraphrase for brevity): "Delicia honestly is the kindest, most giving person I have ever come across in my time on this planet. I'm sure you have heard the expression, "You can't choose your family." Well, if [we] could have chosen anyone as our mother, it would have been Delicia". Emory and David recognize that they were incredibly lucky and incredibly loved. People like Attorney Coleman-Morson are who make the foster parent system worthwhile.

Most people talk about problems that plague our communities, Attorney Coleman-Morson takes action and makes a difference. In a word, she is transformational. A transformational lawyer, parent, community leader and tireless advocate for the voiceless. I enthusiastically and unreservedly recommend Attorney Delicia Coleman-Morson for the 2021 State Bar of Michigan Unsung Hero Award.

With warm personal regards,

/s/John F. Harris

John F. Harris

Harris Law Partners

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With warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JFH".

John F. Harris

Harris Law Partners

DELICIA ANTOINETTE COLEMAN-MORSON

(313) 574-4607

Email: Dtaylorcoleman@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
Detroit, MI
Juris Doctorate .June 1994

University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Bachelor of Arts .August 1990

LEGAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

1991 .1993 Student Bar Association, Class President
1992 Wolverine Bar Association .Certificate of Recognition and Scholarship
1992 .1993 Elected to Moot Court Board of Directors
1994 Christian Legal Society, President; American Inns of Court, Member
1996 .Present United States District Court .Member
1996- Present State Bar Association of Michigan, Member in Good Standing
2015-2017 American Bar Association, Member in Good Standing

EMPLOYMENT

Private Practice

Cain-Taylor, Coleman, Morson and Assoc. December 2017 - Present
Law Offices of D.C. Taylor and Associates. Detroit, MI February 1997 – December 2017
Moss-Wilson, Coleman & Associates, Oak Park, MI January 2005- December 2005
Manage small firm law practice. Represent clients as Defense Counsel on retained and appointed cases for all stages of Criminal Cases including Federal, Felony and Misdemeanor cases. Also represent clients in General Practice such as Traffic, Family and Real Estate Matters including extensive Litigation experience: Specifically, extensive litigation practice.

Corporate Counsel

DMC Consultants, LLC August 2012- Present
Three Brothers Construction and AFALLC
Manage all aspects of General Business matters. Providing analysis and counsel on legal and policy issues. Advising management with respect to compliance with all applicable laws and Statutes for Construction law and Commercial transaction-related matters , Contract review.

Assistant City Attorney – Corporate Counsel

City of Ecorse, Ecorse, MI December 2005 – December 2007
Appear and Prosecute All City Misdemeanor, Ordinance and Building code, violations. Prepare and conduct bench and jury trials. Prepare witnesses, Police Officers, evidence for trial. Represent in Civil/Criminal Municipal litigation.

Staff Attorney

Misdemeanor Defender's P.C., Detroit, MI February 2002 .August 2004; Jan-Dec 2008
Misdemeanor Defenders Office, Detroit, MI April 1997-June 1998
Manage and appear for all aspects of the misdemeanor trial process. Interview clients, arraign clients, represent and appear at pretrial and at Bench or Jury trials. Supervise law students at arraignments, pre-trials and show causes or reviews.

Office Administrator, Positions

September 1994- November 1996
Contract administrative employment in various Corporations- around the Greater Metro Detroit Area Office management, and administration. Extensive communication with all levels of management. Prioritizing and managing project documentation. Respond and Manage correspondence, inquiries and project scheduling requests.
General Motors, Detroit, (New Center), MI- Office Administrator
Chrysler Historical Corporation, Detroit, MI- Office Manager,
Lakeland-Administrative Services, Troy, MI- Marketing Assistant
Comerica Bank Finance and Administration, Auburn Hills-, MI- Project Administrator

Externship and Internship

May 1992 .August 1994
Legal Assistant -University of Detroit Mercy Law Library and Prof. Urs. Laochli, Detroit,
Judicial Externship: Honorable Denise Langford-Morris, Oakland Cir. Ct.; Honorable Denise Page Hood.
Summer Associate Dykema Gossett, Grand Rapids, MI.

Of Counsel

Bail Project of Detroit (Pro Bono Legal Assistance)

Feb 2019-Present

Provide Court representation to Indigent Defendant's that have been provided Community Bail Assistance, Advising National Board about Local Legal Community Mores for Metropolitan Detroit Area.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Member of Delta Sigma Theta DAC, Board Trustee to Minerva Education Development Fund, 2020-2022, Previous Member of Mom's Club University of Detroit Jesuit High School, Moderator for Black Women Law Assoc. Michigan – Harriet Tubman – “Flint Where Do We Go From Here” Panel Discussion, Midnight Golf Mentor 2014-Present, Board of Director Serenity Services, Moot Court Instructor, Parent Volunteer - Bates Academy