

# Brownfield named to Catholic Foundation of Michigan board of directors

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The Catholic Foundation of Michigan (Foundation) recently named Plunkett Cooney partner Laura L. Brownfield to its board of directors.

The foundation's board members, who serve three-year terms, provide governance, strategic oversight and financial stewardship. This ensures operations align with Catholic teaching by approving policies, budgets and investment strategies, while focusing on growing philanthropic support for parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations. They guide the Foundation, which is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, in its mission to inspire giving, manage endowments and help donors with charitable planning.

Brownfield serves as the Trusts & Estates Practice Group leader of Plunkett Cooney, one of the Midwest's oldest and most accomplished full service law firms. In addition to 30 years of experience in estate planning and estate administration, Brownfield has experience in the areas of business and nonprofit law, counseling closely held businesses and tax-exempt organizations.

Utilizing her in-house experience as the former general counsel of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Brownfield's nonprofit law practice includes establishing tax-exempt organizations, providing strategic and practical business advice, ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, and navigating the intersection of business and law to protect the interests of nonprofits in carrying out their mission.

Brownfield's trusts and estate practice includes working with clients to develop comprehensive plans for the management of assets during their lifetimes, the protection of their assets in the event of disability, and the tax-efficient transfer of their wealth during their lifetime and upon death. She also assists individuals and families with succession planning for closely held businesses and with implementing charitable giving plans to protect their financial interests and to ensure a meaningful personal legacy for her clients. In addition, Brownfield assists fiduciaries and beneficiaries in trust and estate administration matters and in the resolution of disputes arising from the administration of wills

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and trusts.

Brownfield received her law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 1995 and her undergraduate degree from Miami University in 1992.

The members of Plunkett Cooney's Trusts & Estates Practice Group assist their clients in accomplishing their wealth transfer and estate planning objectives. The firm's attorneys counsel clients on various aspects of estate planning, evaluating their unique circumstances to assist them in achieving their personal, business and financial goals. They also integrate tax planning advice that considers changing federal and state tax laws that affect their clients' planning. They design estate planning documents, business succession and asset protection plans, and they create charitable planning vehicles, coordinate and administer trusts and estates, and when a dispute becomes unavoidable, represent clients in litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

Established in 1913, Plunkett Cooney is a leading provider of business law and litigation services to clients in the private and public sectors. The firm employs attorneys in seven Michigan cities, Chicago, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; and Indianapolis, Indiana.

Plunkett Cooney has received the highest rating (AV) awarded by Martindale-Hubbell, a leading peer review service, as well as recognition by Best Lawyers as one of the nation's leading law firms. The firm has also received Mansfield Rule Certification Plus 2024-2025 for midsize law firms, which recognizes leaders in diversity, equity and inclusion within the legal industry.

*For more information about Laura Brownfield joining the Catholic Foundation of Michigan Board of Directors, contact John Cornwell of the firm's Practice Development Department at (248) 901-4008; [jcornwell@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:jcornwell@plunkettcooney.com).*

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