



International Law

Theme Introduction

By Jeffrey F. Paulsen

This theme issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* acknowledges the growing importance of international relationships to Michigan citizens and international law to Michigan lawyers. The recognized efforts of state and county governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and law schools are but a small sampling of the activities occurring daily to improve and expand the international relationships of individuals, businesses, governmental entities, and others that see the potential opportunities for Michigan in the global economy.

These globalization efforts are being supplemented, supported, and headed by members of the SBM International Law Section. With more than 460 members led by four elected officers, nine elected council members, and seven committee chairs, the section provides extensive international educational learning and mentoring opportunities by offering programs and seminars as well as publishing the *Michigan International Lawyer*. The section also strives to provide beneficial networking opportunities for members and nonmembers alike. Not only has the section reached out to various statewide constituents sharing an interest and passion for international matters, it has made a concerted effort to reach young lawyers and law students who view international law as a career possibility. By appointing a diversity coordinator and providing free membership to law students and lawyers with less than two years of practice, the section encourages new diverse members and provides leadership opportunities.

Our first three articles draw attention to the work of internationally minded organizations and lawyers and the international

efforts of Oakland County and the Detroit Chinese Business Association. These are supplemented by two articles—one considering the work being done and the difficulties in educating law students in an expanding global economy and the other discussing a recent United States Supreme Court case highlighting the variable challenges in understanding and practicing law in the international community.

We hope you enjoy these glimpses into international relationships and the practice of international law in Michigan. To learn more, we encourage you to join the SBM International Law Section, attend its quarterly and annual meetings, and read the *Michigan International Lawyer*. Visit <http://www.michbar.org/international/> for details.

Having just celebrated the section's 25th anniversary, we look forward to the future of the International Law Section, led by those with a passion for international law. ■



Jeffrey F. Paulsen, owner of Paulsen Law Firm, has more than 25 years of experience as an international business transactions lawyer, including experience as a division general counsel of a global Fortune 500 company and former business services partner of an Am Law 200 law firm. He is the cofounder of LexAdvantage (www.lexadvantage.com)—a global resources network—and the immediate past chairperson of the SBM International Law Section.