

Don Jennings Award Nomination

Jeanne A. Butterfield, Esq.

Jeanne A. Butterfield moved her high energy and skills to Manistee just a few years ago but her leadership has already made its impact on our Community. She served two years as the Vice Chair of the Manistee County Democratic Party. Regionally, she chaired the 101st House District Democratic Coordinating Committee. Currently, Jeanne Chairs the Manistee group of “We the People”, a nonpartisan activist network focusing on state and national issues of concern to the Manistee community. In all these roles, Jeanne has demonstrated personal commitment and her ability to mobilize others.

Before moving to Manistee, Jeanne established herself as a long-time immigration policy expert and advocate. She most recently served as Special Counsel at the Raben Group, a public policy consulting firm in Washington DC. She also served as the Executive Director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association in Washington for thirteen years and before that was AILA’s Director of Advocacy for three years. Earlier in her career, she worked extensively on the whole range of immigration issues including employment, family-based immigration advocacy, and refugee and asylum protection. She has led human rights delegations to Haiti and to the Middle East, and recently traveled to Cuba to learn more about migration issues affecting that country and its relationship with the U.S.

Ms Butterfield received her law degree at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and is a retired member of the Massachusetts State Bar. She continues to advocate for immigrants, making trips to Dilley, Texas, to volunteer assisting women and children detained there by ICE who are fleeing violence in their home countries and seeking asylum protection in the U.S.

Jeanne and her partner Al Frye open their hearts and their home to a variety of community agencies and issues. She is a Volunteer at the Vogue. She is a trained musician and lends her talents as a pianist to several local causes. Jeanne and Al frequently host events at their home on Lake Michigan. Although reasonably new to the area, Jeanne and Al are definitely “Pure Michigan.”