



HON. ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR.

Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court (Ret.)

The Honorable Robert Young Jr. long and remarkable judicial career includes 7 years spent as a Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was first appointed to the court in 1999, elected in 2000 and 2002 and again won re-election eight years later. In 2011, Justice Young was elected Chief Justice where he served with distinction by improving the service and performance of the Michigan judiciary. In acknowledgment of his extensive understanding and fair application of state, federal, and constitutional law, in May 2016, Justice Young was selected to be on a list of potential nominees to the United States Supreme Court.

Both before his appointment to and after his retirement from the bench, he spent two decades in private practice. While in private practice and in his role as general counsel in two major organizations, he regularly resolved complex federal and state statutory, common law, and commercial legal issues. His broad understanding of how businesses and governments function at all levels and how litigation and appellate processes work have impressed upon him the need for effective and dispute resolution by an arbitrator/mediator with a broad and diverse background.

As a self-described judicial traditionalist, Judge Young has committed to a scholarly and neutral position in his interpretation of the law while simultaneously acknowledging the very human consequences of his decisions. As described by the Wall Street Journal, Judge Young’s Court could be described as “the finest court in the nation” and “a leader in attempting to restore a proper balance between the judiciary, the legislature, and the people.” (“The Finest Court in the Nation.” *The Wall Street Journal*, October 13, 2005.)

Whether authoring decisions involving disputes over the power of the government to transfer by eminent domain privately owned real estate to another private entity for a commercial business and technology park (*Wayne County v. Hathcock, 2004*) or applying Michigan’s constitutional standing doctrine to the Michigan Environmental Protection Act (*Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation v. Nestle Waters North America, 2007*), Justice Young has been widely admired for his ability to address complex matters of law to deliver fair and legally sound resolutions.

AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Commercial Transactions
- Complex Litigation
- General Torts
- Healthcare
- Insurance / Reinsurance
- Labor and Employment
- Personal Injury

LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Author, *Michigan Civil Procedure*, Lang, Neilson, Young & Holsinger, Eds., Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1999-2021
- Author, *Michigan Civil Procedure*, Lang, Young and Beckering, Eds., Michigan Civil Procedure

- Author, *A Judicial Traditionalist Confronts Unique Questions of State Constitutional Law Adjudication*, 76 Albany L Rev 1947 · 2012/76 Albany L Rev 1947, 2012
- Author, *A Judicial Traditionalist Confronts Unique Questions Of State Constitutional Law Adjudication*, 76 Albany L Rev 1947, 2012/2013

HONORS and AWARDS

- Detroit News Michiganiaan of The Year, 2016
- Michigan Lawyers Weekly Lawyer of The Year, 2012
- Federalist Society Grano Award, 2008
- Michigan State University Law School, Honorary Degree, 2001
- Central Michigan University, Honorary Degree, 1999
- Detroit Country Day School Alumni of The Year, 1999

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court, 2011-2017
- Justice, Michigan Supreme Court, 1999-2017
- Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, 1995-1998

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, MSU, 2018-2019
- Of Counsel, Dickinson Wright, 2017-2018
- Partner, Schiff Hardin LLP, 2009-2016
- Vice President, Corporate Secretary & General Counsel, AAA Michigan, 1992-1995
- Partner, Dickinson, Wright Law Firm, 1992-1995
- Associate Attorney, Dickinson, Wright Law Firm, 1978-1992

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- Georgia State Bar
- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- Board of Directors, Detroit Urban League — Member, 2006-2009
- Board of Governors, Cranbrook Schools — Member, 2006-2007
- Board of Governors, Cranbrook Schools — Member, 2006-2007

- Vista Maria — Director, 1996-2011
- Vista Maria — Board Chair, 2003-2010
- Detroit Historical Society — Trustee, 2003-2010
- United Way Community Services Community Leaders Council, 1996 - 2007

EDUCATION

- Harvard Law School, J.D.
- Harvard College, B.A., Cum Laude
- Michigan State University Adjunct Professor of Law (pretrial advocacy)
- Wayne State University Adjunct Professor of Law (pretrial advocacy)