

WOLVERINE BAR  
FOUNDATION

WOLVERINE  
BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS THE 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

BARRISTERS'  
BALL

GOLD IS KING

RULE THE WORLD FOR ONE NIGHT

## WHO WE ARE

### **The Wolverine Bar Association (“WBA”)**

The WBA was initially founded as the Harlan Law Club in 1919 by Detroit area African American attorneys who were denied admission into the American Bar Association due to race. The Harlan Law Club assumed a leadership role in the African American legal community on political issues, legal study, and the practice of law.

The name, Harlan Law Club, was selected in recognition of the late United States Supreme Court Justice John M. Harlan, who was dedicated to the goal of equality under the law for all in our society. His philosophy was exemplified in his dissenting opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896). That dissent argued that the law should protect the rights of all individuals and should be made applicable to all on an equal basis.

The Harlan Law Club changed its name to the Wolverine Bar Association in the 1930's to reflect its expanded influence from Detroit to the entire “Wolverine” state; and particularly, to organize the energies and talents of the increasing number of African American attorneys admitted to practice throughout Michigan.

A commitment to “equal access and equal justice under law” drive our programs and services as much today as it did at our founding over 100 years ago. With over 800 practicing attorneys statewide, we continue to promote the success and inclusion of African American attorneys in Michigan. Indeed, we have expanded our commitment nationally as an affiliate of the National Bar Association, the largest bar association of predominately African American attorneys in the world.

### **The Wolverine Bar Foundation (“WBF”) and Barristers’ Ball**

The WBF is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. It was founded in 1981 to, among other things, receive and administer scholarship funds for deserving students, and engage in charitable activities to support itself and the WBA.

The Barristers’ Ball became a WBF led program approximately twenty years ago. Since then, it has become the primary charitable fundraiser for the nonprofit programs and services conducted by the WBA and WBF. The Barristers’ Ball also serves to increase fellowship among African American attorneys, promote the success of African American attorneys, and promote improved relations with other bar associations and majority attorneys.

## OUR WORK

The WBF secures and provides resources for mentoring, scholarships, internships, externships, and the programs and services of the WBA. The WBA conducts programs and services through its all-volunteer led committees to address the challenges faced by African Americans in law and society.

## HOW WE DO IT

**Honorable Damon J. Keith Scholarship, Honorable Victoria A. Roberts Scholarship, the Sheldon L. Miller ADR Scholarship and Wolverine Foundation Scholarships** – awards for law students

**Law School Pipeline Program Scholarship** - awards scholarships for LSAT courses for students who have graduated from college or are finishing up college

**Minority Bar Passage Program** – attorneys tutor law students to pass the bar examination

**MLK Essay & Oratory Contest** – attorneys tutor minority high school students on legal writing and oral presentation skills

**Judicial Externship Program** – provides first year, second year, and third year minority law students with paid externships in state and federal courts

**Summer Clerkship Program** – provides first year minority law students with paid internships in law firms and legal departments

**Law Student Reception** – hosts minority law students from all Michigan law schools and introduces them to the resources available through the WBA and WBF

**Community Outreach Programs** – mobilizes attorney volunteers to assist other nonprofit organizations

**Judicial Ratings Committee** – rates the qualifications of judicial candidates for elected office and provides those ratings to the African American community

## GET ENGAGED

There are many ways to get engaged in the work of the WBF and WBA. All of our programs and services are run and staffed by volunteers. Also, our funding is provided through the gracious support of donors, sponsors, and attendees of the Barristers' Ball, our largest annual charity fundraising event.



## BARRISTERS' BALL DETAILS

**WHEN:**

Saturday, April 25, 2026

**WHERE:**

The Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center  
400 Renaissance Dr. W., Detroit, 48243

**TIME:**

9:00pm - 1:00am

**ATTIRE:**

Regal - Black-Tie

**FOOD AND DRINK:**

Passed hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

Includes a live band and DJs to help attendees dance the night away

**TICKETS:**

<https://givebutter.com/64thBarristersBall>

**BOOK A ROOM AT THE DETROIT MARRIOTT AT THE RENAISSANCE CENTER:**



**SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS:**

- Connect with over 1,500 leaders from Michigan's business, legal communities, and political arenas
- Entertain current and prospective clients
- Enjoy listening and dancing to live entertainment from premier musical talent
- Enjoy delicious small bites
- Attend the VIP President's Reception with Michigan's political and legal tastemakers and influencers
- Make a memory to last a lifetime

## PAST CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Bank of America N.A.
- BASF Corporation
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan
- Bodman PLC
- Butzel Long PC
- Chrysler Group LLC
- Compuware
- Clark Hill PLC
- Comerica Bank
- Consumers Energy
- DTE Energy
- Lewis and Munday
- Detroit Medical Center
- Dickinson Wright PLLC
- Dykema Gossett PLLC
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors
- Henry Ford Health System
- Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP
- Howard and Howard Attorneys PLLC
- Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC
- Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
- Lear Corporation
- Meritor
- Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone PLC
- Plunkett Cooney PC
- Rock Financial/Quicken Loans Inc.
- Trinity Health
- Trott & Trott PC
- Michigan State University College of Law
- Warner Norcross & Judd LLC
- Wayne State University



