

**From:** <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>  
**To:** <asmith@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>, <sjgobbo@gobbol...>  
**Date:** 3/13/2013 10:28 PM  
**Subject:** Nomination for Unsung Hero Award

A copy of this e-mail has been sent to the State Bar of Michigan and to the nominator of the award.

Name of nominee: Martin "Marty" P. Krohner (Posthumously)  
Title: Member  
Firm or Organization: SBM Representative Assembly  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Name of nominator: Stephen J. Gobbo, Esq.  
Title:  
Firm or Organization:  
Address: PO Box 24222, Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-241-9267  
Fax:  
E-mail: sjgobbo@gobbolaw.com

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Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.  
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This nomination is submitted to honor the life-long efforts of Attorney Martin Krohner (deceased). Looking back at Marty's work with the State Bar of Michigan and the Representative Assembly, and his many years as an attorney in public service, it is only fitting to consider him as an "unsung hero." He served the citizens of the State of Michigan as an assistant prosecuting attorney -- public service that oftentimes is not fully appreciated and sometimes misunderstood. Prosecutors serve as ministers of justice, having a unique responsibility well beyond obtaining a conviction. Marty served in this role for many years of his legal career until his "retirement" and transition to the private practice of law in circa 2005. Marty also willingly and frequently served the SBM. It is evident from looking at records and publications of the SBM that Marty committed his time and interest for the benefit others. The following are some of his contributions to enhance the legal profession and the justice system in Michigan:

- Standing Committee on Justice Policy, 2010-11 (and service back to 2004)
- Custodial Interrogation Recording Task Force, 2006
- Task Force on Attorney-Client Privilege
- Representative Assembly member (6th Circuit), 2007-10; re-elected in 2010 for a term ending 2013
- Standing Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice, circa 2005-2012 (Co-chair)
- Criminal Issues Initiative, circa 2011 (Co-chair); Vice-chair, back to 2007

For a clearer illustration of the scope of Marty's contributions, I refer the nominations committee to an article in the November 2008 Michigan Bar Journal entitled: "Criminal Issues Initiative: Toward Bridging the Civil-Criminal Divide." See pages 19-22. At least one of the issues discussed in this article, and while Marty served in a leadership role on the Criminal Issues Initiative (as a part of a greater whole) has now come to the forefront of policy-makers in the State. That is an effective system of indigent defense.

Much of Marty's contributions were part of a larger group effort, whether it was an office, committee, task force, or a representative assembly. I am certain, except for Marty's untimely death, he would have

continued to devote considerable time and effort on the behalf of others. The reason for this conclusion is evident when you look back at his career.

I respectfully submit the nomination of Martin "Marty" Krohner as an Unsung Hero of our profession.

Sincerely,  
/s/Stephen J. Gobbo, Esq.

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Please provide a complete resume that includes dates of:

- Service to and on behalf of the State Bar of Michigan
- Other service to the legal profession
- Service to the public
- Any awards the nominee may have received

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See above.

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Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs).  
State date/page and media e.g. 12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"

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Please provide a letter written by the nominator explaining why the nominee should be considered for the award. The letter should be signed by the nominator and any additional supporters. One dated and signed letter is required, it can be e-mailed to Anne Smith at [asmith@mail.michbar.org](mailto:asmith@mail.michbar.org), faxed to her attention at (517) 372-2410, or sent by mail. Please note in your communication the name of the award and the nominee's name.

Ms. Anne Smith  
Representative Assembly Awards  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933-2012  
Phone: (517) 346-6374

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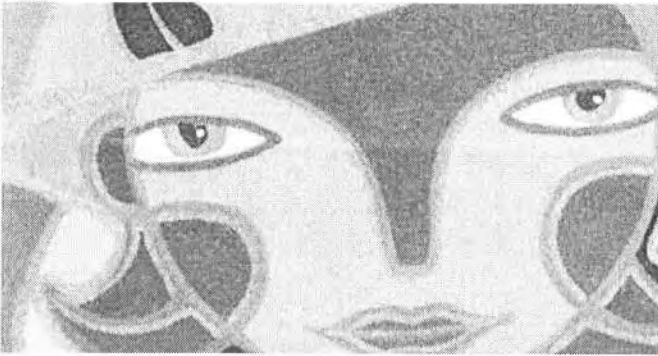


