

Honorable Donald E. Shelton
Chief Judge, Washtenaw County Trial Court

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Personal

- Resides in [Saline, Michigan](#)
- Born June 28, 1944, in Jackson, Michigan
- Married to Marjorie K. Shelton

Education

- [University of Nevada](#), 2010 - Doctor of Philosophy (Judicial Studies)
- [Eastern Michigan University](#), 2007 - Master of Arts (Criminology and Criminal Justice)
- [University of Michigan School of Law](#), 1969 - Juris Doctor (Law)
- [Western Michigan University](#), 1966 - Bachelor of Arts (Social Science)

Professional Background

- [Circuit Judge](#), 22nd Judicial Circuit, [Washtenaw County Trial Court](#), Ann Arbor, Michigan, February, 1990 - present ; Chief Judge, 2010-present; Chief Judge Pro Tem, 1992-1996, 2004-2009; Presiding Judge, [Civil/Criminal Division](#), 1997 - 2009
- Washtenaw County [Probate Court](#), Chief Judge, 2010-present; Chief Judge Pro Tem, 2004 -2009
- Supervising Judge, Washtenaw County [Juvenile Court](#) , 2001 - present
- Washtenaw County [Probate Court](#), Chief Judge, 2010-present; Chief Judge Pro Tem, 2004 -2009
- Partner in law firm of Bishop and Shelton, P.C., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1978 -1990
- Partner in law firm of Forsythe, Campbell, Vandenberg, Clevenger & Bishop, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1974 - 1978
- Attorney, Litigation Division, United States Army, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 1973 - 1974

- Attorney, Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army, Third Infantry Division, Germany, 1970 - 1973

Public Offices and Positions

- Circuit Judge, [Washtenaw County](#), February, 1990 - present; Chief Judge 2009-present
- Regent, [Eastern Michigan University](#), 1987 - 1990
- Mayor, [City of Saline](#), 1978 - 1986
- Chair, [Southeast Michigan Council of Governments](#) (SEMCOG), 1983 - 1985
- Board of Directors, [National Association of Regional Councils](#), 1985 - 1986
- Board of Directors, [Washtenaw Development Council](#), 1983 -1986
- Member, Governor's Small Cities Advisory Council, 1983 - 1986
- Vice Chair, [Southeast Michigan Council of Governments](#), 1980 - 1983
- Mayor Pro Tem, [City of Saline](#), 1977 - 1978
- Councilmember, [City of Saline](#), 1976 - 1978

Teaching Positions

- Adjunct Faculty, [Thomas M. Cooley Law School](#), Course "Forensic Evidence in Criminal Cases", 2011
- Adjunct Faculty, [Eastern Michigan University](#), Political Science Department, Courses: "Understanding the Judicial System"; "American Legal System", "Law & Policy in a Constitutional Democracy" 1997 - present
- Adjunct Faculty, [Eastern Michigan University](#), Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology Department, Courses: "Criminal Law II - Criminal Procedure", "Criminal Sentencing", "Forensic Science", 1997 - present
- Adjunct Faculty, [Oakland University](#) Legal Assistant Program, 1977 - 1979
- Adjunct Faculty, [Washtenaw Community College](#) Legal Assistant Program, 1976 - 1979
- Adjunct Faculty, [University of Maryland](#) (Business Law, 1971 - 1973)
- Member, [Ferris State College](#) Legal Assistant Advisory Committee, 1977 - 1990
- Member, [Washtenaw Community College](#) Legal Assistant Advisory Committee, 1976 - 1979

Books and Book Chapters

- [*Forensic Science in Court: Challenges in the 21st Century*](#), [Rowman & Littlefield](#), September 2010
- [*Criminal Adjudication: The Challenges of Forensic Science Evidence in the Early 21st Century*](#), Doctoral Dissertation, [University of Nevada, Reno Judicial Studies Program](#), May 2010
- "CSI Effect" Chapter in [*Battleground: Criminal Justice*](#), edited by Gregg Barak, 2007. Westport CT: Greenwood Press.
- [*A Database of Persons Convicted Of Felonies In Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1990-2007*](#), Masters Thesis, [Eastern Michigan University Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology](#), 2007

