

Gary N. Gershon

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Stockton, CA 952202

209-662-2066

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

35 years of legal practice, and administration of state and federally funded agencies; broad litigation experience at all levels of state and federal courts including appeals; administrative, communications and training skills. Particular expertise in employment, civil rights, constitutional, consumer, housing, health and administrative law. Experienced in federal practice. Noteworthy empathy and small-group facilitation skills. ICLE-trained civil mediator. Adjunct law school instructor.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Private Practice, 2009-present

Recently opened practice in Stockton in general civil litigation in state and federal courts, including appeals with emphases in civil rights and constitutional law, consumer, employment and housing. Services to other lawyers.

Directing Attorney, CRLA, Stockton November, 2007-2009

Private Practice, 2000-2007.

Services to other lawyers, advice to and representation of small businesses and organizations and private clients. Examples include pleading and briefing Federal Tort Claims Act case, co-counsel in Fair Labor Standards Act/Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act class action, incorporating small businesses, representing and advising a physician on legal, business and financial matters, criminal appeal in the Sixth Circuit, briefs in the Michigan Court of Appeals, representation of “animal lovers” in criminal and civil rights actions, etc. *Amici* briefs for ACLU and unions.

Executive Director, Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project, Inc. (MMLAP), 1984-2000.

Administered statewide legal services program responsible for all aspects of agency management (fiscal, regulatory; personnel, labor and legal), supervised permanent staff of 4-12 and seasonal staff (4-6); responsible for program budgets of \$300,000 - \$1,000,000, including constant search for money in light of political and financial pressures; litigated cases, primarily federal (civil rights, employment, housing, public benefits and consumer) - experience through *certiorari*; responsible for creative and innovative litigation and other advocacy for ten's of thousands of the poorest people in the country. See Partial List of Cases attached hereto. Also responsible for legislative and administrative advocacy at state and federal levels; monitored compliance with Legal Services statutes and regulations; trained new lawyers and served as co-counsel; supervised outreach and community legal education programs.

Co-Founder/Director, Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP), 1996-2000.

Created precedential program in partnership with another legal services program and the University of Michigan Law School to provide "support" services for legal services advocates throughout Michigan, including unrestricted (non-federally-funded legal services) services (class actions, fee-generating cases, legislative and administrative advocacy).

Attorney, Legal Aid of Western Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1975-1984.

General civil practice, including administrative, state trial and appellate (experience at all levels of state court); class and damage actions; social security appeals in federal district court; appeals in Sixth Circuit; staff attorney, General Intake Unit managing attorney, Housing Assistance Center staff attorney, Community Law Center.

Law Clerk, Michigan Court of Appeals, Hon. Donald E. Holbrook, 1974-1975.

ADMISSIONS:

- State Bar of Michigan, 1974 (member Appellate , General Practice, Administrative, Employment and Consumer Law sections)
- Western District of Michigan, 1975
- Sixth Circuit, 1983
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1988
- State Bar of California, 1973
- Northern District of California and Ninth Circuit, 1973.

SELECTED TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE:

Adjunct Instructor, Thomas Cooley Law School (Moot Court), 2005--2007

Coach, Mediation Training, Dispute Resolution Center, 2007

- National Association of Public Interest Lawyers (NAPIL)

- National Training of Summer Equal Justice Fellows, Rocky Ridge, Md., plenary and small group sessions
- Advocates Roundtable, MPLP, 1999
- Trainer, Morgantown, W. Va., Negotiations (June 1996)
- Coordinator, Federal Litigation Training - Grand Rapids, Michigan (March 25-29, 1995)
- Coordinator, Annual Midwest Migrant Legal Advocates Conferences for a number of years
- Trainer, National Migrant Conferences (*e.g.*, attorneys fees, class actions, use of media)
- Coordinator, Michigan-Ohio-Migrant Law Conference (May, 1988)
- Coordinator/Moderator, Access to Care Conference (September 1987) West Michigan Health Systems Agency (Now Alliance for Health)
- Design Team, 1987, Regional Federal Litigation Training
- Design Team, Regional Training of Trainers in Health law, 1985
- Board of Directors, Committee on Regional Training (CORT), Legal Services Region IV, 1983 - 1997
- Trainer, Legal Services Regional Federal Litigation Training, 1983-1986

- Co-designer and trainer, Statewide Legal Services Federal Litigation Training, 1982
- Coordinator, Statewide Medicaid Training, 1980
- Lecturer/Instructor, "Thinking Legally," William James College, Grand Valley State Colleges, 1978
- Lecturer, "Drugs and the Community," "Legal Problems for Nurses," University of California at San Francisco, 1971-1972
- Lecturer, "Research and Writing for Laymen," Peoples Law School (National Lawyers Guild), 1970

EDUCATION:

J.D. University of California, Hastings College of Law, 1973.

M.A. Central Michigan University, 1970.

B.A. Central Michigan University, 1969.

University of Michigan, 1964-1966.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (past and present):

Federal Bar Association (West Michigan Chapter); Executive Committee (civil “chief”);
Creator and Chair of Committee on the Poor and Under represented in Federal Court

Grand Rapids Bar Association (Employment and Labor Law Section, Legislative
Committee, Jury Representation Committee, Pro Bono Committee and Legal Assistance
Center Committee) and National Lawyers Guild

American Bar Association

Michigan Trial Lawyers Association

SELECTED ACTIVITIES:

Volunteer mediation, Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan

“Consumer Representation” Committee, Health 2020, Robert Woods Johnson Foundation
grant to Alliance for Health

Advisory Board, Claystone Associates (group of psychologists and therapists)

Board of Directors, Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids

Hearing Referee, Michigan Department of Civil Rights

Member, Pesticides Advisory Committee, Michigan Department of Agriculture

West Michigan and state ACLU Branch Board of Directors, Lawyers Committee and Racial Profiling Subcommittee, former Co-General Counsel of ACLU of Michigan

Delegate, Michigan Justice Conference

Former member, Planning Section - Alliance for Health, formerly West Michigan Health Systems Agency; Co-Chair, *Ad Hoc* Committee on Discretionary Use Beds (DUBS) and Co-Chair, *Ad Hoc* Barriers to Care Committee

Co-founder of Grand Rapids Chapter of Citizens for Better Care, Inc.