## Toward Bridging the Civil-Criminal Divide

Establishing the State Bar Criminal Issues Initiative

By Linda K. Rexer and Anne M. Vragman

Roosevelt Smith wanted to go back to school to become a nurse, but the nursing school rejected him because Michigan law bars persons with criminal records from joining the profession. Years earlier, police had stopped him for a traffic violation and found a duffel bag containing a gun in the back seat of his truck. Though Roosevelt had a permit to own the gun, this was not a legal way to carry it (he had moved the duffel bag from its usual place earlier in the day when cleaning the truck in preparation to sell it). He pled no contest to carrying a concealed weapon and served two years' probation. Despite a nursing shortage and Roosevelt's excellent grades, the school was prohibited by law from evaluating his credentials and aptitude for such work. The statute simply prohibits those with criminal records from becoming nurses.<sup>1</sup>



### The Intersection of Civil and Criminal

Stories like Roosevelt Smith's are all too common. When those charged with crimes (and sometimes their lawyers) are unaware of the civil ramifications of a conviction, the collateral consequences are often more severe than the sentence imposed by the court. For some clients, the conviction imposes a life sentence of barriers to employment, education, housing, government benefits, and lawful citizenship. These collateral consequences often feed a downward spiral that spawns recidivism.

With a national focus on crime in the 1990s, large numbers of people came into the criminal justice system. (Some estimate that more than 1.3 million persons have felony records in Michigan.) Criminal defense offices faced with burgeoning caseloads and very limited resources typically could not address their clients' noncriminal matters beyond the "core mission" of criminal defense. At the same time, funding for civil legal aid to low-income persons was cut drastically, and restrictions on services for prisoners by the Legal Services Corporation resulted in many providers not being able to serve the civil needs of criminal offenders. People with overlapping criminal and civil legal issues were left without adequate assistance that encompassed a broader view of their legal and social needs. More people began to recognize the complexities facing those who make valiant efforts to become productive in society rather than return to prison.

Several partnerships were forged to address these issues. The Michigan Prison Reentry Initiative (MPRI)<sup>2</sup> seeks to equip those released from prison with "the tools needed to succeed in the community" because "successful re-entry [has] great benefits to the community including improved public safety, a tremendous cost savings by reducing the chances for recidivism, and the long-term reintegration of the former prisoner."

Some civil legal aid programs, including Legal Aid of Western Michigan, have also obtained funding to help ex-offenders or those charged with a crime with civil legal matters to facilitate their success in society. For example, selling a car before entering prison helps an ex-offender avoid being burdened with so much

debt that he or she cannot subsist on wages earned from a job obtained after release. Establishing a guardianship can help children get needed care until they are reunited with a parent.

These providers were instrumental in posting information on the Internet to educate clients, lawyers, and others about overlapping civil and criminal issues. See [reentry.mplp.org](http://reentry.mplp.org).

Fortunately, some of the people involved in the MPRI, legal aid, indigent criminal defense, and other arenas encountering these issues were also part of the State Bar Committee on Justice Initiatives (CJI). The CJI had gone through an overall planning process in which discussions highlighted the growing importance of bridging the civil-criminal divide. In 2005 in response to a recommendation of the CJI planning process, Judge Cynthia Stephens, CJI chair, appointed the Criminal Issues Workgroup (CIW) to consider whether the CJI, which had traditionally focused its work on indigent civil legal aid, should expand its work to address criminal issues.

The CJI recognized that to truly address the complex issues that had been raised, the solutions had to come from the collaboration of many stakeholders—some within the justice system and others within the human services community. The appointed CIW represented the viewpoints of public schools, prisons, immigration lawyers, public defenders, prosecutors, juvenile judges, appellate judges, court administrators, family services, civil legal services, and criminal defense attorneys. We were privileged to serve as chair (Linda Rexer) and consultant (Anne Vrooman) of this talented group.

Using a consensus model for decision-making, the CIW quickly moved beyond its main charge—considering whether a new civil-criminal initiative should be formed—to a much deeper discussion of issues at the intersection of criminal and civil matters and how to address them in a multidisciplinary and holistic manner. The resulting proposals truly embodied the principle of collaboration; the final product was indeed greater than the sum of its parts.

### Establishing the State Bar Criminal Issues Initiative

In recommending that a Criminal Issues Initiative (CII) become part of the work of the Committee on Justice Initiatives, the CIW selected two areas of focus: (1) promoting a better understanding of the intersection of civil and criminal issues, as previously highlighted; and (2) the representation of indigent defendants, which is relevant to the collateral consequences topic because criminal defense attorneys who are knowledgeable about the civil consequences of specific crimes can produce better results for their clients through case-handling strategies and linking defendants to other community resources. Additionally, the CIW identified the importance of good representation in all aspects of indigent defense: a statewide system for providing effective indigent defense, standards related to the quality of representation, mandatory training for criminal defense attorneys and the provision of tools to



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assist in key areas, and identifying data that should be collected to help evaluate and improve the system. The new CII would define its efforts and projects with these representation needs in mind as well as the related collateral consequences issues.

