

Member of the Month

Thomas E. McGovern

The MACOMB BAR Member of the Month program recognizes members for their passion for the profession of law and highlights achievements and milestones.

Thomas E. McGovern PC • Wayne State University Law School
Admitted to State Bar of Michigan, 1982
Macomb Bar Member since 1982

Office in Richmond since 1991.

Main areas of practice include the following: Estate planning, probate, real estate, business law and civil trial attorney. I used to practice “rent law”—if it paid the rent, I took it.

I was very fortunate to have had Sheila (Molly) Bucci and Eric Lundquist work with me in Richmond before they each moved on to other chapters of their legal lives.

MCBA Young Lawyer Chairman 1986 and organized the MCBA Red Wings hockey outing until it ceased.

Trustee of the Macomb County Bar Foundation since its inception.

Actively involved in the High School Mock Trial Tournament off and on for many years—originally working with SCS Lakeview HS and then Richmond HS

Former Board member and the President of the Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce.

What Why did you choose the profession of law? What sparked your passion?

I was raised in a family that valued public service and volunteerism. We were always expected to help and respect others. As a child, I always loved to read newspaper articles that included my maternal uncle, godfather and long-time MCBA member Emil Cardamone. He has always been an inspirational mentor to me.

Why did you join the Macomb Bar?

Right from the start, I joined the MCBA to meet other local attorneys and to perfect my practice. Turned out my membership provided a wonderful extra bonus. In 1984, I met my future bride, Sue (f/k/a Becker) who was Executive Secretary of the MCBA under Executive Director Judy Fleury. We’ve been happily married since 1990.



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What is the most challenging aspect of being a lawyer and how do you handle it?

Remembering that your clients' problems are not your problems personally. This was especially true when I was doing a lot of divorce, custody disputes and criminal work. I had to remember that clients' struggles were part of my professional life only. Yes, zealously represent your clients, but sleep better at night.

Any advice to law school students, young lawyers?

It must be stressed to young attorneys and law students that their reputation as someone you can trust and take at their word is everything. Dirty tricks and talking louder don't make you a better attorney. Be civil and act respectfully to other attorneys, judges and all of your clients—regardless of their status in

society. Have confidence in yourself. Seek the advice of more experienced attorneys. Get involved in the HS Mock Trial program; it's a great way to sharpen your knowledge of the Rules of Evidence and your trial skills.

Can you tell us an interesting fact about yourself that others may not know?

I've been a professional musician since 1998. Harmonica is my main instrument, but I also play steel pan and some percussion. I've toured with AirMargaritaville (a Jimmy Buffett tribute act) for 20 years, playing festivals and concert venues throughout the mid-west. I am a long-time member of The Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica (SPAH), the Blue Water Folk Society and the Richmond Community Choir. Playing music and singing helps you to never feel old.

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