



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clyde Robinson and John Schrier to Lead Statewide Municipal Attorney Organization

Attorneys Ebony L. Duff and Steven D. Mann Elected to Board of Directors

LANSING, Michigan (Oct. 20, 2016) – The Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) has elected its president and vice president for 2016-17 and named two new officials to its Board of Directors.

The association re-elected Kalamazoo city attorney Clyde Robinson as president and Muskegon City Attorney John Schrier as vice president. The selections to one-year terms were made during the organization's Oct 13, 2016 annual meeting in Lansing. The group also elected two new members to its Board of Directors – Oak Park City Attorney Ebony L. Duff and Milan City Attorney Steven D. Mann (details below).

Robinson was re-elected president after serving the past year as president and the prior two years as MAMA vice president. Robinson has been a member of the statewide association for more than 30 years and served on the MAMA board of directors since 2002. Robinson, city attorney for Kalamazoo, has spent his entire legal career practicing municipal law. He worked for the city of Battle Creek from 1980 to 2008, first as an assistant city attorney, concentrating on ordinance prosecution; then as deputy city attorney, leading civil litigation responsibilities in state and federal trial and appellate courts; and finally as Battle Creek's city attorney starting in 1999.

In 2008 he accepted the appointment as Kalamazoo's city attorney. In addition to his long-standing involvement with MAMA, Robinson serves on the Western Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Board. He is a past president of the Calhoun County Bar Association, a former chairperson of the Public Corporation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, and a past member of the State Bar Representative Assembly. He also served for 20 years on the advisory committee for the Kellogg Community College Legal Assistant Program. He is a co-editor of *Michigan Municipal Law*, published in 2012 by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Robinson, a Kalamazoo native, is a 1976 graduate of Western Michigan University and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1979.

John Schrier was elected as MAMA vice president for a second one-year term. He has served on the MAMA Board of Directors since 2009. Schrier has been a city and village attorney for more than 20 years (Muskegon since 2002, Montague since 1993, North Muskegon since 1995, Village of Shelby since 2006 and Roosevelt Park since 2012). Prior to becoming an attorney, Schrier provided assistance to various public sector entities and worked on



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various public policy issues for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan (1978-1983) and public sector retirement issues for the Michigan House of Representatives (1983).

In addition to his involvement with MAMA, Schrier is a member of the HealthWest Board (formerly County of Muskegon Community Health); past president of the Muskegon County Bar Association; past president of the United Way of the Lakeshore; past board member of Pioneer Resources; and past president of ARC. Schrier has been designated a "Super Lawyer" in the area of State, Local & Municipal.

Schrier is a Muskegon native. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hope College (1978), a Master of Public Administration from Wayne State University (1980) and a Juris Doctorate degree from University of Detroit (1984).

In related action the Board of Directors also elected two new board members to serve three-year terms. The new board members are Ebony L. Duff, city attorney of Oak Park and shareholder with Garan Lucow Miller, P.C. in Detroit, and Steven D. Mann, city attorney of Milan and a principal at Miller Canfield in Detroit.

Duff, who specializes in municipal law, school district liability, civil rights and employment law, was named Super Lawyers "Rising Star" in 2013 and was selected as a Top Young Lawyer for 2015 by DBusiness and Hour Magazine. She also is general counsel to the Detroit Regional Convention Authority. She earned a law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 2002 and is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association and other organizations.

Mann specializes in the area of municipal finance, representing public agencies as bond counsel. His practice covers all facets of tax increment financing, special assessments, and economic development. He has also authored several amicus curiae briefs for both the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, arguing on behalf of public bodies and municipal associations in cases involving complex issues related to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act. He is a 2004 graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

About the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys: *The Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) is a chartered section of the Michigan Municipal League, which is a Michigan non-profit corporation. MAMA was established in 1935 as an affiliated organization of the League. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the member municipal attorneys. Membership consists of every city and village attorney, who represents a member of the Michigan Municipal League, their deputies and assistants, and League staff members duly admitted to practice law in the State of Michigan. Any attorney admitted to practice law in Michigan who has a substantial interest in municipal law may become an associate member upon application and approval by the Board of Directors. Any student enrolled in a recognized law school may be a law student member upon application and approval by the Board of Directors.*

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