



MARY S. COLEMAN AWARD

Mary S. Coleman was the first woman Michigan Supreme Court Justice. She was the Court's 85th Justice. The daughter of two attorneys, Justice Coleman pursued a law degree and graduated from George Washington University in 1939. She married Creighton Coleman, also an attorney, and both settled in Marshall, Michigan and practiced law together.

Justice Coleman served as a probate and juvenile judge in Calhoun County. She was elected to the Supreme Court in 1971 until her retirement in 1982. Her contributions to Michigan's judicial system included revising the state's probate and juvenile justice codes. She drafted much of the state's first child protection legislation. She was attuned to the needs of children and young people in the justice system. Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver stated the following regarding Justice Coleman: "When the history of Michigan's 20th century is written, Mary Coleman will be recognized as one of its most outstanding citizens. In every aspect of her life, Justice Coleman was exceptional – a wise and courageous judge, a brilliant lawyer, a devoted wife and mother, a loving and loyal friend".

In 2000, Justice Coleman was honored by the State Bar of Michigan with a Michigan Legal Milestone, entitled, "Pioneer, Advocate, Woman, Legend". She received 15 honorary degrees and was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She passed away in November 2001.

CRITERIA:

Therefore, in honor of Justice Coleman's achievement, the award bearing her name is bestowed annually to a current or former member of the Michigan federal, state, or tribal judiciary whose leadership, talent, and significant contributions to women provide a role model for women in the profession and women in general. Award will be presented at the WLAM Annual Meeting, and **the recipient must be available May 4, 2019 to receive the award.**

Nominations for this year's award will be accepted until **Friday, February 8, 2019.**

The nomination should contain a concise statement about the nominee and the reasons the nominee should receive this award.

Nominations should be sent via email to Julie Gafkay, WLAM Immediate Past President, at jgafkay@gafkaylaw.com.