The CIW used the following key principles to guide its work:

- Many unmet legal needs and systemic problems in the criminal arena have severe consequences for individuals and the justice system.
- Civil and criminal issues are inextricably intertwined.
- Problems should be addressed in a more holistic way, through coordination and integration of services and training among multidisciplinary stakeholders.
- The needs in this area will remain great and the population who cannot afford to pay for legal assistance will continue to grow.
- Resources are likely to be flat or constricted.
- The State Bar of Michigan, as a justice system leader, should work on these issues through an entity of the State Bar that provides leadership and allows for multidisciplinary participation.

The CIW identified the following goals:

- Educate justice system stakeholders about civil collateral consequences of convictions and share data and research on the impact of these consequences.
- Address issues through multidisciplinary collaboration; increase capacities of communities to provide services and promote greater integration between components of the system.
- Promote a statewide indigent criminal defense system to provide competent and fair representation of indigent defendants.

### Members of the Criminal Issues Initiative, 2007-2008

**Frank D. Eaman, Chair**

Attorney, Frank D. Eaman PLLC

**Martin P. Krohner, Vice Chair**

Attorney, Law Office of Martin Krohner PLC

**Miriam J. Aukerman**

Reentry Law Project, Legal Aid of Western Michigan

**Sheila Spalding Blakney**

Senior Assistant Public Defender, Washtenaw County  
Office of Public Defender

**Hon. Patrick C. Bowler**

Judge, 61st District Court

**Caridad Pastor Cardinale**

Attorney, Pastor & Associates PC

**Hon. Alton T. Davis**

Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

**Anthony A. Derezinski**

Director of Government Relations, Michigan Association  
of School Boards, Retired

**Stuart J. Dunning III**

Ingham County Prosecutor

**Martin D. Glista**

Attorney, Glenn D. Steeg & Associates PC

**Laura M. Graham**

Assistant Public Defender, Washtenaw County

**Rodrick K. Green**

Attorney, Law Office of Rodrick K. Green

**David C. Koelsch**

Director, Immigration Law Clinic, University of Detroit Mercy

**Hon. Mabel Mayfield**

Judge, Berrien County Probate Court

**Sharon McPhail**

General Counsel, City of Detroit

**Nelson P. Miller**

Associate Dean/Associate Professor, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**James R. Neuhard**

Director, State Appellate Defender Office

**Valerie R. Newman**

Assistant Defender, State Appellate Defender Office

**Linda K. Rexer**

Executive Director, Michigan State Bar Foundation

**Frank H. Reynolds**

Partner, The Reynolds Law Firm PC

**Hon. William G. Schma**

Circuit Court Judge, Retired

**Hon. Angela Kay Sherigan**

Associate Judge, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

**Regina Daniels Thomas**

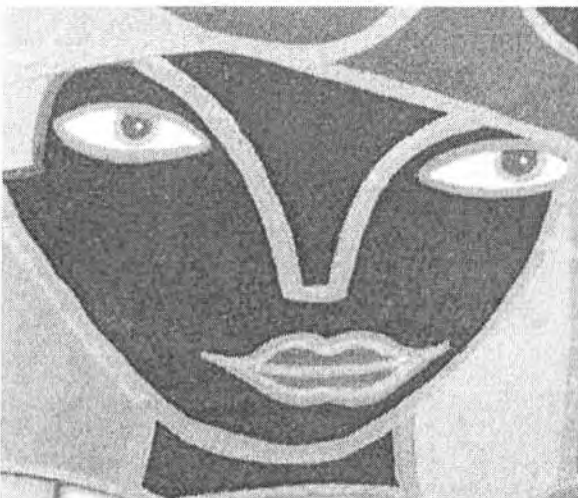
Chief Counsel, Legal Aid & Defender Association Juvenile Law Group

**Serah E. Wiedenhoefer**

Attorney, Private Practice

**Kym Worthy**

Wayne County Prosecutor



- Develop and promote standards for criminal indigent defense systems and for ensuring that the collateral consequences of criminal convictions are understood and disclosed to relevant justice system stakeholders.
- Develop and conduct research on indigent defense systems to identify and evaluate current practices, best practices, and model systems.
- Develop and promote training and education for attorneys handling specific case types.
- Develop and propose systemic methods and tools to provide information and guidance related to collateral consequences that can be used by stakeholders at all stages of the criminal justice and post-release processes.
- Identify areas for policy consideration.

