

## **Ford Mentium 100 Awardees**

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation administers funding of the annual Ford Mentium 100 Award, selecting an awardee who is a lawyer, with a minimum of six years of professional experience, preferably working for a non-profit organization, who demonstrates leadership and commitment to her own growth.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know for the 2008 Ford/WLAMF Mentium Award, please mail or email a one-page letter of interest and resume to: Dawn Van Hoek, Chair, WLAMF, 3300 Penobscot, 645 Griswold, Detroit MI 48230 or [dawn@sado.org](mailto:dawn@sado.org). Nominations are due no later than July 19, 2007.

For a more complete description of the Mentium Project, go to [http://www.mentium.com/why\\_all/tabid/223/Default.aspx](http://www.mentium.com/why_all/tabid/223/Default.aspx). You may also contact Z. Kay Fitzpatrick at 248-320-2696.

### **Prior Awardees:**

**2007: Lori Becker.** Ms. Becker is the Managing Partner in a Novi law firm specializing in business law, contract negotiation, estate planning, real estate, family and criminal law. She teaches business law at Walsh College and Northwood University, and completed her Master of Business Administration degree while also attending law school at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Ms. Becker has worked for over eight years as an advocate with HAVEN, assisting domestic violence victims. Her goals as a Mentium participant are to develop leadership skills that support her collaborative approach to family law, particularly alternative dispute resolution as to divorce.

**2006: Mitzy Sharp Futro.** Ms. Futro is the Director of the Nonprofit Services Program for the Volunteer Accounting Service Team of Michigan (VAST-MI), and is responsible for leadership, development and training on management of non-profit organizations. Before joining VAST-MI, she represented various non-profit clients as part of her private law practice, and worked as a staff attorney for Community Legal Resources in Detroit. Her goals as a Mentium participant are to develop leadership skills as to goal-setting and resource maximization during difficult times.

**2005: Kathleen Conklin.** Ms. Conklin is an attorney for the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, which she joined in 2002. Ms. Conklin coordinates the "Pro Bono Project" of the MCADSV, in a partnership with the State Bar of Michigan, and consults with private attorneys, pro-bono attorneys and legal advocates working with domestic and sexual violence survivors. She has over seventeen years of professional experience related to the area, including her work as the Supervising Attorney for the Domestic Violence Unit of Legal Services of South Central Michigan, and work with the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service in the HIV/AIDS Advocacy Project. Her

background includes an additional eight years experience in civil practice with an emphasis on landlord-tenant, housing, family, criminal defense and administrative law.

**2004: Kathleen Allen.** Ms. Allen is a staff attorney for Western Michigan Legal Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her practice focuses on individual advocacy in consumer, family and civil litigation. Ms. Allen served as Legal Director to the Legal Assistance Center in Grand Rapids, from 2001 - 2002.

**2003: Charlotte Johnson.** WLAMF's 2003 Mentium Scholar was Charlotte Johnson, Dean of Students at the University of Michigan Law School. Ms. Johnson was matched with mentor Terry Barclay, Executive Director of the Women's Economic Club. Ms. Johnson requested a mentor who was running a nonprofit organization, which is one of her long-range goals. While the Mentium program will not be complete for another 2 months, Ms. Johnson was extremely pleased with the mentor assignment. She observed recently that "Mentium has provided a rich and interesting avenue for professional and personal growth, being very suited to different styles of learning and exploration."