- *"Best Uses of the Internet for Litigators"* Chapter in *The Internet and Technology Guide for Michigan Lawyers*, Donnelly, Musbach and Shelton, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), August 1999
- *1986 Tort Reform Legislation in Michigan*, Shelton, Bishop and Blaske, DTR Associates, Ann Arbor, MI, 1986
- *Michigan Wrongful Death*, Bishop and Shelton,, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1986
- *Handling the Automobile Negligence Case: A Systems Approach*, 2nd ed., Bishop and Shelton, , [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1983, rev.1988
- *Medical Malpractice - A Systems Approach*, Bishop and Shelton, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1982
- *"Motion Practice"* Chapter in *Michigan Basic Trial Practice Handbook*, Bishop and Shelton, , [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1981
- *Manual for Lawyers and Legal Assistants - Wrongful Death*, Bishop and Shelton, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1977
- *The Use of Legal Assistants in Domestic Relations Cases*, Bishop and Shelton, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1975, rev. 1980
- *The Use of Legal Assistants in Civil Litigation - Automobile Negligence*, Bishop and Shelton, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1974, rev. 1976

Articles and Research Papers

- *Judges Panel: Key eDiscovery Mistakes to Avoid*, 6th eDiscovery for Pharma, Biotech and Medical Device Industries, Philadelphia, PA, October 25, 2011
- *Studying Juror Expectations for Scientific Evidence: A New Model for Looking at the CSI Myth*, with G. Barak & Y. Kim, [Court Review](#), American Judges Association (forthcoming)
- *How Reason for Surgery and Patient Weight Affect Verdicts and Perceptions in Medical Malpractice Trials: A Comparison of Students and Jurors*, with J. Reichert, M. Miller, & B. Bornstein, [Behavioral Sciences and The Law](#) , doi: 10.1002/bsl.969 (first published online February 8, 2011)
- [Forensic Science Evidence And Judicial Bias In Criminal Cases](#), 49 *Judges' Journal* 18 (No. 3, Summer 2010), American Bar Association
- [Juror Expectations for Scientific Evidence in Criminal Cases: Perceptions And Reality About The "CSI Effect" Myth](#), 27 *T. M. Cooley Law Review* 1 (2010)
- [An Indirect-Effects Model of Mediated Adjudication: The CSI Myth, the Tech Effect, and Metropolitan Jurors' Expectations for Scientific Evidence](#), by Hon. Donald E. Shelton, Young S. Kim, and Gregg Barak, 12 *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment & Technology Law* 1 (2009)
- [Examining the "CSI-effect" in the Cases of Circumstantial Evidence and Eyewitness Testimony: Multivariate and Path Analyses](#), by Young S. Kim, Gregg Barak, and Donald E. Shelton, 37 *Journal of Criminal Justice* 452-460 (2009).
- [Twenty-First Century Forensic Science Challenges for Trial Judges in Criminal cases: Where the "Polybutadiene" Meets the "Bitumen"](#), 18 *Widener Law Journal* 309 (2009)

