

December 2017

# MICHIGAN Bar Journal

## Diversity in the Law

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# DIVERSITY IN THE LAW

## theme introduction

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BY GERARD V. MANTESE AND VANI G. VERKHOVSKY

*Farmers, you seek fair prices and you are right—but you cannot stand alone. Your patch is not big enough.*

...

*Women, you seek comparable worth and pay equity, you are right—but your patch is not big enough.*

...

*Blacks and Hispanics, when we fight for civil rights, we are right—but our patch is not big enough.*

...

*Gays and lesbians, when you fight against discrimination and [for] a cure for AIDS, you are right—but your patch is not big enough.*

...

*But don't despair. Be as wise as my grandmamma. Pull the patches and the pieces together, bound by a common thread.*

...

*We, the people, can win!*

The Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke these words at the July 19, 1998, Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, celebrating a strong quilt of diversity. This theme issue does the same.

The United States of America is known as a melting pot of peoples. And that pot sometimes boils over with emotions, distrust, and frustrations. But more often, our diversity strengthens and energizes us.

The following articles take an in-depth look at the issues faced by racial and ethnic minorities and transgender and gender-expansive youth, and discuss how we as legal professionals can best represent our clients and advocate for greater equality and cultural competence.

We hope these articles inspire and challenge and celebrate our amazing, empowering, mesmerizing, unending, and overflowing diversity. ■



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