
Education/Licenses

State Bar of Michigan

Member

May 2016 – Present

University of Michigan School of Law

Juris Doctor

Ann Arbor, MI

December 2015

- Michigan Law Review—*Executive Editor of Michigan Law Review Online*

Loyola Marymount UniversityB.A. *magna cum laude* triple major Film Production, Political Science, and Asian Pacific Studies

Los Angeles, CA

May 2010

- Studied abroad in Beijing, China at the University of International Business and Economics in Fall 2008

Experience

Michigan State University College of Law*Director, Housing Justice Clinic*

East Lansing, MI

July 2025 – Present

- Direct the Housing Justice Clinic at Michigan State University College of Law, overseeing clinic design, curriculum, docket strategy, and community partnerships.
- Teach and supervise law students in full-scope representation of homeowners and tenants, including deed fraud, property tax appeals, and housing-related litigation and advocacy.
- Developed a multi-track clinical model integrating individual client representation, community-based advocacy projects, and impact litigation.
- Design and teach a weekly clinical seminar integrating substantive housing law, litigation skills, professional responsibility, and systemic reform.
- Provide intensive, individualized supervision and mentoring to student attorneys, emphasizing professional judgment, ethical lawyering, and client-centered advocacy.
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary partners on applied projects, including development of an AI tool to support legal services providers in housing and eviction-related matters.
- Engage with policymakers, courts, and community stakeholders on housing law reform, including deed fraud prevention and homeowner protection.

Detroit Justice Center*Staff Attorney*

Detroit, MI

May 2022 – June 2025

Interim Managing Attorney

February 2024 – May 2024

- Work with residents and community organizations to understand their legal needs and support their work.
- Research and draft memoranda, papers, ordinances, and legislation as part of litigation and policy reform efforts.
- Provide legal counsel and representation to clients in district and circuit courts throughout Southeast Michigan on matters related to landlord-tenant, traffic, and family law.
- Participate in workshops counseling clients on a range of topics, including housing law, expungement, and driver's license restoration.

Wayne State University Law School*Adjunct Professor*

Detroit, MI

January 2023-June 2023

- Taught Movement Law course about the history of movements in the United States and how attorneys can respectfully work with community organizations to advance their goals.

United Community Housing Coalition/Michigan Legal Services**Detroit, MI***Supervising Attorney*

March 2020 – May 2022

Staff Attorney

December 2018 – February 2020

- Managed a docket of over 200 cases, providing legal counsel and representation to clients facing eviction at trial and appellate levels.
- Worked with private counsel in federal and state putative class action cases challenging deceptive practices in leases with options and land contracts.
- Supervised a team of six staff attorneys by offering training and guidance and addressing staffing and personnel issues.

DoCo Productions, LLC**Detroit, MI***Owner*

May 2010 – Present

- Develop and produce content in partnership with Michigan Community Resources, the Michigan State Bar Foundation, the Skadden Foundation, and Detroit Justice Center that makes the law more accessible, including video series about entity formation, bankruptcy, leasing, and community land trusts.
- Produce and direct a documentary about the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court case *Milliken v. Bradley*.

Miller, Canfield, Paddock, & Stone, PLC**Detroit, MI***Associate*

September 2016 – November 2018

Summer Associate

May 2015 – August 2015

- Member of the firm's Public Finance, Renewable Energy Finance, and Automated Vehicle Practice Groups.
- Drafted agreements, opinions, resolutions, orders, and other documents required to finalize municipal financing arrangements, including the financing of the Little Caesar's Arena.
- Researched and drafted memoranda and proposed legislation regarding issues of public law.
- Counseled small businesses, startups, and non-profits on a range of issues, including entity formation, corporate governance, employment law, real estate law, and intellectual property law.
- Member of the Pro Bono Committee and 2016, 2017, and 2018 recipient of the "Pro Bono Champion Award" in recognition of providing over 200 hours of pro bono service each year.

Hon. George Caram Steeh, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan**Detroit, MI***Law Clerk*

February 2016 – August 2016

Judicial Intern

May 2014 – July 2014

- Managed a civil and criminal docket.
- Reviewed briefs, researched arguments, and drafted bench memoranda, orders, and opinions.

Square One Shopping Centre Santa Photo Program**Mississauga, ON Canada***Founder and Managing Director*

August 2010 – December 2012

- Oversaw \$180,000 in sales each year over the course of the two-month season.
- Hired, trained, and managed a thirty-person team while resolving mall management and clientele concerns.

