

Ethics in the Courtroom

Join us as we discuss the ethical considerations that arise in the courtroom. This ethics presentation reviews a variety of hearings heard in the courtroom – and how those hearing have ethical implications. This overview starts with when a case first begins, and discusses recusals and case assignments, bond hearings, plea hearing, and pretrial hearings. The review then moves and discusses the stages of a trial and ethical pitfalls to avoid. The stages include voir dire, opening arguments, parties' presentation of evidence, jury instructions, verdict and finally sentencing. This overview also discusses ethical duties related to bench trials. Given how expansive this overview is, participants will be able to gain valuable insights in navigating the ethical duties related to hearings and trials in the courtroom. From this session, the following will be discussed:

- Ethical issues facing judges and practitioners in the courtroom.
- A review of judicial canons and attorneys' professional rules.
- An overview of what "ethical minefields" to avoid when presiding on the bench.
- The importance of temperament on the bench, and ways to ensure a calm courtroom.

Panelists:



Hon. Miriam Perry

The Hon. Miriam A. Perry was appointed to the 15th Judicial District Court bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on December 16, 2020. In November of 2022, she was elected to her term ending on December 31, 2028. She was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve as the Chief Judge in 2026. Judge Perry received her Bachelor of Arts in

Economics from Spelman College and Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. Based on the recommendation from mentors, she became a member of NAWJ in 2021. Judge Perry has served on the membership, strategic planning, and the Detroit annual meeting education committee. Currently, Judge Perry serves as a co- District 7 Director.

Hon. Rachel Pickering