## HIGHLIGHTS

### W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has provided over \$100,000 in grants to the Wolverine Bar Foundation to increase the representation of minority law school graduates by helping them gain valuable experience as judicial externs in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

### Ogletree Deakins

We are a proud sponsor of the Wolverine Bar Foundation because we support the invaluable work it does in mentoring and promoting diverse attorneys and law students throughout Michigan, but especially in the Metro Detroit Area. The Barrister's Ball is the premier legal social event of the year. Ogletree is grateful to take part in such a fun event.

### University of Detroit School of Law

We sponsor the Wolverine Bar Foundation's Barristers' Ball because it raises funds to support critical diversity initiatives, from scholarships to public service. We welcome the opportunity to support because we too are committed to enriching and enhancing diversity.

## 2026 BARRISTERS' BALL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### PRESENTING BALL SPONSOR BENEFITS – \$50,000

- Company name featured as Presenting Sponsor on 2026 Barristers' Ball advertisements, promotions, and multi-month digital marketing campaign leading up to the event date
- Company name featured as Presenting Sponsor on 2026 Barristers' Ball Program Book cover
- Full-page advertisement in the 2026 Barristers' Ball Program Book
- One full-page welcome statement/letter in the 2026 Barristers' Ball Program Book
- Company name and logo featured on a large banner outside of the 2026 Barristers' Ball main entrance and on signage in the interior of the entrance
- Company name and logo displayed prominently on each table
- Company name and logo featured as entertainment sponsor adjacent to the main stage
- Sponsorship noted in press releases and media appearances for the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- Three (3) tables of ten (30 tickets total) for the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- Funding of three (3) WBF Scholarships and Recognition at President's Reception

### 24 KARAT GOLD SPONSOR BENEFITS – \$20,000

- Full-page advertisement in the 2026 Barristers' Ball Program Book
- Company name and logo featured as entertainment sponsor adjacent to the main stage
- Company name and logo featured at the main entrance of the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- Recognition as a 24 Karat Gold Sponsor on 2026 Barristers' Ball promotional materials
- Company name and logo displayed prominently on each table
- Two (2) tables of ten (20 tickets total) for the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- Two (2) year WBA corporate membership and membership recognition on the WBA website
- Funding of two (2) WBF Scholarship and Recognition at President's Reception

### 18 KARAT GOLD SPONSOR BENEFITS – \$10,000

- Full-page advertisement in the 2026 Barristers' Ball Program Book
- Company name and logo featured at the main entrance of the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- Recognition as a 18 Karat Gold Sponsor on 2026 Barristers' Ball promotional materials
- Company name and logo displayed prominently on each table
- One (1) table of ten (10 tickets total) for the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- One (1) year WBA corporate membership and membership recognition on the WBA website
- Funding of one (1) WBF Scholarship and Recognition at President's Reception

## 2026 BARRISTERS' BALL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### 14 KARAT GOLD SPONSOR – \$7,500

- Half page advertisement in the 2026 Barristers' Ball Program Book
- Company name and logo featured at the main entrance of the 2026 Barristers' Ball
- Recognition as a 14 Karat Gold Sponsor on 2026 Barristers' Ball promotional materials
- One (1) table of ten (10 total tickets) for the 2026 Barristers' Ball

### 10 KARAT GOLD – \$500 to \$7,499

- Recognition as a supporter of the 2026 Barristers' Ball promotional materials
- One (1) year WBA corporate membership and membership recognition on the WBA website

### - SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS -

### PURPLE CARPET SPONSOR – \$7,000

Be the exclusive Purple Carpet Sponsor for this West African Mali empire-themed event

- Prominent logo placement and signage on the purple carpet and surrounding areas.
- Recognition in event press releases and media coverage.
- Opportunity for a branded photo booth with custom backdrops.

### WRISTBAND SPONSOR – \$7,500

Sponsor the wristbands worn by all attendees of the Barristers' Ball with your logo.

