

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

Scribes Honors Professor Joseph Kimble by Naming Award in His Honor

Scribes—the American Society of Legal Writers—has honored longtime *Michigan Bar Journal* Plain Language column editor Joseph Kimble by renaming its Distinguished Service Award the Joseph Kimble Distinguished Service Award. Kimble, a former executive director and 15-year board member of Scribes, was surprised by the announcement while in the audience of the Scribes 2017 Continuing Legal Education Conference at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. The Scribes Board of Directors unanimously voted to rename the award in Kimble's honor.

Kimble is a distinguished professor emeritus at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, where he joined the faculty full time in 1984. Kimble is senior editor of *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing* and has published dozens of articles and two books about legal writing. He led the re-drafting of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Federal Rules of Evidence. He is also past president of Clarity, an international association promoting plain language; a founding director of the Center for Plain Language; and a board member for the Legal Writing Institute.



Courtesy photo

Pictured, left to right: John Marshall Law School Dean and Scribes Past President Darby Dickerson, Joseph Kimble, 2017 Joseph Kimble Distinguished Service Award recipient Kenneth Gartner, and John Marshall Law School Professor and Scribes President-elect Mark Wojcik.

He was named a "Plain English Champion" by the Plain English Campaign in England; received the first Plain Language Association International Award; received the Burton Award for Reform in Law twice—once for his work on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and once for his work on the Federal Rules of Evidence; received the American Law Schools Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Award; and

received the SBM John W. Reed Lawyer Legacy Award.

Scribes was founded in 1953 and is the oldest organization devoted to improving legal writing and honoring legal writers. The first recipient of the Joseph Kimble Distinguished Service Award was Kenneth Gartner, a New York-based commercial trial and appellate litigator. ■

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UpFront ?

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Kalamazoo Central Mock Trial Team Finishes Second in the Nation

The Kalamazoo Central mock trial team placed second in the nation at the National High School Mock Trial Tournament on May 14 in Hartford, Connecticut.

The team advanced to the national championship after winning the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament on March 25 at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse in Lansing.

The Michigan tournament, run by the Michigan Center for Civic Education, consisted of regional rounds in Washtenaw, Kent, Macomb, and Oakland counties. The top 10 teams moved on to the state championship, where they were evaluated by presiding judge Hon. Carl Marlinga and scoring judges Donald Fulkerson and Lawrence Nolan.



Kalamazoo Central mock trial team.

Ann Arbor Community High School finished second at the state championship. The other state final participants were Anchor Bay High School, Caledonia High School, Marine City Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, Capac High School, Detroit Catholic Central High School, Grand Blanc High School, Ann Arbor Huron High School, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central High School, Trenton High School, and University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

The Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament is sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan, the SBM Appellate Law Section, Comcast, Donald Fulkerson, the SBM Litigation Section, MEEMIC Insurance Company, Meijer, the Michigan State Bar Foundation, the Oakland County Bar Foundation, Linda Rexer, and Rock Financial. ■

View a full photo album from the state championship on the SBM Facebook page.

SBM Representative Assembly Meets April 22 in Lansing



Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen Markman told members of the Representative Assembly that he looks forward to offering strong support from the Court in advancing the recommendations of the SBM 21st Century Practice Task Force. "As chief justice, my mission is then, this: I wish to be accessible to the bench and bar," he said. "I wish for my Court and the State Bar to be joined in common purpose in strengthening our system on behalf of our citizens. I wish for the Court to provide the wisest and steadiest leadership it can in pursuit of the equal rule of law. I wish to maintain and strengthen where we can, in ways large and small, a bench and bar of which all of us can be proud."

SBM Representative Assembly Chair Fred Herrmann spoke about leadership to assembly members and compared serving as a lawyer to serving on a military submarine. "Run to the fire," Herrmann said. "On a submarine, a fire not immediately extinguished puts everyone in peril, hence one of the first things they teach you is to run toward and not away from a fire, and so it is in our service to the public. Attacking problems quickly and decisively is critical, not only in our service to individual clients but also in our larger collective ability to serve the public. And we face numerous fires: ensuring adequate funding for legal services to those in need, helping our new lawyers to be practice-ready, ensuring meaningful continuing legal education to all of our other lawyers, advancing diversity and inclusiveness, and innovating new methods for the delivery of legal services."