- [*The "CSI Effect" Is Really The "Tech Effect"*](#), The Utah Prosecutor, Vol. 18:5, pp. 6-10, September 2008, [Utah Prosecution Council](#), Salt Lake City, UT
- [*The "CSI Effect" Is Really The "Tech Effect": Coping With The New Forensic Reality*](#), The Green Light News, Vol. 8:3, pp. 1-6, August 2008, [Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan](#), Lansing, MI
- [*The "CSI Effect": Does It Really Exist?*](#), [NIJ Journal](#), Vol. 259, pp. 1-7, March 2008, National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.
- *Defending the Right to Trial by the People*, MTLA Journal, Vol. 41:1, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, Summer 2007
- *The "CSI Effect" - Is It Real?*, The General Practitioner, Vol. 28:4, [State Bar of Michigan](#) July/August 2007
- [*An Evaluation of the Status Offense Diversion Program in the Juvenile Court of Washtenaw County, Michigan*](#), [Washtenaw County Juvenile Court](#), May 24, 2007
- [*The "CSI Effect" – Is It Real?*](#), [Criminal Law Section](#), State Bar of Michigan, April 2007 Newsletter
- [*The Current State of Domestic Violence Courts in the United States, 2007*](#), [National Center for State Courts White Paper](#), February 23, 2007
- [*A Study of Juror Expectations and Demands Concerning Scientific Evidence: Does the "CSI Effect" Exist?*](#), by Donald E. Shelton, Young Kim and Gregg Barak, 9 Vanderbilt J. Ent. & Tech. L 334 (2006)
- [*Technology, Popular Culture and the Court System - Strange Bedfellows?*](#), [National Center for State Courts 2006 Future Trends in State Courts](#) (August, 2006)
- [*Washtenaw County Probate Court Reorganization Report*](#), Washtenaw County, Michigan Circuit Court (October 29, 2004)
- *Video Court Reporting - The Time Has Come*, [Judge's Journal](#), Vol. 42-1, American Bar Association, Winter 2003
- [*Juvenile Court Reorganization Report*](#), Washtenaw County Trial Court Family Division (December 1, 2001)
- *Equally Bad is Not Good: Allowing Title IX "Compliance" by the Elimination of Men's Collegiate Sports*, 34 [U. Mich. J. L. Reform](#) 253 (2001)
- [*Teaching Technology to Judges*](#), [Judge's Journal](#), Vol. 40-1, American Bar Association, Winter 2001
- [*All Aboard? Electronic Filing and the Digital Divide*](#), [Judge's Journal](#) Vol. 40-3, American Bar Association, Summer 2001
- [*Communicating with the Public on the Internet*](#), [Judge's Journal](#), by Shelton, D. and Arkfeld, M., Vol. 39-1, American Bar Association, Winter 2000
- [*Technology and the Judiciary: The Promise and the Challenge*](#), [Judge's Journal](#), Vol. 39-1, American Bar Association, Winter 2000
- [*Communicating with Lawyers on the Internet*](#), [Judge's Journal](#), Vol. 39-1, American Bar Association, Winter 2000
- [*DNA, the Human Genome, and the Criminal Justice System*](#), [Judge's Journal](#), Vol. 39-3, American Bar Association, Summer 2000
- *Courts on the Internet: Not Just Another Pretty Face*, [Michigan Bar Journal](#), May 1998, Vol. 77-5, pp. 398-399
- *The Judge and Jury in a Court of Claims Case: Who's on First?*, 27 [MTLA](#)

Quarterly 10 (1993)

- *Judicial Participation in Settlement*, Colleague, Michigan Judicial Institute, Vol. 4-3, December 1991, pp. 26-33
- *Unconstitutional Uncertainty: A Study of the Use of Detainers*, 1 U Mich. J.L.Reform 88 (1968)

Presentations

- *Judges Roundtable: The State of Forensic Science and Current Evidentiary Issues*, Webinar, American Bar Association Judicial Division, July 21, 2011
- *Judicial Perspectives on E-discovery*, 11th Annual Computer and Enterprise Investigations Conference, May 16, 2011, Orlando, FL
- *Judicial Perspectives on Electronic Discovery*, Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Meeting, October 26, 2010, San Antonio, TX
- *Judicial Perspectives on E-discovery*, 10th Annual Computer and Enterprise Investigations Conference, May 25, 2010, Summerlin, NV
- *Twitter and Blogging in the Courtroom*, Canadian Association of Law Libraries, Annual Conference 2010, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, May 10, 2010
- *"CSI Effect" - Juror Expectations For Forensic Science: Does Reality Meet The Standard?*, Thomas M. Cooley Law Review Symposium, Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI, October 14, 2009
- *The "CSI Effect" In The Real World*, 2008 United Judicial Conference of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges and the Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges, Jacksonville, FL, December 10, 2008
- *The "Tech Effect" on Juror Demands for Scientific Evidence*, Presentation, 2008 International Video Evidence Symposium, Law Enforcement & Emergency Services Video Association, Orlando, FL, October 22, 2008
- *The Impact of Pop Culture on Forensic Scientific and Legal Practice*, Presentation, 8th Annual Forensic Science and Law Conference, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, April 5, 2008
- *The "Tech Effect" - Meeting Juror Expectations for Scientific Evidence*, Presentation and Webcast, 2007 Criminal Practice and Procedure Update, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Plymouth, MI, November 27, 2007
- *Public Safety: The CSI Effect - Dispelling Myths on the Use of DNA Evidence*, Presentation, 2007 Annual Conference, The Council of State Governments, Oklahoma City, OK, November 13, 2007
- *The "CSI Effect": Media Impact on Juror Demands for Scientific Evidence*, Presentation, 2007 Annual Conference, Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology, Ypsilanti, MI, October 6, 2007
- *Jurors and Electronic Evidence and A Study of Juror Expectations and Demands Concerning Scientific Evidence*, Presentation, Court Technology Conference 10, National Center for State Courts, Tampa, FL, October 4, 2007
- *The "CSI Effect" on Jurors: Does It Exist?*, Presentation, National Institute of Justice 2007 Annual Conference, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

