

Oakland County Legal News

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Michigan celebrates small business, announces 2025 awardees



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION

Michigan Celebrates Small Business on Tuesday unveiled a range of accolades for small business owners throughout the state, including recognition for Michigan’s 50 Companies to Watch and the introduction of new categories specifically for microbusinesses and disability-owned businesses. Launched in 2004, the Michigan Celebrates Small Business awards have been celebrating and elevating Michigan small businesses for more than two decades, with over 1,000 companies having been honored over the past 20 years.

After receiving more than 650 nominations for the competitive 2025 awards program, 90 Michigan small businesses will be recognized for their role in growing the state’s economy, creating jobs and being an integral part of communities from Muskegon to Ironwood to Ann Arbor. The full list of 2025 award recipients can be found at [MichiganCelebrates.org](#).

Small Business owners and supporters from across Michigan will gather in April to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2025 awardees who have contributed to Michigan’s economy and are poised for sustained growth and success. This year’s celebration includes a small business summit and VIP reception on Monday April 21st, with a Capitol Day and black-tie awards gala on April 22nd.

“Michigan’s small businesses have demonstrated remarkable resilience. Even amidst significant challenges, these recipients of Michigan Celebrates Small Business awards are innovating and growing in extraordinary ways,” said Brian Calley, President and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan. “We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated entrepreneurs as the core of our state’s economy. They deserve all the recognition they can get, and we’re excited to bring everyone together next month to honor their achievements.”

MCSB offered nine awards categories this year to honor the diverse landscape of small businesses, including the notable Michigan 50 Companies to Watch award.

The Michigan 50 Companies to Watch must be second-stage companies, defined as having 6 to 99 full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees and generating \$750,000 to \$50 million in annual revenue or working capital from investors or grants. The companies must be privately held and headquartered in Michigan. Judges for this award evaluate the applicants’ demonstration of intent and capacity to grow based on employee or sales growth, entrepreneurial leadership, sustainable competitive advantage, and other notable factors that showcase the company’s success.

Other small business awards are presented at the gala, including:

- Distinguished Alumni Award: Great Place to Work
- Distinguished Alumni Award: Strategically Focused
- Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year Award
- Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year Award
- Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year Award
- Best Small Business by Michigan Small Business Development Center

New awards this year are:

- Disability Owned Small Business of the Year Award
- Micro Business Award

The full list of 2025 award winners can be found at <https://michigancelebrates.org/mcsb-awardees/>.

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