



42ND ANNUAL RAM CONFERENCE

**THE H HOTEL
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN
MAY 20-22, 2026**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Conference Registration
1:30 pm to 1:45 pm	Opening Remarks
1:45 pm to 4:45 pm (mid session break)	Presentation: Referee Lisa Harris of Oakland County and Jennifer M. Zoltowski, MS, LLP, CCSOTS, CCFC of The Center for Assessment, Inc. present on evaluation reports in family and juvenile cases which often include complex psychological testing related to substance use, parenting capacity, and mental health. This presentation will break down the most common testing instruments, explain what the results measure and discuss how courts can appropriately evaluate and apply these findings in decision-making in the cases before you. (3 hours of MCJE)
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Reception: Meet and greet fellow Referees and guests.
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Group Dinner
9:00 pm to ???	Hospitality Suite (Platinum room) will be open. Come and enjoy some food, games and fun!

Thursday, May 21, 2026

7:30 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast: Included.
9:00 am to 10:45 am	Presentation: <i>Thomas J. Grden, Clinical Case Manager, State Bar of Michigan Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program</i> , will address the impact of vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue and the importance of self-care in coping with the unique stressors faced by the judiciary

(judges, referees, magistrates). Specific self-care strategies such as the utilization of protective relationships, boundary and limit setting, identification of available resources and the power of increased self-awareness will be explored. (1.75 of MCJE Ethics)

- 10:45 am to 12:15 pm Presentation: Honorable Amanda Pollard, Eaton County Probate Judge and Joshua Pease of the Youth Appellate Defense Counsel, Honorable Amanda Pollard, Eaton County Probate Judge, will address the complex intersection of family law and child protective cases; where allegations (often false, made during high-conflict divorces) initiate investigations that pause, alter, or complicate existing custody arrangements. CPS investigations can lead to emergency removals, and findings of neglect/abuse significantly impact, or even override, existing custody orders. (1.5 hours of MCJE)
- 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm Lunch: On your own.
- 1:45 pm to 3:15 pm Presentation: ***Honorable Christopher P. Yates, Court of Appeals Judge and the Honorable Kathleen Feeney of the Michigan Court of Appeals Judge.*** Judges Yates and Judge Feeney will present on Evidence. They will address specific evidentiary issues, provide common examples and ruling on objections. (1.5 hours of MCJE)
- 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm Presentation: Ethics roundtable and panel discussion (1.25 of MCJE Ethics)
- 6:00 pm Dinner: On your own.
- 8:00 pm to ??? Hospitality Suite (Platinum room) will be open. Come and enjoy some food, games and fun!

Friday, May 22, 2026

- 7:30 am to 9:00 am Breakfast: Included.
- 9:00 am to 9:30 am Annual Membership Meeting and Elections
- 9:30 am to 11:00 am Presentation: ***Ryan O'Neil, Referee, Oakland County.*** Referee O'Neil will provide an annual court rule and domestic relations case law updates. (MCJE 1.50)
- 11:00 am to 11:45 am Awards Ceremony and Conclusion of Conference. (Please turn in your evaluation forms.)