

# Speakers Biographies



**Jennifer Owens**  
Lakeshore Advantage

Lakeshore Advantage President Jennifer Owens has helped various major business expansion and attraction projects. She has more than 15 years of leadership experience in business retention, expansion and attraction working at various state and local economic development positions throughout Michigan. In addition, Jennifer held key positions at Ann Arbor SPARK and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Her accomplishments also led her to various awards and recognition, such as being named one of the nation's Top Economic Developers Under 40 (2013) and Grand Rapids Business Journal Newsmaker of the Year Finalist (2015).



**Amy Christen**  
Dykema Gossett PLLC

Amy M. Christen practices in all areas of employee benefits law. Her experiences involve compliance and design of qualified retirement plans (including governmental defined benefit plans and health and other welfare plans (including health care reform (PPACA), cafeteria plans, severance plans, COBRA and HIPAA issues). Named a Leading Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Lawyer by *Chambers USA*, 2012-2017, Ms. Christen Named a Top Lawyer by *dbusiness Magazine* for Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, 2015-2017



**Lawrence Patrick Nolan**  
President  
State Bar of Michigan

Lawrence P. Nolan, of Eaton Rapids, is the 82nd president of the State Bar of Michigan. Nolan is the founder and president of Nolan, Thomsen & Villas in Eaton Rapids, where he focuses his practice on personal injury, wrongful death, criminal, probate, domestic relations, estate planning and real estate law. He received his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University, and he earned his juris doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He has been a leader in State Bar local and county bar association work for more than a decade.



**Kathryn L. Loomis**  
**Reporter of Decisions**  
**Michigan Supreme Court**

Kathryn Loomis was appointed to the position of Reporter of Decisions by the Michigan Supreme Court in October 2016. She is the first woman to hold the post since its creation in 1838. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Loomis served as a legal editor in the Office of the Reporter of Decisions, and she has extensive experience in legal research and writing. Ms. Loomis received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Wayne State University Law School. When she isn't fretting over comma placement, she enjoys playing sports, camping, and spending time with her family.



**J.J. Prescott**  
**Professor of Law**  
**Codirector, Empirical Legal Studies Center**  
**Codirector, Program in Law and Economics**  
**University of Michigan School of Law**

Professor Prescott earned his JD, *magna cum laude*, in 2002 from Harvard Law School, where he was the treasurer (Vol. 115) and an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. After clerking for the Hon. Merrick B. Garland on the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, he went on to earn a PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2006