



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Chief Judge of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Named by Detroit News as a 2017 “Michigianian of the Year”**

LANSING, MI, September 15, 2017 – Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Chief Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado was honored today as a [2017 Detroit News Michigianian of the Year](#). Chief Judge Maldonado was recognized for her “tireless work” dedicated to protecting and helping children.

“Chief Judge Maldonado’s passion for helping her community shines through in everything she does,” said Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack, who has served with Maldonado on the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum. “For example, her sobriety court program focuses on all aspects of treatment, but she recognizes the need of each participant to grow and prosper within their Native American culture and community. There is no one more deserving of this recognition.”

A nationally recognized expert on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act, Maldonado has worked extensively with the State Court Administrative Office to bring Michigan into compliance with the ICWA, and serves as a frequent trainer and speaker. She also plays a key role on the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum, which was created in 2014 to provide an ongoing venue for judges from all three jurisdictions to convene jointly to improve working relations and communication.

Appointed Chief Judge of the Little Traverse Bay Bands Tribal Court in 2012, Maldonado holds a bachelor’s degree from City University of New York and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School in 2000.

The Michigianian of the Year awards, given every year since 1978, celebrate a selection of outstanding citizens who have helped make living in this state a richer experience, either by their good works or by the example they set. Readers of the *Detroit News* participate in nominating the honorees. Former recipients of the award include Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young, Governor James Blanchard, sportscaster Ernie Harwell, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, and First Lady Helen Milliken.

To view the complete list of past recipients, visit the *Detroit News* [website](#).

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