

**TESTIMONIAL RESOLUTION FOR DETROIT MERCY LAW - EDUCATING THE COMPLETE LAWYER
CLINICAL PROGRAM CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILMEMBER FRED DURHAL**

WHEREAS Detroit Mercy Law launched its clinical program in 1965. During the civil rights movement in Detroit in the late 1960s, the Urban Law Clinic made a significant impact by successfully representing hundreds of individuals who were wrongfully arrested; **and**

WHEREAS Since its inception, Detroit Mercy Law's clinical program has flourished, earning national recognition. Notable honors include the ABA Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access with Meritorious Recognition in 2012 and the ABA Law Student Division's Judy M. Weightman Memorial Public Interest Award in 2006; **and**

WHEREAS In 2020, the program received the State Bar of Michigan's Kimberly M. Cahill Leadership Award for its 2019 traveling expungement clinic. That same year, the Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic was honored with the Ilene and Michael Shaw Public Service Award, selected by Federal Bar Association chapters nationwide; **and**

WHEREAS The Pro Se Clinic has continued to earn distinction, receiving the Outstanding Clinic Team Award on April 30, 2021, and an Honorable Mention for Excellence in a Public Interest Project from the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA). In November 2021, it also received the Eastern District of Michigan Federal Bar Association's Annual Award; **and**

WHEREAS Most recently, on February 19, 2025, Barb Patek, Director of the Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic, was honored with the Wade H. McCree Jr. Award by the Eastern District of Michigan Federal Bar Association, recognizing her outstanding contributions to advancing justice; **and**

WHEREAS Detroit Mercy Law requires all students to participate in a law clinic as a graduation requirement—demonstrating its deep commitment to experiential education and service. Through these clinics, students gain practical legal skills and serve real clients facing diverse legal challenges; **and**

WHEREAS The clinical program offers pro bono legal services to low-income individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations. With thirteen clinics, including mini and traveling clinics, nearly 250 students in 2024 contributed over 30,000 hours of free legal assistance to the community under expert supervision; **and**

WHEREAS Detroit Mercy Law has coordinated traveling expungement clinics to serve low-income and underserved communities across Michigan. Since 2019, the school has supported several federally recognized Native American tribes and partnered with numerous communities and nonprofit organizations. To date, these efforts have reached 16 Michigan counties, helped nearly 600 individuals, and represented clients in virtual court hearings across 47 counties. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED That Honorable Councilmember Fred Durhal and Members of the Detroit City Council proudly congratulate **Detroit Mercy Law – Educating the Complete Lawyer Clinical Program** for its unwavering dedication to public service and legal education. Your work not only builds future leaders in the legal profession but also exemplifies a profound commitment to justice and community empowerment.

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