

AAML NEWS-IN-BRIEF

The Amazing Richard S. Victor Honored

Michigan Fellow **Richard S. Victor**, a devoted longtime advocate for the rights of children and grandparents, has been honored by the State Bar of Michigan as the 2004 recipient of one of its highest awards, the "Champion Of Justice" Award.

The award, given yearly by the State Bar, honors integrity and adherence to the highest principals and traditions of the legal profession. It serves to recognize superior professional competence and an extraordinary professional accomplishment that benefits the nation, the state, or a local community in which the lawyer or judge lives. Read what follows and you'll know why Richard Victor so aptly deserves this award.

A former President of his Michigan AAML Chapter and our current AAML CLE Chair, Richard serves on our National Board of Governors. Through his 30 years of practice, he has been nationally recognized for his work on behalf of families and children, with such honors as:

- Recipient of the Meritorious Service to the Children of America Award, from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- Recipient of the Child Advocate Award and Award of Appreciation from the Child Abuse and Neglect Council
- Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association
- Presenter at the Second World Congress for the Rights of Children, co-sponsored by the United Nations, the American Bar Association and the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Named to Board of Editors of *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, where he has served since 2001
- 2000 Recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the National Alumni Association of Michigan State University College of Law where he spoke at the Law School Commencement 25 years after his graduation
- 1999 Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, from the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan
- Named in 1999 as one of the Top-10 Lawyers in the State of Michigan by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*

Richard founded, and continues to serve as, the Executive Director of the National Non-Profit Grandparents Rights Organization. Under their auspices, he has worked tirelessly, *pro bono*,

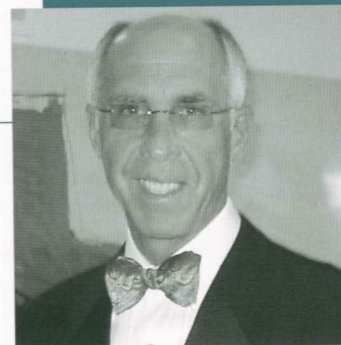
since 1978 for and on behalf of the rights of grandparents to be able to maintain contact with their grandchildren following the death or divorce of children's parents.

The Champion of Justice Award will be presented to Richard Victor in conjunction with the Michigan State Bar Convention. We congratulate him and are fiercely proud that he is one of AAML's own.

Richard is a former Chairperson of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, where he also served as Continuing Legal Education Chairperson from 1985 through 1990, and for the Michigan Chapter of the AAML from 1994 through present.

He is the author and general editor of the three-volume treatise entitled, "Michigan Practitioners Series: Family Law and Practice," published by West Group Publications. He also serves as editor of the Grandparents Rights Organization Newsletter, which he has published since 1989.

Although this would seem to be enough incredible accomplishments in one



■ **Richard S. Victor**

person's life, Richard is also the co-founder of the State and National Parent Education Program entitled "SMILE" (Start Making It Liveable For Everyone).

Through his amazing career he has also served as counsel or co-counsel on appellate cases of national interest, including the *Atkinson* case, which created the Equitable Parent Doctrine; the "*Baby Jessica*" case, where he served as the attorney for "*Baby Jessica*"; and on the *DeRose* case regarding grandparents' rights to visitation.

In his (unimaginable) spare time, he has appeared on such national and network television shows as *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, CNN's *Crossfire* and *Burden of Proof*.

The Champion of Justice Award will be presented to Richard Victor in conjunction with the Michigan State Bar Convention on September 30, 2004. We congratulate him and are fiercely proud that he is one of AAML's own.