



41ST ANNUAL RAM CONFERENCE

**THE H HOTEL
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN
MAY 21-23, 2025**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Conference Registration

1:30 pm to 1:45 pm

Opening Remarks

1:45 pm to 3:15 pm

Presentation: *Referee Rebecca Decoster and Custody and Parenting Specialist Hillary Bannasch* - we often encounter parents with chronic issues that negatively impact their ability to parent safely - like substance abuse, mental health conditions, domestic violence, or prolonged parental absence. These parents often have conditions and restrictions placed on their parenting time. What a parent must demonstrate to modify or remove those conditions and restrictions, can be murky. This presentation offers concrete examples of why conditions and restrictions are put in place and what we might require of a parent seeking to lift or eliminate these conditions or restrictions. Know how these conditions impact children and families we serve.

3:15 pm to 4:45 pm

Presentation: *Honorable Kathleen Feeney, Michigan Court of Appeals, Judge Feeney* presents on medically fragile children and the impact domestic, juvenile and foster care may have on them and their families.

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 will be open. Come and enjoy some food, games and fun!

Thursday, May 22, 2025

- 7:30 am to 9:00 am **Breakfast:** Included.
- 9:00 am to 10:00 am **Presentation:** *Managing SCAO Timelines: Best Practices for Compliance and Efficiency*, this presentation will cover the essential timelines set by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), including statutory, court rule, and administrative directives that define deadlines for judges and referees. Key updates on proposed new rules and amendments will also be discussed. We will explore the reporting process, proper methods for reporting pending matters, and the consequences of not meeting deadlines. Practical tips for ensuring compliance from the “front lines” will be shared, focusing on effective strategies for meeting deadlines, such as ruling on the record, prioritizing matters, and managing adjournments.
- 10:00 am to 10:20 am **Presentation:** *Referee Erin Magley* presents an update from the Michigan Weighted Caseload Committee and the fall survey.
- 10:20 am to 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 am to 12:00 pm **Presentation:** *Honorable Christopher P. Yates, Michigan Court of Appeals*, Judge Yates will present Part II on Evidence. The focus will be on objections. Common objections and not so common objections. What you need to know or consider before ruling on objections in your hearings.
- 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm **Lunch:** On your own.
- 1:30 pm to 3:15 pm **Presentation:** *Molly Ranns, MA, LPC, CAADC, Director, State Bar of Michigan Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program*, 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 (referees, magistrates, judges). 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.
- 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm **Presentation:** Ethics roundtable and panel discussion – we all encounter difficult cases and unique cases. This panel will help you address all your questions and concerns. Do other Referees and Courts conduct hearings the same. Are the procedures different. What should you incorporate in how you conduct your hearings.
- 6:00 pm **Dinner:** On your own.
- 8:00 pm to ??? **Hospitality Suite** will be open. Come and enjoy some food, games and fun!

Friday, May 23, 2025

- 7:30 am to 9:00 am **Breakfast:** Included.

9:00 am to 9:30 am

Annual Membership Meeting

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.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Awards Ceremony and Conclusion of Conference.

(Please turn in your evaluation forms.)