- Logo placement on all wristbands distributed to attendees.
- Recognition in the event program and on the event website.
- Opportunity to provide promotional materials at the event check-in desk.
- Social Media recognition

### ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR \$20,000

Sponsor the entertainment segment of the event

- Logo placement on all entertainment-related materials (banners, stage).
- Opportunity to have a branded beverage station at the event.
- Recognition in the event program and during entertainment announcements.
- Complimentary passes for your team to attend and network.
- Social Media recognition

## 2026 BARRISTERS' BALL BOOK ADVERTISEMENT FORM

Thank you so much for supporting the Wolverine Bar Foundation's 64th Annual Barristers' Ball.  
Please complete the below form and send it along with an acceptable form of payment to:

Wolverine Bar Foundation c/o 2026  
Barristers' Ball 535 Griswold  
Suite 111-531  
Detroit, MI 48226 or  
[WOLVERINEBARRISTERSBALL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WOLVERINEBARRISTERSBALL@GMAIL.COM)

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### ADVERTISEMENTS

(please check one)

Full Page Ad - \$1,000.00

Full Page: 8" x 10.5"

Full Page with bleed: 8.75" x 11.25"

Half Page Ad- \$500.00

Half Page: 8" x 5"

(8" wide by 5" Height)

Quarter Page Ad- \$250.00

Quarter Page: 3.75" x 5"

(3.75" Wide by 5" Height)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIREMENTS

- Ad file format: .PDF or .JPG - (Full color ads, CMYK format)
- Copy text supplied in Microsoft Word file
- Supplied Photos: Hi Res 300 dpi minimum
- Files due no later than April 1, 2026.
- Please email to [wolverinebarristersball@gmail.com](mailto:wolverinebarristersball@gmail.com)
- Acceptable forms of payment include certified check, business check or money order payable to the "Wolverine Bar Foundation."
- Payments can also be made via PayPal to <https://www.paypal.me/WBF> - Please note "ad fee" in the memo.

*Thank you for your support!*

## 2026 BARRISTERS' BALL COMMITMENT

Thank you for choosing to support the Wolverine Bar Foundation (WBF) and our upcoming 64th Annual Barristers' Ball. The WBF is a 501(c)(3) organization and all sponsorship commitments are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please complete the below form and mail it along with an appropriate form of payment to:

Wolverine Bar Foundation c/o 2026  
Barristers' Ball 535 Griswold  
Suite 111-531  
Detroit, MI 48226 or  
[WOLVERINEBARRISTERSBALL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WOLVERINEBARRISTERSBALL@GMAIL.COM)

### SPONSORSHIP LEVEL – (please check one)

- |                                     |                                   |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Presenting Sponsor - \$50,000     | - Diamond Sponsor - \$20,000      | - Platinum Sponsor - \$10,500 |
| - Mansa Musa Gold Sponsor - \$7,500 | - Purple Carpet Sponsor - \$7,000 | - General Supporter _____     |
| - Entertainment Sponsor - \$20,000  | - Wristband Sponsor - \$7,500     |                               |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your individual and/or company name to appear on advertisements?

- Please email [wolverinebarristersball@gmail.com](mailto:wolverinebarristersball@gmail.com) if you have questions relating to sponsorships.
  - If you permit the WBF to use your corporate logo (solely for purposes of fulfilling sponsorship opportunities), please email a .jpg copy to [wolverinebarristersball@gmail.com](mailto:wolverinebarristersball@gmail.com) (Logo and Ad files due no later than April 1, 2026)
  - Acceptable forms of payment include certified check, business check or money order payable to the "Wolverine Bar Foundation."
  - The Federal Tax-Exempt Identification Number of the WBF will be forwarded upon receipt of this form with an accompanying check. An invoice or W-9 will be provided upon request.
- To make sure you can enjoy each opportunity at your level, be sure to submit necessary items and information by the requested deadlines so you do not forfeit time sensitive opportunities.

***Thank you for your support!***

## 2026 BARRISTERS' BALL THEME STATEMENT

### **GOLD IS KING: A Night in the Mali Empire**

The Wolverine Bar Foundation and the Wolverine Bar Association proudly present the 64th Annual Barristers' Ball, themed "Gold is King," honoring the legacy of the Mali Empire, one of history's wealthiest and most culturally vibrant civilizations. This theme invites attendees to a night of grandeur, celebration, and possibility. In the 14th century, the Mali Empire stood as a global powerhouse known for vast wealth, thriving trade, and scholarship. Just as Mali's legacy shaped history, we are committed to building lasting pathways for talented students pursuing legal careers.

### **The Mali Empire was founded in:**

**Regality** (dignity in law and leadership), **Royalty** (lineage of excellence), **Richness** (wealth of culture and values), and **Reach** (community impact and mentorship).

**Philanthropy in Action:** As our flagship fundraiser, the Ball supports the Wolverine Bar Foundation's mission to provide scholarships, externships, bar exam preparation, clerkship placements, and professional networking for aspiring lawyers. Inspired by Mali's commitment to education, we create opportunities for emerging legal professionals to succeed.

**A Night of Elegance:** Held in downtown Detroit, the evening features a Purple Carpet welcome, sophisticated décor in purple, gold, and black, West African inspired cuisine and beverages, live entertainment, and formal/black-tie attire inspired by royalty.

This theme honors leadership, cultural pride, and historical legacy while celebrating excellence and investing in tomorrow's leaders. Join us for a memorable evening where inspiration meets impact—and your support helps shape the future of the legal profession.

