

Environmental Law Section 2006-2007 Annual Report

Over the past year, the Section continued to provide professionally useful programs, meetings, and publications to its members, and also continued its outreach to students and professors at law schools in Michigan who have interests in environmental law.

The Council, as well as Chairs of the Section Committees, meets four times a year. Section meetings traditionally have been held in Lansing at the State Bar building, except for the annual meeting, which is held in conjunction with the State Bar's annual meeting, and the June meeting, which is held at the MacMullen Center in Higgins Lake, Michigan. This year, as part of our outreach to area law schools, the February meeting was held at the Cooley Law School in Lansing in conjunction with a program described below. The Section will likely continue to hold some of its meetings or programs at area law schools.

The Program Committee, directed by Susan Topp and Kurt Brauer, continued its work in presenting several useful and well-attended programs. The annual program in Detroit covered wetlands issues, including a discussion on two Michigan wetlands cases that were decided by the U.S. Supreme Court – *Rapanos* and *Carabell*. In the fall, the Section held a 25th anniversary celebration, and speakers included Governor William Milliken, former Attorney General Frank Kelly, Professor Joe Sax, MDEQ director Steve Chester, and others. In addition, two programs were held in the winter of 2007. One was held in conjunction with the February Section meeting at Cooley Law School in Lansing. That program included a discussion of two significant air cases that were pending in the U.S. Supreme Court at the time, as well as a discussion regarding the Part 201 Work Group. The Section also held a Boot Camp in Gaylord on March 2, at which a wide variety of environmental topics were covered. The Higgins Lake program in June will

include a discussion regarding the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, which has recently been introduced in the Michigan Legislature, as well as a discussion regarding the final recommendations of the Part 201 Work Group.

The Section continued to publish the Michigan Environmental Law Journal, which includes articles by Section members and case summaries prepared by law students.

Jeff Haynes and Gene Smary have been organizing a complete updating of the Michigan Environmental Law Deskbook, with a planned publication in late 2007. Many members of the Section have volunteered their time to draft or edit deskbook chapters.

As a result of activities taken by my predecessors, the Section's budget preserves a healthy balance. Section committees have undergone further reorganization and reinvigoration.

I would especially like to thank Chair-Elect Susan Topp and Secretary/Treasurer Charles Barbieri for their many contributions and invaluable assistance this year.

It has been a real honor to work with so many talented colleagues in the Section; I have learned much from them and appreciate all their efforts in support of the Section.

John V. Byl
Chairperson