

## Council Member Profile

Name: **John W. Whitman**

Company: **GARAN LUCOW MILLER, P.C.**

Address: **201 South Main Street, 5th Floor, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

1. Where are you originally from?

**I was born in Detroit and brought up in Farmington Hills.**

2. What was your motivation for becoming a lawyer?

**My first motivation came from "To Kill a Mockingbird" with Gregory Peck. My second motivation was "My Life in Court" by Lewis Nizer.**

3. What is your educational background?

**I received a BA in Political Science and History from the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus in 1982. I received a JD from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1985.**

4. How long have you been with your current firm and what is the nature of your practice?

**I joined GARAN LUCOW MILLER in 1993. I became a partner in 1998 and began managing the Ann Arbor office in 2005. My practice is primarily defense of civil litigation. I am also a Facilitator in such claims.**

5. What are some of the greatest challenges/rewards in your area of practice?

**Lately the greatest challenge has been getting parties in Facilitation to see the degree to which they each have risk and opportunity. I think the greatest reward that I have received from practicing law is that I am in a profession in which I get to see good friends on a regular basis when I go into any random Courtroom. I have gotten to know a lot of very good lawyers and genuinely good people over the years.**

6. Describe some of the most significant accomplishments of your career:

**I have had the opportunity to try civil and criminal jury cases. I fully enjoyed that.**

7. How did you become involved with the Negligence Law Section?

**It was a natural fit for my practice.**

8. What do you feel the Section provides to Michigan lawyers?  
**I think the primary contribution is to provide an unbiased, unslanted voice on both procedural and substantive issues which effect all of our practices and perhaps more important, our clients.**
  
9. What do you feel the greatest benefit has been to you in becoming involved with the Section?  
**This is an opportunity to have candid discussion with some really fine lawyers outside of the particular dispute when we can be objective in our discussions.**
  
10. Why would you encourage others to become involved with the Section?  
**This is their practice. If this is an area of law that a lawyer feels sufficiently drawn to and to spend a significant amount of their career handling negligence cases then they ought to have both an ear and a voice at “the table” when “big issues” are discussed.**
  
11. What are some of your hobbies and interests outside of work?  
**I like to garden and I enjoy home repair and household projects. I also enjoy travel.**