



Greetings from the State Bar of Michigan Marijuana Law Section

By Mary Chartier

I'm excited to be the third chairperson of the Marijuana Law Section. Our first chairperson, Bernard Jocuns, was the trailblazer who started the section. Dan Grow, our second chairperson, was involved from the beginning, as was I. It has been exciting to watch the section grow from an idea to a group of nearly 800 members in under three years. (Bernie and Dan will remember we had hoped to have 100 members. We're happy our prediction was so far off.)

The section is extremely active. We have an annual multi-day conference in the fall that focuses on cannabis issues. This year's conference is October 25–27 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. Our conferences bring together national speakers and presenters experienced in Michigan cannabis law to provide an educational and entertaining event covering an array of topics. We also host numerous one-day seminars on topics such as cannabusiness and criminal defense.

We strive to keep our members informed through a journal and listserv that have the most current information on cases—thanks to Allen Peisner—and updates on the new Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act. Our section has great plans for the future, including creating webinars to expand our educational offerings. We also strive to help members of the community, including holding an annual coat and clothing drive for veterans, headed by army veteran Takura Nyamfukudza. Section members are also active in providing input on legislation, jury instructions, and the rules of professional conduct.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the *Bar Journal*, which has articles that highlight just a few of the many facets of cannabis law. Each article grapples with specific issues surrounding cannabis, which is becoming increasingly legal throughout the nation but remains illegal under federal law.

We thank the State Bar of Michigan for supporting us as we continue working in this exciting and emerging area of the law. On behalf of our amazing council members—Matt Abel, Allison Arnold, Bruce Block, Lisa Dwyer, John Fraser, Dan Grow, Robert Hendricks, Bernard Jocuns, Michael Komorn, Devin Loker, and Barton Morris—we thank everyone who has made the Marijuana Law Section a success. We hope you'll consider joining the section, and we look forward to working together in the future. ■



Mary Chartier is a criminal defense litigator and founding partner of Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC. She litigates throughout the state, including practicing extensively in federal court. She recently led a team that exonerated a man wrongfully imprisoned for nine years. She presents nationally on issues related to criminal defense and was named a

2018 Leader in the Law by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.