

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

685 GERALD R. FORD FEDERAL BUILDING

110 MICHIGAN STREET, NW

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503

TEL (616) 456-2551

FAX (616) 732-2703

CHAMBERS OF  
**ROBERT J. JONKER**  
CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE

June 28, 2021

Re: 2021 Federal Bench-Bar Conference

Dear Counsel:

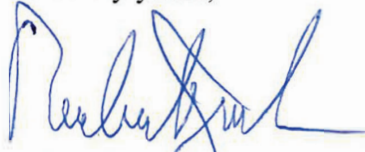
The bench of the Western District of Michigan is eagerly anticipating the 2021 Bench-Bar Conference scheduled for Thursday, September 30 to Saturday, October 2, 2021 at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. This is our special invitation asking you to join us for the event. The pandemic forced postponement of the event last fall and so we have all been waiting a long time for this opportunity.

The Western Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association sponsors this program as a forum for federal practitioners to interact with each other and with the district's judicial officers in an informal setting. The program will include a variety of educational sectionals tailored to the interests of both civil and criminal law practitioners. It will also include moderated panel discussions with our magistrate judges and our district judges. And, of course, there will be ample time to socialize with old friends and make new ones while enjoying one of the most picturesque locations in our district.

The program will also include two nationally known speakers on topics both educational and entertaining. On Friday morning, Washington Post columnist, Charles Lane, will speak on the origins of the Department of Justice and its connection to Reconstruction. The Friday evening dinner program will feature noted historian, Richard Norton Smith, who will highlight some excerpts from his newest book on one of our district's favorite sons, Gerald R. Ford.

I am including registration information with this letter. My colleagues and I look forward to seeing you on Mackinac Island!

Sincerely yours,



Robert J. Jonker

Chief United States District Judge

cc. Hon. Paul L. Maloney  
Hon. Hala Y. Jarbou  
Hon. Janet T. Neff  
Hon. Gordon J. Quist  
Hon. Phillip J. Green  
Hon. Ray Kent  
Hon. Maarten Vermaat  
Hon. Sally J. Berens