



**DON
PASSENGER**

Bio

Before returning to private practice in 2017, Don served as a District Court Judge for over 20 years, presiding over many thousands of trials and tens of thousands of motions. As a leader in his six judge court, he served as the Chief Judge Pro-Tem for 12 years. He was also considered a leader-among-judicial-leaders statewide as he was chosen by his peers for a six-year stint on the Michigan District Judges executive committee, culminating in his selection as President in 2012.

In 2015, the City Attorney of Grand Rapids invited him to join her Enforcement Division where his energetic personality and thorough preparation worked to the people's advantage in dozens of jury trials and hundreds of non-jury trials.

Don always stays active and involved in the legal and non-legal communities. He has been a member of ICLE's Technology Law and Training Advisory Board and has been a frequent presenter on many topics for the State Bar of Michigan, ICLE, the Supreme Court Administrative Office, and the Michigan Judicial Institute. Don was selected by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve on the Collections Advisory Subcommittee. He has been active for many years in a variety of organizations in the West Michigan community. For over twenty years, Don served as a volunteer staff member at the Great Lakes Burn Camp where he worked with pediatric burn survivors as they regained self-esteem and confidence in a camp setting.

Don served as an adjunct professor at Davenport University in the Computer Information Systems and Legal Studies Departments from 1999 to 2003. He then served Davenport University for over 15 years as a member of its paralegal advisory team. In that role, he helped the program pass accreditation review several times. He has also been hired as the technical editor on dozens of published technology books.

Some of his past and present clients include:

- The United States Marshal for the Western District of Michigan
- Old Kent Bank and Trust
- Caledonia Community Schools
- Dozens of Credit Unions and Community Banks
- The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)
- Hundreds of Small Businesses, Partnerships, LLC's and Corporations
- Saskatoon Golf Club
- Doctors, Dentists, Chiropractors, Travel Agencies and other professionals
- McDonald Plumbing
- Seif and Sons Chevrolet
- Hundreds of farmers
- Robt. Grooters Development

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Complex Litigation
- Estate Planning, probate and trust work
- Real Estate
- Easement, Subdivision, Condominium and Commercial Development Law
- Business Disputes and Formation including corporations and limited liability companies
- Creditor's Rights
- Waterfront, Riparian and Littoral Rights
- Construction Liens
- General Practice
- Burn Injuries
- Bicycle Law

LITIGATION PERCENTAGE

50% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

50% of Practice Devoted to Real Estate, Business and Other Practice

MEDIATION

Don is an SCAO trained mediator and also has worked on multiple arbitration matters. He brings many years of experience both as a practicing attorney, but also as a judge to the table and he can help you settle even a thorny case where others may fail.