



Press Release
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Secret Wardle Has Been Named a Tier 1, 2 and 3 Metropolitan “Best Law Firm” In Seven Practice Areas by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers®* in 2014

Secret Wardle has been named a Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 Metropolitan “Best Law Firm” in the following seven practice areas by *U. S. News – Best Lawyers®* in 2014: Tier 1 for Litigation – Land Use & Zoning, Litigation – Municipal and Municipal Law; Tier 2 for Commercial Litigation, Family Law and Litigation – Real Estate; and Tier 3 for Real Estate Law.

The 2014 rankings are based upon the highest number of participating firms and highest number of client ballots on record, according to *U. S. News – Best Lawyers®* “Best Law Firms”. Over 12,000 attorneys provided over 330,000 law firm assessments, and almost 7,000 clients provided close to 20,000 evaluations.

Ranked firms, presented in tiers, are listed on a national and/or metropolitan scale. For 2014, awards were given in 74 national practice areas and 120 metropolitan practice areas.

The 2014 “Best Law Firm” rankings can be seen in their entirety by visiting <http://bestlawfirms.usnews.com/>.

Secret Wardle has also been named to *Fortune* magazine’s list of “Top Ranked Law Firms for 2014”. The list of recognized law firms also appears on *CNNMoney.com*.

To learn more about Secret Wardle, please visit www.secrestwardle.com, email info@secrestwardle.com, phone (248) 851-9500 or scan this QR code with your smartphone:



Secret Wardle

WILLIAM P. HAMPTON TO RECEIVE OAKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



SECRET WARDLE is pleased to announce that William P. Hampton has been selected to receive the Oakland County Bar Association's Distinguished Career Achievement Award. Mr. Hampton is a former Oakland County Circuit Court Judge and State Legislator. He will also be recognized by the State Bar of Michigan this year for his 50 years of service to the legal profession.

Mr. Hampton was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1964, the same year he was admitted to the Bar. He served six years in the State House, four of those years as Republican Floor Leader. In 1970 Governor William Milliken appointed him to the Oakland County Circuit Court where he served for six years. Judge Hampton has also served as chairman of the State Officers Compensation Commission by appointment of Governor John Engler.

Judge Hampton served on the State Bar Board of Commissioners from 1977 until 1986. In that capacity he served on various Board of Commissioner committees. He also served as co-chairman of the State Bar Committee on Judicial Qualifications. He further served, for six years, on the Attorney Discipline Board, four of those years as Chairman, by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Judge Hampton was the recipient of the Professionalism Award awarded by the Oakland County Bar Association in 2007 and received the Michael Franck Award from the State Bar of Michigan in 2010. Throughout his career, spanning 50 years, Judge Hampton has been recognized on numerous occasions for his achievements, particularly as a leading authority in the area of municipal law. Most recently, he was named "Municipal Law Lawyer of the Year" for 2012 in the State of Michigan by *Best Lawyers in America®* and in 2013 was named by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* as a "Leader in the Law." William P. Hampton is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, is listed in *Who's Who in American Law®* and has been named to Metro Detroit *Dbusiness* magazine's list of "Top Lawyers." Judge Hampton has also been included in the list of Michigan *Super Lawyers®* by a vote of his peers from 2006 to 2013, consecutively.

The OCBA Distinguished Career Achievement Award was established in 2001 to recognize an attorney whose career exemplifies extraordinary achievement in the ideals of the profession throughout the active legal career of the recipient.

The OCBA Distinguished Career Achievement Award will be presented to Judge Hampton at the 80th Annual Meeting of the Oakland County Bar Association on June 11, 2014. For more information about the Oakland County Bar Association and the annual awards ceremony, please visit <http://www.ocba.org>.

For more information regarding William P. Hampton and Secret Wardle, please visit www.secretwardle.com, phone 248-851-9500, or email info@secretwardle.com.