ABOUT THE
AUTHOR

James F. Graves
jimgraves@sinasdramis.com

James F. Graves has served as President of the Ingham County Bar Association and the Ingham County Bar Foundation. He is also a past Regional Chair of the State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice Fund and a past member of the State Bar Judicial Qualifications Committee.

What is an ICBF Fellow?

Fellowship in the Ingham County Bar Foundation mirrors in some respects, on a local level, the State Bar Foundation Fellows Program. Membership as a Fellow in the ICBF is limited to no more than 5 percent of the active attorneys in the Tri-County Area.

To be eligible for election to ICBF Fellowship, one must be a member of the State Bar of Michigan for a minimum of five years, be actively engaged in the practice of law in the Tri-County Area (Ingham, Eaton, Clinton), possess outstanding character and ethics, and have a reputation as a leader in the legal community. Practicing attorneys and judges are eligible for election.
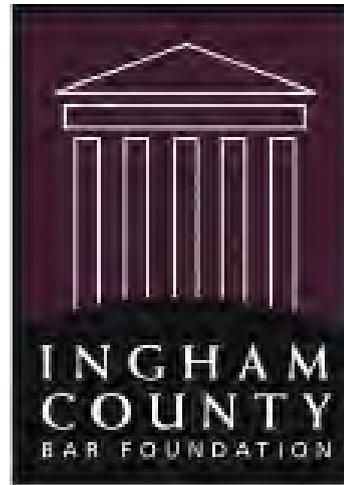
Each year a limited number of candidates are nominated for Fellowship by current Fellows. The nominees are then elected by the ICBF Board of Directors to Fellowship.

The number of ICBF Fellows has grown over the past several years. Currently there are 49 Fellows. Distinguished practitioners, Bar leaders and District Court, Circuit Court and Appellate Court Judges comprise the ICBF Fellows membership. Annually the ICBF holds a Fellows Reception immediately preceding the ICBA Annual Dinner.

ICBF Fellows help to fulfill the important mission of the Ingham County Bar Foundation by supporting its goals with an individual financial commitment of $1,000, payable in annual installments of not less than $100.

ICBF Fellowship not only recognizes those who have excelled in gaining the respect of their peers, but it enables the ICBF to make annual grants to worthy law related organizations and to foster the honor and integrity of the profession of law.

For more information concerning the Ingham County Bar Foundation, please visit inghambar.org/foundation. ❑

ICBA accepting nominations for six Board of Directors seats

All members in good standing eligible for 2-year terms

The Ingham County Bar Association is currently accepting nominations for six open seats on its Board of Directors for the 2014-15 membership year.

These seats are for a term of two years, beginning July 1, 2014, and expiring June 30, 2016.

The ICBA is a dynamic association of attorneys that offers members an opportunity to participate in various continuing education seminars, community service projects and networking events. These activities help Ingham County lawyers adapt to their demanding profession, encourage early involvement in the legal community and build camaraderie with fellow lawyers.

Minimum Responsibilities of Board Members:
■ Attend bi-monthly board meetings (either in person or via conference call).
■ Participate in board discussions/votes by e-mail when necessary.
■ Actively participate on at least one standing committee.

Annual Events
■ Shrimp Dinner / Annual Meeting (May)
■ Annual Dinner (November)
■ Barristers Night (March)
■ Meet the Judges (January of even-numbered years)
■ Bench Bar Conference (alternating years)
■ Lawyer's Got Talent
■ Ask A Lawyer

All ICBA members in good standing are eligible to run for a position on the Board of Directors and vote in elections. Elections occur via electronic ballot sent to all dues-paid members in good standing as of the date of the election.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the ICBA Board of Directors, submit a nomination with biographical statement or resume to Madelyne Lawry at mlawry@inghambar.com.

Non-ICBA members may join before submitting nominations by visiting inghambar.org/application/index.php.

The time commitment by Board of Directors members is generally minimal; however, we do ask that the candidate have the ability to dedicate at least 2-3 hours per month (inclusive of the monthly meeting) to the ICBA.

Time commitments will vary depending on committee-specific events. ❑