



Bridget M. McCormack

President and CEO

American Arbitration Association®-International Centre for Dispute Resolution®

Bridget M. McCormack is President and CEO of the American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution, the largest alternative dispute resolution institution, which was founded in 1926. She joined the AAA-ICDR® in February 2023, bringing her wealth of judicial, advocacy, and academic experience to an organization that takes seriously its role supporting court systems in the efficient administration of justice. She is also a Strategic Advisor to the Future of the Profession Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

Until the end of 2022, McCormack was Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, a position her peers selected her for in January 2019 after she served for six years as a Justice. While on the Court, she championed innovation and the use of technology to improve access to justice while hearing thousands of cases and overseeing a system of 244 trial courts and more than 500 judges. Key administrative accomplishments during her tenure include:

- Establishing Michigan’s Justice for All Commission, which assists those who need but cannot afford legal representation;
- A strategic plan developed by the Michigan Judicial Council, which McCormack has chaired, with the aim of improving transparency and the public’s experience of the court system; and
- As Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration and Chair of the Jail Reform Advisory Council, working across all three branches of Michigan government to examine and, through legislation improve, the experiences of criminal defendants while they await trial.

Other initiatives launched during her tenure on the Court include an eviction diversion program during the pandemic along with a rapid move to remote proceedings, an online dispute resolution platform—the first such statewide program in the country, and significant front- and back-end criminal legal system reforms developed with input from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

A graduate of Trinity College and New York University Law School, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar, McCormack started her legal career in New York City, first as a trial attorney at The Legal Aid Society and then at the Office of the Appellate Defender. In 1996, she joined the Yale Law School faculty and then, in 1998, became a professor at the University of Michigan Law School, where she taught criminal law, legal ethics, and numerous clinics. She was named Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs in 2002 and served in that position for a decade, leveraging her extensive trial experience to build the school’s clinical legal education program into a model for the profession. Currently the school offers 18 clinical programs, including in mediation, child welfare, civil rights, and entrepreneurship. McCormack also co-founded the Michigan Innocence Clinic which, as of February 2023, had exonerated 26 individuals who had been wrongly convicted. It was the first such clinic in the country not to rely on DNA evidence.



McCormack was elected to The American Law Institute in 2013. Throughout her career, she has served on dozens of working groups and commissions—often in a leadership capacity. The Attorney General of the United States appointed her to the National Commission on Forensic Science in 2014. She is also a former Vice President of the Conference of Chief Justices. In 2019, the Governor of Michigan named her Co-Chair of the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration. In 2020, she joined the American Bar Association’s Council on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar and currently serves as Vice Chair. In 2021, the Governor of Michigan asked her to co-chair the Michigan Task Force on Forensic Science and to chair the Michigan Jail Reform Advisory Council. She also chaired the Michigan Judicial Council, the strategic planning body for the judicial branch. In 2021, McCormack was also appointed to serve nationally on The Council of State Governments Healthy States National Task Force and the ABA Center for Innovation’s Governing Council. She was also named Chair of the ABA Board of Elections and serves on the Board of the National Association of Treatment Court Professionals.

McCormack is an editor for the ABA’s preeminent publication, *Litigation Journal*. She speaks and writes frequently about access to justice, innovation in the legal profession, and legal education. Her dozens of articles in law journals and other publications cover topics ranging from cognitive bias and forensic science to judicial engagement with citizens through social media.

Recent honors and awards McCormack has received include: being named a “Michiganiaan of the Year” by *The Detroit News* (2020) and being among *Michigan Lawyers Weekly’s* “Influential Women of Law” (2022). She also received the “Diversity and Inclusion Award” from the State Bar of Michigan’s Dispute Resolution Section (2020), the “Leader of the Year Award” from the Joyce Ivy Foundation (2020), the “Lifetime Judicial Achievement Award” from the Michigan Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (2019), the “Judicial Excellence Award” from the Michigan Association for Justice (2018), the “Sunshine Award” for transparency in public service from the Michigan Press Association (2023), and the “Rebuilding Justice Award”—which is the highest honor bestowed by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (2023).

McCormack is married to Steven Croley, General Counsel and Chief Policy Officer at Ford Motor Company. They have four adult children.