Community Involvement

Clark Park Coalition**Detroit, MI***Board Member*

November 2023 – Present

National Lawyers Guild Detroit and Michigan Chapter**Detroit, MI***Board Member*

January 2023 – Present

Regional Transit Authority Citizens Advisory Committee
Member

Detroit, MI
January 2017 – December 2018

Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES)
Organizer and Co-Chair of the Transportation Task Force

Detroit, MI
October 2011 – June 2013

Publications

Donovan McCarty, et al, *Community Land Trust Manual: Legal Considerations for 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organizations*, STATE BAR FOUNDATION and MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES (2017).

Donovan McCarty, et al, *Community Land Trust Toolkit*, MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES and DETROIT JUSTICE CENTER (2018) (drafted printed toolkit and produced, filmed, and edited three video supplements for toolkit).

Donovan McCarty, et al, *Business Closure Toolkit*, JP MORGAN CHASE & CO, MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES, and MILLER CANFIELD, <https://mi-community.org/small-business-resources> (2019) (drafted printed toolkit and produced, filmed, and edited three video supplements for toolkit).

Works in Progress

Donovan McCarty, *Victim-Centered Solution to Deed Fraud*.

Donovan McCarty & Allyson Putt, *Report on Developing Social Housing in Detroit*.

Donovan McCarty, *Who's Using It Matters: A User-Based Framework for Legal AI*.

Selected Other Documents

Donovan McCarty, *Explanation of Michigan Housing Law* (guide for tenants and community organizers to common claims that can be brought against landlords for illegal housing conditions).

Presentations

National Endowment for the Humanities, Democracy and Education: A View from Detroit, *Housing Segregation's Role in Milliken v. Bradley*, Detroit, MI, July 23, 2024.

News and Media

Erin Einhorn & Aaron Mondry, *The 'Fake Landlord' Scam Destroys Lives in Detroit. But Culprits Rarely Face Consequences*, NBC NEWS (Nov. 10, 2021), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/fake-landlord-home-rental-scam-detroit-rcna4941>

Aaron Mondry, *Detroit Police Department's Squatters Action Team Receiving Increased Scrutiny*, OUTLIER MEDIA (Oct. 19, 2022), <https://outliermedia.org/detroit-police-evictions-squatters-action-team/>.

Aaron Mondry, *Their Landlord Made Them Feel Unsafe. The Only Option Was to Leave*, OUTLIER MEDIA (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://outliermedia.org/jeff-cowin-detroit-landlord-virginia-park-tenants/>.

Demetrios Sanders, *Deadline Approaching for Detroiters to Claim Tax Foreclosure Proceeds*, WXYZ (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeg1o2JXRGM>.

Aaron Mondry, *Detroit Slumlord Lawsuits Dropped Against Hagerman & Kelly* (May 28, 2025), OUTLIER MEDIA, <https://outliermedia.org/detroit-slumlord-lawsuits-dropped-hagerman-kelly/>.

Koby Levin, *Wayne County is 'No Help at All' to Detroiters Claiming Auction Profits*, OUTLIER MEDIA (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://outliermedia.org/wayne-county-auction-profits-file-motion-sabree/>.

Steve Neavling, *Tenants Rush to Court as Leland House in Detroit Faces Potential March Auction*, Detroit Metro Times (Jan. 28, 2026), <https://www.metrotimes.com/news/metro-detroit-news/tenants-rush-to-court-as-leland-house-in-detroit-faces-potential-march-auction/>.

Julia Cardi, *Leland House Residents Want to Live in Building Again*, Detroit News (Jan. 30, 2026), <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2026/01/30/leland-house-residents-want-to-live-in-building-again/88430669007/>.

Steve Neavling, *Judge Raises Concerns That Leland House Tenants in Detroit Were Excluded From Bankruptcy Case*, Detroit Metro Times (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://www.metrotimes.com/news/metro-detroit-news/judge-raises-concerns-that-leland-house-tenants-in-detroit-were-excluded-from-bankruptcy-case/>.

Simon Shaykhet, *Deed Fraud Crisis Has Homeowners Finding Their Property Is Gone When It's Too Late*, WXYZ (February 3, 2026), <https://www.wxyz.com/news/region/detroit/deed-fraud-crisis-has-homeowners-finding-their-property-is-gone-when-its-too-late>.

Amanda LeClaire, *Judge Halts March Sale of Leland House, Giving Displaced Tenants Hope*, WDET (Feb. 10, 2026) <https://wdet.org/2026/02/10/judge-halts-march-sale-of-leland-house-giving-displaced-tenants-hope/>.
