

**CHILDREN'S LAW SECTION  
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2009-2010**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Children's Law Section Michigan works to strengthen the delivery and enhance the quality of legal services for children through continued education and training, improve the court systems and agencies that serve children's needs through representation of parents and children, and advance the rights of children through changing legislation and policy. We are involved in the court system to represent juvenile offenders and the victims of abuse and neglect and we work to improve the lives of children and families ensuring they all receive justice.

**OFFICERS**

Chair:	John H McKaig	(P24701)
Chair Elect:	Jodi M. Latuszek	(P74538)
Secretary:	Robinjit Eagleson	(P70499)
Treasurer:	Alicia M Fabiano	(P62872)

**Council Members**

**Term Expiring 10/1/10**

R. William Schooley (P29329)  
Debra Davis (P70834)  
Denise LaFave Smith

**Term Expiring 9/11**

Karen Cook (P26141)  
Suzanne Stephan (P57289)  
Katrina Martin (P62506)  
Robbie Powelson (P43326)  
Shannon Schegel (P63191)

**Term Expiring 9/12**

Jenifer Pettibone (P60864)  
John Forczak (P25364)  
Amanda Roggenbuck (P63764)  
Christine Piatowski (P56492)  
Stacey Pfarrer (P69311)

**COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at the State Bar of Michigan building. Meetings may be attended either in person or by conference telephone. All section members and guests are invited. A light meal is available to all attendees.

The Annual meeting is also available to all Section members. Held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual meeting each September we review the past year, elect officers and council members and are visited by a guest speaker. Our 2009 speaker was the Honorable Donald S Owens, judge of the Court of Appeals.

**SECTION COMMITTEES**

The Section has three standing committees:

**EDUCATION:** The primary function of the committee is the planning and organization of the Annual Spring Conference. The 2010 conference was attended by more than 90 participants involved in all aspects of children's law issues. One of the best conferences ever varying topics of interest were discussed including juvenile competency, juveniles on the sex registry and the outline of a neglect and abuse case among others. This year's conference was held, again, at Zehnders in Frankenmuth. Planning for 2011 is in progress with a change of location being one of the considerations.

**LEGISLATIVE:** The Children's Section is one of a handful of Bar sections that retains a lobbyist. Bill Kandler of Cusmano, Kandler and Reid represents our efforts to develop new legislation and our attempts to shape legislation pending in both houses of the legislature. The committee is currently involved in and carefully pending legislation regarding juvenile offender competency.

**AMICUS:** After a very busy 2009, this year has been more of a court watching year for the committee. However, the committee is currently closely watching several cases they may draw the attention of the Section Council.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The section has joined with The Probate Judges Association in raising questions and seeking an opinion regarding the impact of the settlement in *Dwayne B v Granholm* on the courts in Michigan.

Assisted the Court Advisory group in making recommendations re: *Federal Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan*

Completely updated the section website including a new section for *MEMBERS ONLY*

We are working with the State Bar in the production of a print version of the Child Protective Proceeding Bench Book. When completed the book will be available to all practitioners and jurists at cost

Negotiated with the National Association of Counsel for Children for a group rate for our section members

## **FINANCIAL**

The section has been productive for the past year operating solely on the membership dues of its 450+ members.