

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN | ROBERTS P. HUDSON AWARD

Gerard V. Mantese



Although he is the founding partner of Mantese Honigman, PC, Gerard V. Mantese is never too busy to show support for his community, colleagues, and former students.

"I really don't know how Gerard does it all; his energy and passion are beyond compare," wrote Judge Frank Arnold in a letter supporting Mantese's nomination. "I was a student of Gerard's in the early '90s when he was an adjunct professor at UDM with a trial practice course, and I found his instruction and words of wisdom encouraging at a personal level and at a time when I needed it most, about to enter into practice of the 'real world.' Many years later, I saw him again upon my taking the bench in 2010, when he took the time out of his busy schedule to come all the way down to Monroe to offer personal congratulations. I truly believe that I am not the only former student of his that he shared in celebrating individual

growth and success over the years."

Mantese has a stellar reputation as an attorney. He and John J. Conway successfully prosecuted a class-action lawsuit in favor of autistic children that resulted in a landmark settlement in June 2009, requiring Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to reverse its policy and provide Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy for autistic children. Such therapy, previously denied because Blue Cross considered it "experimental," has been shown to be beneficial and necessary early in life.

Mantese has also served the profession and the Bar over the years. He was a voluntary hearing panelist for the Attorney Discipline Board from 1994 to 2015 and has been a member of the SBM Publications and Website Advisory Committee for 23 years.

He has dedicated hundreds of hours to working with his daughter and her school classmates to create three film projects for Law Day; each won first prize in the State Bar's annual Law Day Contest in 2012–2014. The first film was composed of a dramatization of the *Roosevelt v Newett* trial, the second a documentary about the

Korematsu v United States case, and the third focused on *United States v Sinclair*.

Mantese has published several books, including *Women Who Changed the World—The Journey and the Joy*, *Alexandra and the Amazing History Book*, and *Fabulous Fables*. He regularly donates time and money to many organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Wayne State Free Legal Aid Clinic, Care House, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, and Gleaners.

He served on the board of directors for Goodwill Industries and has devoted more than 300 pro bono hours to establishing the First Step legal advocacy project, which provides free legal advice to those who have suffered domestic violence.

"Gerard is dedicated, industrious, and skilled in the law," wrote Conway in a letter supporting Mantese's nomination. "His tenacity is tempered with compassion for the rights of people. In my interactions with Gerard, I have found him to be conscientious, precise, and dedicated to his clients. His ethical standards are not only above reproach, but also above the standards set by the Bar."



The Honorable Bernard A. Friedman

2017 Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award

Former law clerks and staff members of the Honorable Bernard A. Friedman, Senior U.S. District Court Judge, Eastern District of Michigan, congratulate him on receiving the State Bar of Michigan Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award. His exemplary legal career spans more than four decades of dedicated public service with the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Michigan's 48th District Court, and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. We are honored to have worked with you throughout your distinguished career and to celebrate this well-deserved achievement with you.