

**Aviation Section
State Bar of Michigan
2008-2009 Annual Report**

Outreach of the Section has been the focus of this year's activities. Some of the outreach continued prior efforts and some either revived past practices or broke new ground. Overall, these efforts were successful despite the usual challenges.

A key activity of the Section always has been to design and present seminars targeting members of the aviation community. The purpose has been to help all aviation professionals better cope with the many layers of regulatory and statutory law.

The first seminar was given as part of the Great Lakes International Aviation Conference in January. Michael F. McKinley of the FAA Office of Regional Counsel was the featured speaker. Assisting with the program were Section members: Steven M. Chait, Donald C. Frank, Dean G. Greenblatt, Euel W. Kinsey, and Charles J. Senger. The audience at this seminar was drawn from all parts of the aviation community.

The second seminar was given at two locations in May. In Pontiac, Dr. Robert J. Gordon, Senior Aviation Medical Examiner from Plymouth, Michigan, presented along with Section members: Steven M. Chait, Donald C. Frank, Gerald V. Padilla, and Charles J. Senger. The same members assisted Dr. Gregory A. Pinnell, Senior Aviation Medical Examiner from Saginaw, in giving a similar seminar at Saginaw. Selecting Saginaw represented a new outreach by the Section since a seminar had not been offered there in the past. Although the seminar focused on medical regulations affecting pilots, Dr. Pinnell was able to offer unusual insights since he is one of the doctors who meet returning NASA shuttle flights.

In July, the Section reached out to the Lawyer Pilots Bar Association to assist with their meeting being held on Mackinaw

Island. The current President of LPBA is Susan Hofer, a former Chair of our Aviation Section. Section members David R. Baxter and David I. Katzman were speakers and Gerald V. Padilla opened his Mackinaw Island home for a reception attended by both Section and LPBA members.

With the help of Donald C. Frank, the Section also revised, printed, and distributed copies of a new directory of Section members. This directory is one of the handouts at Section events and has proven over time to be an effective method of raising awareness of what the Section and its members offer.

Challenges to the Section remain much the same as when I was Vice-Chair of the Detroit Young Lawyers over 30 years ago. If anything, the business model used in the practice of law today makes it even more difficult for persons to devote the amount of time needed to accomplish Section objectives. Fortunately some persons continue to step forward and carry part of the load. A good example is Karl W. Randall who, year after year, takes care of the Section's finances.

Although the seminars advanced the Section's goal of outreach, a number of projects still await action. This has been a good year and, hopefully, next year will be even better.

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State Bar of Michigan