The themes resonated with the overall CJI and the State Bar Board of Commissioners, and the Criminal Issues Initiative was born. Frank Eaman was appointed the CII's inaugural chair and quickly led the group to an impressive and concrete list of projects to realize the above goals. See sidebar for a list of CII members. For information about the CII and its current projects, visit [www.michbar.org/programs/criminalissues.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/programs/criminalissues.cfm).

### Conclusion—Collaboration is Key

The model for an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach is not new. Universities and the private sector have led the way in recognizing the value of many stakeholders working together to address complex issues, increasing mutual understanding and working with shared responsibility. Collaboration shifts the focus from competition between entities to building consensus among them, and from short-term fixes to long-term solutions.

Our criminal justice system does not easily lend itself to collaboration. Typically, in both the adult and juvenile systems, cases end at sentencing or adjudication, with little attention given to what comes next and how one action affects another. But a growing movement recognizes that the larger social issues of juve-

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nile crime, domestic violence, and prisoner assimilation require new dynamics between our institutions. Partnerships with multiple stakeholders, including those outside the criminal justice system, are becoming more frequent as a strategy to address those issues.

Collaboration in the justice system has great potential as the framework to create long-term solutions to the challenging issues confronting our communities. However, it must go well beyond networking and cooperating—it must have at its core the shared desire to work together to achieve a common goal that could not be achieved without the efforts of others. This is challenging work, but the difficulties should not deter us from expanding our efforts. The State Bar Criminal Issues Initiative is a collaboration we can all be proud of and learn much from. Not only are its efforts already moving toward improving our indigent defense system and helping ex-offenders reenter society as productive citizens, but the ongoing involvement in CII of leaders from many parts of the justice system and many other disciplines will no doubt deepen and expand the partnerships needed to make a difference in the future. ■

*Linda K. Rexer, JD, has been executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation since 1987. The Foundation makes \$10 million in grants annually for civil legal aid and other charitable purposes. Ms. Rexer serves on the ABA's Commission on IOLTA and the State Bar Justice Initiatives Committee. She was president of the National Association of IOLTA Programs and received the 2005 Michael Franck Award from the State Bar Representative Assembly.*

*Anne M. Vrooman is director of research and development at the State Bar of Michigan. Before joining the State Bar, she was the director of intergovernmental relations for the Michigan Supreme Court.*

### FOOTNOTES

1. Adapted from Gerritt, *Minor Convictions Shouldn't Turn Into Life Sentences*, Detroit Free Press, February 23, 2007, available at [http://reentry.mplp.org/reentry/index.php/Minor\\_Convictions\\_Shouldn%27t\\_Turn\\_Into\\_Life\\_Sentences](http://reentry.mplp.org/reentry/index.php/Minor_Convictions_Shouldn%27t_Turn_Into_Life_Sentences) [accessed October 13, 2008].
2. Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative <http://www.michpri.com> [accessed October 13, 2008]. The MPRI is a statewide collaborative effort administered through a public and private partnership, including the Department of Corrections, Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Department of Community Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Education, Public Policy Associates, and the Michigan Council on Crime & Delinquency.



STATE OF MICHIGAN



THE CIRCUIT COURT

8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IONIA AND MONTCALM COUNTIES

DAVID A. HOORT  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

March 21, 2013

TRACY SZYMANSKI  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
STANTON (989) 831-7343  
IONIA (616) 527-5336

BEVERLY LESTER  
COURT REPORTER  
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Anne M. Smith  
Executive Office  
State Bar of Michigan  
Michael Franck Building  
306 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Michael Franck Award

Dear Ms. Smith:

It is my understanding that Marty Krohner has been nominated for the Michael Franck Award. The purpose of this letter is to add my support for his recognition. The Criminal Law Section Council has also voted unanimously to support his nomination.

I was fortunate to meet Marty as a member of the Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice committee when he and Valerie Newman chaired the committee. Both Val and Marty led by example and dedication to the cause of justice. It was my first SBM committee and I was lucky to have them as my chairs.

I next had the pleasure to serve with Marty on the Criminal Law Section when he returned to the Council; and again appreciated his knowledge, sense of humor, compassion and dedication. Ironically, shortly before he died we sat next to each other at a council meeting and, again, just talked. When the news came of his death, we were just in the process of setting up a 'reunion' of CJ&P chairs to say good bye to Elizabeth as she was beginning her next life in Washington, D.C.

Marty was a lawyer's lawyer; and one of the truly good ones, personally and professionally. I will always remember the stories at Marty's funeral, and the kindness he always showed to me, and just what a good person and lawyer he truly was. In today's world I don't have a whole lot of heroes, but I am proud to say he was a hero to me. I really looked up to him and appreciated what he stood for and what he did as a lawyer and a person.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. If not, thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Hoort".

David Hoort