July 21, 2007

- *"CSI Effect" on Juries*, Presentation, [Michigan Judges Association](#) Annual Conference, Mackinac Island, MI, August, 14, 2007
- *Effective Negotiation Techniques*, 2nd Annual Advanced Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Institute, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 2003
- *Effective Motion Practice*, Practical Skills for New Lawyers, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 2002
- *Technology in the Courtroom*, [State Bar of Michigan](#) Young Lawyers Section, State Bar of Michigan 2001 Annual Meeting (Sept. 13, 2001)
- *Innovations in Jury Service - Now and Tomorrow*, Jury Summit 2001, N.Y., NY (Feb. 3, 2001)
- *"E-Governance in the Digital Economy"*, Justice Web Collaboratory, Government Technology Conference 2000, Sacramento, CA (May 16, 2000)
- *Using the Internet to Improve Judicial Systems*, [American Bar Association](#) Forum on Justice Improvements, October 1999
- *Judicial Resources on the Internet*, Conference Presentation, [American Bar Association, Judicial Division](#), Annual Meeting, 1999
- *Electronic Filing*, Seminar, [Michigan Association for Legal Support Professionals](#), April 1999
- *Tort Reform in Practice - The View From the Bench*, Winter Meeting, [Michigan Defense Trial Counsel](#), 1997
- *Development of a Court Homepage*, Conference Presentation, [American Bar Association, Judicial Division](#), Annual Meeting, 1996
- *Computers for Judges 101*, Seminar, [Michigan Judicial Institute](#), 1996
- *Harassment in the Workplace*, Seminar, [Michigan Trial Lawyers Association](#), 1995
- *In the Aftermath of Homicide - Dealing with the Criminal Justice System*, Foundations for Justice - Supporting Michigan's Victims of Crime, State Conference, 1994
- *Common Evidentiary Problems in the Courtroom*, Ask the Judges Seminar, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1994
- *Effective Courtroom Advocacy*, Seminar, [Michigan Trial Lawyers Association](#), 1994
- Presiding Judge and Faculty Member, 44th Annual Advocacy Institute, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), May 1993
- *Academics and Pragmatics of Medical Malpractice Trial Practice*, [Michigan Trial Lawyers Association](#), 1990
- *Fundamentals of Michigan Practice-Motion Practice*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1989
- *No-Fault Update: 1988*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1988
- *How to Handle the Automobile Negligence Case*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) and State Bar Negligence Section Seminar, 1988
- *Damages and the 1986 Tort Reforms*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) and State Bar Negligence Section Seminar, 1988
- *New Tort Legislation and Related Insurance Issues*, [Institute of Continuing Legal](#)

[Education](#) Seminar, 1986

- *How to Handle an Automobile Negligence Case-Medical Proofs*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1985
- *Successful Use of Depositions and Interrogatories: How to Make the Most of Pretrial Discovery*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1983
- *Traumatic Neurosis, Evaluating and Proving Damages*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1982
- *Motion Practice, Michigan Basic Skills*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1982
- *No-Fault Third Party Litigation and Uninsured Motorist Claims, No-Fault Accident Update*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1982
- *Basic Trial Advocacy Workshop, Faculty and Speaker*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1982, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2002
- *Motion Practice, Michigan Basic Skills*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1981
- *Motion Practice, Michigan Basic Trial Practice Handbook*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1981
- *Pretrial Motions, Civil Procedure Before Trial*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1981
- *Wrongful Death Damages, Proving Damages in Special Cases*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1981
- *Pretrial Motions, Civil Procedure Before Trial*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminars, 1979
- *Motion Practice, Michigan Basic Skills*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1979
- *People and Systems, Eighth National Conference on Law Office Economics*, [New York State Bar Association](#), 1978
- *Hearsay Objections Under the Michigan Rules of Evidence*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1978
- *Evaluating and Proving Damages*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#), 1977
- *Legal Malpractice in Michigan-To Whom Are You Liable*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1977
- *The Use of Legal Assistants in Divorce Cases*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1977
- *The Use of Legal Assistants in Automobile Negligence Cases*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1977
- *The Use of Legal Assistants in Domestic Relations Cases*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1975
- *The Use of Legal Assistants in Civil Litigation-Automobile Negligence*, [Institute of Continuing Legal Education](#) Seminar, 1974

