

**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 from 2007–2020 for the 29th Circuit Court, comprising Clinton and Gratiot Counties. Before that, Judge Rick worked briefly as a private practitioner before transitioning to a career in public service. That service included working as an assistant prosecutor, as 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 a member of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Justice Frank Murphy Honor Society. Judge Rick is a former district director for the National Association of Women Judges and current Vice President of District Directors. She is the president of the Michigan Judges Association and a member of the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Council. Judge Rick has served as a member of the State Bar of Michigan Limited-Scope Representation Workgroup and to the State Bar of Michigan Affordable Legal Services Committee. Judge Rick is a committee member of the State Bar of Michigan Corrections and Prisons Section and the State Bar’s Judicial Council.

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 courses concerning 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. Judge Rick is married to her college sweetheart, Matthew, and they have 4 adult children.