

MICHIGAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CO-DIRECTORS

Anne M. Mervenne Co-Director, MPLP

In addition to her work as Co-director of MPLP, Anne is CEO of Mervenne & Company, a governmental relations consulting firm. Previously she held senior management positions for twelve years in the administration of former Governor John Engler. She served as the Governor's Director of Appointments, Director of the Southeastern Michigan Office of the Governor, Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Commission and Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Engler. Her public policy experience also includes working in the Michigan State Senate for seven years in a variety of capacities for former State Senator Doug Cruce.

Anne has been an elected official in her own right. She served as a member of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners for four years.

Her volunteer activities include service on the Board of Directors for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan and the Children's Center in Wayne County. Anne also serves on the Advisory Boards of Focus: HOPE, the Michigan Festivals and Events Association, Angels' Place, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn Institute for Local Government. She was recognized by Habitat for Humanity of Michigan in 2002 as the first recipient of the Bernice R. Bensen Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Mervenne also serves periodically as a commentator on "Michigan Matters," a current events television program on WWJ-TV.

Anne earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University's James Madison College in 1982. She is available at anne@mervenne.com.

Steve Tobocman Co-Director, MPLP

Steve Tobocman is managing partner at New Solutions Group, LLC and currently serves as the Director of Global Detroit, a regional economic development initiative focusing on Metro Detroit's immigrant, international, and global connections to create jobs and raise incomes. [More](#)

In 1998, Steve conceived of, created, and served as the executive director of Community Legal Resources, a business law pro bono program to provide free legal services to nonprofit organizations serving low-income communities across Michigan. Community Legal Resources was selected as one of the five leading nonprofit legal services programs in the nation by Power of Attorney in 2001 and Steve was honored with the American Bar Association's Business Law Public Service Award in 2002.

In 2002, Steve became the first person to unseat an incumbent member of the House of Representatives in Michigan since term limits were adopted in the mid-1990s. He served in the Michigan House for three consecutive, two-year terms (the maximum allowed under Michigan's

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term limits laws.) He was elected Majority Floor Leader, the second-highest position in the Michigan House, during his third term. He is author of 24 public acts and an important contributor to such initiatives as legislation authorizing Michigan land banks and a statewide housing and community development fund. He played key roles in one of the nation's toughest immigrant consumer protection laws, rewrote blight laws and helped strengthen protections for low-income tenants against eminent domain.

Prior to his election to office, he served a year of service in Americorps and was a founding board member of Community Development Advocates of Detroit and the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan. He earned his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School and a Masters in Public Policy from U of M's Ford School of Public Policy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics earned at the University of Virginia. He is available at steve.tobocman@gmail.com.

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