Media Interviews and Appearances

- *"[Science Fiction?: Judge weighs in on the real effect of TV crime shows](#)"*, *Motion*

Magazine, Spring, 2011

- ["Is the 'CSI Effect' Influencing Courtrooms?"](#), *NPR News Investigations, National Public Radio, February 6, 2011*
- ["Criminal Justice System Sees 'CSI Effect'"](#), *NPR News, National Public Radio, August 6, 2007*

Honors and Awards

- [Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Servant Award](#), [State Bar of Michigan](#), 2007
- Justice Blair Moody Award, Judge of the Year, 2007, Washtenaw Trial Lawyers Association
- [Dr. John W. Porter Distinguished Service Award](#), [Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association](#), 2004
- Judicial Achievement Award, [Michigan Trial Lawyers Association](#), 1996
- Maurice Gleicher Award, [Guild Law Center for Economic and Social Justice](#), 1994
- Justice Blair Moody Award, Judge of the Year, 1992, Washtenaw Trial Lawyers Association
- Attorney of the Year Award, 1986, Washtenaw Trial Lawyers Association
- Distinguished Service Award, Saline Jaycees , 1985
- Outstanding Young Man of the Year, Saline Jaycees , 1976

Memberships and Activities

- Member, [American Academy of Forensic Sciences](#), 2009 - present
- Editorial Review Board, *Journal of Applied Sociology / Sociological Practice*, 2005 - present
- Member, [Eastern Michigan University Foundation Heritage Society](#), 2003 - present
- Member, [Eastern Michigan University Foundation President's Council](#), 2003; 2004
- Member, [Eastern Michigan University Foundation Silver Society](#), 2002 - present
- Founder, [Donald E. Shelton Endowed Scholarship Fund](#), Eastern Michigan University, 1991 - present
- Member, Technology Committee, [American Bar Association, Judicial Division](#), 2004 - present
- Member, [State Bar of Michigan](#) (Chair, Electronic Filing Task Force, 2000 - 2003; Chair, Children's Task Force Jurisdiction Committee, 1993 - 1995; Economics Section Executive Committee, (1984 - 1988)
- Technology Editor, *Judges Journal*, Quarterly Journal of the [American Bar Association, Judicial Division](#), 2000 - 2003
- Chair, Electronic Filing Task Force, [State Bar of Michigan](#), 2000 – 2003
- Board of Directors, Washtenaw County Domestic Violence Project, 1991 -1997
- Executive Committee, Southeast Michigan [March of Dimes](#), 1989 -1992
- Member, [Michigan Democratic State Central Committee](#), 1986 - 1988
- Executive Committee, Washtenaw County Democratic Party, 1983 - 1988

- Board of Directors, [Metropolitan Affairs Coalition](#), 1983 - 1987 (Vice President 1983 - 1985)
- Board of Directors, Greater Detroit Business Attraction and Expansion Council (BAEC), 1983 - 1987
- Board of Directors, Saline Area Senior Council, 1979 - 1982
- Board of Directors, Saline Community Directions, Inc., 1986 - 1996
- Member, [American Bar Association](#) (Litigation Section, Economics Section)
- Member, Washtenaw Trial Lawyers Association (President, 1983, 1984; Secretary, 1982)

Military Service

- Lieutenant, United States Army, 1966 - 1969
- Captain, United States Army Judge Advocate Generals Corps, 1969 - 1974
- Honor Graduate, The Judge Advocate Generals School, 1969
- Meritorious Service Medal, [United States Army](#), 1974