

# Member of the Month

## Donald Wheaton

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

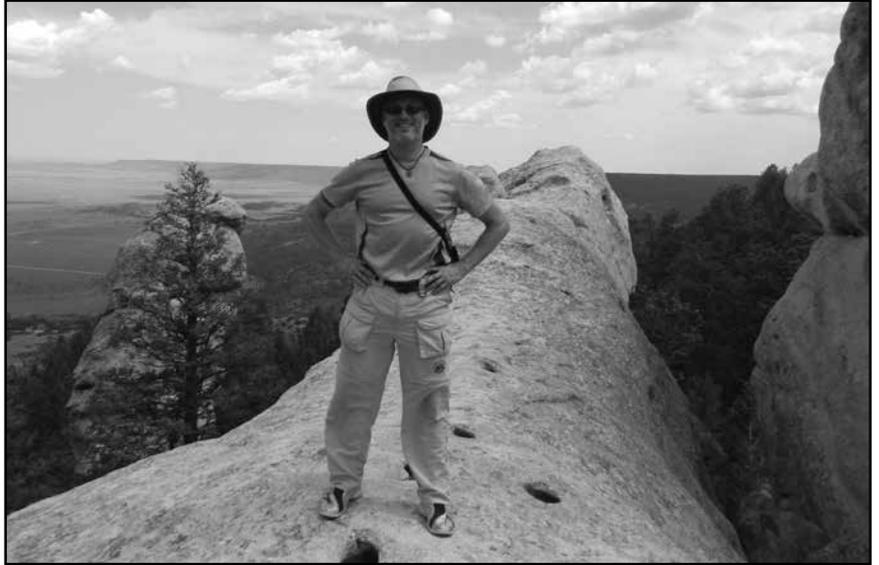
**Donald C. Wheaton Jr., P.C. • University of Michigan Law School**  
**Admitted to State Bar of Michigan, 1989**

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

I chose the law when I rejected becoming a minister; I now see that the Law was my true “calling.” The late Hon. Craigen J. Oster suggested I should become a lawyer and told me he thought I’d be a good one. I’d like to think he was right, and work towards that goal every day.

### **Why did you join the Macomb Bar?**

For the most obvious reason: getting ahead of everyone else in line at the Clerk’s Office! No, really, I joined because I had been personally lax in participating in events that promote and reinforce the Bar, and because of all the truly kind and generous practitioners in Macomb County.



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

Finding harmony – not balance, because that simply cannot be achieved – between the practice and having a life outside the law. I am gradually learning to give myself more time for me and my family, and saying “no” more often (which is very difficult for me).

### **Any advice to law school students, young lawyers?**

Find a “more seasoned” lawyer to work with/mentor you. Always be civil with your opposing counsel and the members of your profession. Don’t hide from or try to ignore bad facts/law; be up-front with the Court, acknowledge and deal with the bad stuff, and then advocate vigorously and respectfully for your clients. Learn to network properly, and do it well, so you can be reasonably assured of a steady pipeline of prospective clients.

### **What civic or community programs/organizations are you involved with?**

I’m in my 26th year of service as a Trustee of the Lakeview Public Schools in St. Clair Shores. I’ve worn many different hats in the Boy Scouts of America as a leader since 1998 (Cubmaster, Committee Chair, District Chair, Wood Badge Course Director), and am currently the Scoutmaster of Troop 1490 in St. Clair Shores; I’ve been volunteering with the St. Clair Shores Goodfellows since 2003. I was involved in the Lakeview Community Musicals from 2001-2012. I’ve been a member of the LGBTQA Law Section Council of the State Bar since 2017; and in 2018 I was elected to the State Bar Family Law Section Council.

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

I earned my varsity letter in college as a Cheerleader.

