

Hon. Michelle Rick  
Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

The Honorable Michelle Rick was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals in November 2020 and began her term of service representing the 4th Judicial District in January 2021. Judge Rick served as a trial judge on the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court from 2007–2020. Before that, Judge Rick worked primarily in public service as a prosecutor, a senior assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan, and as deputy legal counsel to Michigan’s Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

Judge Rick is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She is currently serving as President of the National Association of Women Judges. She is a former president of the Michigan Judges Association. Judge Rick serves as an advisor to the Rural Justice Collaborative Advisory Council. She has served as a member of numerous state committees, including the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Council, the Human Trafficking Commission, the Limited-Scope Representation Workgroup, the State Planning Commission, the Limited English Proficiency Steering Committee, the Affordable Legal Services Committee, and the State Bar of Michigan Corrections and Prisons Section.

In 2015, the Women Lawyers Association of Mid-Michigan awarded Judge Rick the Carolyn A. Stell Award. In January 2019, the Michigan Supreme Court recognized Judge Rick as a judge who gives back and makes a difference. In 2020, the State Bar of Michigan awarded Judge Rick and select University of Detroit Mercy School of Law faculty and students the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award. The award was given for creating and executing “Project Access,” a traveling expungement clinic that brought expungement relief to six rural communities in Michigan’s northern Lower Peninsula. In 2022, the National Association of Women Judges awarded Judge Rick the Vaino Spencer Award for outstanding leadership in promoting the vision, core values and mission of NAWJ.

Judge Rick teaches Access to Justice at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and she is a Michigan State Bar Foundation Fellow and an American Bar Foundation Fellow. Judge Rick is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer at various statewide and local law-related events.