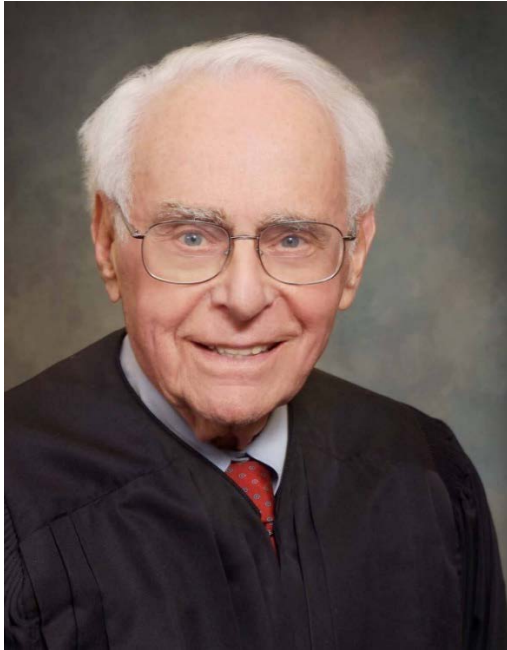


# **Detroit Bar Association Foundation honors Hon. Avern Cohn with 16th Annual Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award**



The Detroit Bar Association Foundation has honored U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn with its 2020 Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award.

The award, presented Friday, Nov. 19, during a Zoom video gala, recognizes a lawyer or judge who exemplifies the ideal of the law as public service. The foundation has presented the award since 2003 to Michigan lawyers and judges who have dedicated their careers to the betterment of the profession and the community.

Previous recipients include the late U.S. Appeals Judge Damon Keith (2007), former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (2010), Chief U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood (2019), retired Chief U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen (2015), and U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts (2012).

The award was presented by Archer, Hood, retired Chief Wayne County Circuit Judge Robert Colombo Jr., U.S. District Judges Nancy Edmunds and Bernard Friedman, Detroit attorney Eugene Driker and former law clerks Andrew Doctoroff and Kimberly Altman. Altman now is a federal magistrate judge in Detroit. Andrew Humphrey, WDIV meteorologist and reporter, emceed the event. Archer and Colombo received the award in 2003 and 2018, respectively.

Judge Cohn was born in 1924 to Irwin I. and Sadie Levin Cohn. He attended the University of Michigan, John Tarleton Agricultural College, Stanford University, and Loyola School of Medicine. After serving in the U.S. Army, he earned his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School and was admitted to the Michigan State Bar in December 1949.

Cohn started building his legal reputation as a member of the Law Office of Irwin I. Cohn and, later, with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn. Along the way, he served on several commissions including the Michigan Social Welfare Commission, Michigan Civil Rights Commission and Detroit Board of Police Commissioners. He also was active in numerous organizations in political, secular, and Jewish life, and is a member of several bar associations.

President Jimmy Carter appointed Cohn to the U.S. District Court bench in 1979. Over the years, Judge Cohn he presided over several major cases. He took senior status in 1999 but continued with a full caseload.

Several other awards were presented at Friday's event, which raised funds for a variety Detroit Bar Association Foundation programs designed to meet the legal needs of the underserved in the Detroit metropolitan area.

The bar association, founded in 1836, creates a forum for lawyers and judges to improve the administration and quality of justice in their community through education, dialogue, and community activities.