

Antitrust, Franchising & Trade Regulation Section

The May and August 2017 issues of the *Bar Journal* featured articles by several section members with respect to noncompete agreements, the effect of the joint employer doctrine on the franchise business model, and resale price maintenance. On October 6, the section will sponsor a seminar for franchise businesses and attorneys, entitled “Franchising Law & Practice: Modernizing the Franchise Relationship,” featuring speakers and a panel discussion addressing the latest legislative updates and best practices in operating a franchise business.

Appellate Practice Section

The Appellate Practice Section has created recommendations for a pilot program designed to improve the readability and functionality of appellate briefs in the digital age. The recommendations are the work of the section's Readability Subcommittee. The ultimate goal is to propose amendments to the appellate rules that will allow e-briefing to catch up to e-filing by improving screen readability and incorporating new technologies to enhance reading efficiencies on tablets and other electronic devices.

Business Law Section

The 29th Annual Business Law Institute will be held October 6 in Grand Rapids. The section's annual meeting will be conducted as part of the BLI. Congratulations to John

Trentacosta, 2017 recipient of the Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award. Trentacosta will be recognized at the annual meeting. Sign up today at <http://www.icle.org>. Business Boot Camp II will be held November 6–7 in Grand Rapids and January 29–30, 2018, in Plymouth. Sign up at <http://connect.michbar.org/businesslaw/events/>.

Criminal Law Section

The Criminal Law Section Council thanks its members for another successful annual meeting and program, and welcomes new Chair Stephanie Farkas. The names of other officers and newly elected council members are listed in our newsletter and on our website. The council looks forward to another productive year with many events for its members, including the 41st Annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference at Shanty Creek. Watch for more information on the conference and other offerings.

Environmental Law Section

The section's annual program and meeting were a success. Members learned about current issues facing Michigan waters, including an update on efforts to assess the risks/alternatives to the Line 5 pipeline in the Mackinac Straits and recent issues affecting aquaculture. Our fall joint conference, cosponsored with the East and West Michigan chapters of the AWMA, will be held November 8 at Lansing Community College West Campus. Visit <http://connect.michbar.org/envlaw/home> for details and past program materials.

Family Law Section

A special three-part series on “Contempt of Court in Michigan” continues in the October edition of the *Family Law Journal*. All section members receive the *Journal*. The section's legislative efforts are directed to opposing HB 4691 as passed by the House Judiciary Committee. Section members who want to serve on committees are invited to express their interest to any council member, listed in the *Family Law Journal* or on the website at <http://connect.michbar.org/familylaw/home>.

Real Property Law Section

Register today! Limited space is available for the Real Property Law Academy I on October 11–12 at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids and on May 9–10, 2018, at the MSU–Management Education Center in Troy. Discounts are available for firms. To register and learn more about the academy, visit <http://connect.michbar.org/realproperty/events/academy>.

Taxation Section

The Taxation Section publishes the *Michigan Tax Lawyer*, its journal on substantive tax topics, three times a year. If you have an article you would like considered for publication, please contact Andrew MacLeod at amacleod@dickinsonwright.com or (313) 223-3187. ■

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