

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

Links of Interest

State Bar Blog

<http://profile.typepad.com/6p0120a7ae33fa970b>

Blog of State Bar President Julie Fershtman

<http://sbmpres2012.com/>

Calendar of Statewide Events

<http://www.michbar.org/news/calendar.cfm>

What's New in Practice Management

<http://www.michbar.org/publications/signup.cfm#pmrc>

Economics of Law Practice Survey

<http://www.michbar.org/opinions/content.cfm>

Public Policy Resource Center

<http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/>

List and Links to State Bar Committees

<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/committees.cfm>

Access to Justice Online Donation Form

<https://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pledgeOnline.cfm>

Michigan Legal Milestones

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm>

Connections is an electronic newsletter published three times a year by the State Bar of Michigan and distributed without charge to recognized Michigan local and special purpose bar associations and the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Announcements, articles, and pictures for Connections are highly encouraged. Please send suggestions to Candace Crowley at ccrowley@mail.michbar.org. The State Bar of Michigan reserves the right to edit for clarity and suggests that submissions be kept at 500 words or fewer.

Submission Deadlines:

June 15, 2011

October 15, 2011

February 15, 2012

Social Media at Work for Bar Associations: Check Out State Bar President Julie Fershtman's Blog!

Candace Crowley

Social media applications have been the subject of many recent bar leadership, orientation, and print *Bar Journal* articles and we are all cautioned that unless our association participates in at least one of these new communication tools, we are doomed to the fate of dinosaurs or other extinct entities. Many Michigan bar associations do indeed have Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter presences and in fact, the State Bar is active on all of those sites. See www.michbar.org for links.

Popular social media applications include the blog, a word abbreviated from a somewhat self-explanatory "web log." Most of us are familiar with this tool—"generally maintained by an individual with regular entries of themed commentary, descriptions of events, pictures, and other materials." State Bar President Julie Fershtman is one of the first state bar presidents in the country to maintain a blog. This may be of special interest to you since Julie blogs about her visits to bar associations throughout the state. She invites you to check it out on the [State Bar President blog](#), which you can also access at www.sbmpres2012.com. Invite Julie to one of your events and see what a report of that looks like on a presidential blog.

For more information on social media applications, contact State Bar Media Specialist Samantha Meinke, smeinke@mail.michbar.org.

Check Out the State Bar of Michigan Blog Too

The State Bar has maintained its own blog since January of 2010. Focused on items of interest to lawyers and bar associations, the **SBM Blog** pulls from local, state, and national legal media for its content. State Bar Executive Director Janet Welch is the chief State Bar blogger, and she shows us a highly entertaining and witty side of her intelligence through her postings. If you have not yet visited the SBM Blog, it's certainly worth your time.

Calendar of Events

Board of Commissioners Meetings

January 20, 2012

March 9, 2012

April 20, 2012

June 8, 2012

July 27, 2012

September 19, 2012
(Grand Rapids)

Representative Assembly Meetings

April 21, 2012

September 20, 2012
(Grand Rapids)

ABA Bar Leadership Institute

March 14-16, 2012
(Chicago, IL)

SBM Bar Leadership Forum

June 8 & 9, 2012
(Mackinac Island)

ABA Mid-Year Meeting

February 1-7
(New Orleans, LA)

ABA Annual Meeting

August 3-7, 2012
(Chicago, IL)

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 19-21, 2012
(Grand Rapids)

Read the newsletter online at

http://www.michbar.org/resources/pdfs/connections_fall11.pdf

More Traditional Communications—Dealing with the Media Seminar

The State Bar of Michigan's **Law and the Media Committee** arranges programs on "Dealing With the Media" for attorneys. The programs, which are ideally suited for local bar association events, provide practical advice regarding how to handle inquiries from media representatives, as well as review of the ethical contours of extrajudicial statements by attorneys. The seminars, which last about one hour and are free of charge, are moderated by attorneys from the State Bar Law and the Media Committee, many of whom also are current or former journalists. Each seminar generally also features one or more members of the local media involved in coverage of the legal system. The seminars are given in a discussion format, rather than lecture, with use of hypothetical fact patterns to encourage participation from the attorneys in attendance. The seminars tend to be lively and popular. For further information or to schedule a seminar for your organization, please contact committee Chair Tom Howlett at (248) 540-3333 or thowlett@gogasian.com.

Scholarships Available for ABA Bar Leadership Institute; Deadline January 6

The American Bar Association is making five scholarships for the **ABA Bar Leadership Institute** available again this year. The BLI will be held in Chicago on March 14-16. The scholarships are intended for bar leaders from small associations with limited resources. A scholarship consists of a registration fee waiver and a \$500 reimbursement of meeting and travel expenses. Scholarship applications are due January 6, 2012. More information about the scholarship and application is available on the **BLI web page**, or contact Jennifer Lewin at jennifer.lewin@americanbar.org with your questions.

State Bar of Michigan 2011-12 Affinity Bar Directory

By now the president and executive directors of Michigan's affinity bar associations should have received their copy of the State Bar's **2011-12 Affinity Bar Directory**. We hope this publication is of use to you in your bar association's efforts. The directory was published in late November. As there are some bar associations with elections in the latter part of the year, we anticipate changes in leadership since the directory went to print. An updated Affinity Bar Directory will be published in the *Michigan Bar Journal* April Directory issue. We ask that you please contact Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@mail.michbar.org or by phone at (517) 367-6421 to let us know of any changes to your bar association's leadership by January 20, 2012 in order to meet the deadline for inclusion in the MBJ Directory issue.



President Julie Fershtman, Judges Fraser Strome, Charles Goodman and Mark Wisti at Copper County Bar Association Lunch in Hancock

Post Your Events on Main State Bar Calendar

A fairly new feature on the [State Bar homepage](#) is the online [calendar of bar events](#). We encourage you to submit calendar items for posting to the site; not only will your event be publicized, but you and others can avoid calendar conflicts when scheduling new events. You can submit items through the online instructions, or directly to Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@mail.michbar.org.

State Bar of Michigan launches New Law Day Contest that links the 2012 theme “No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom” with the Michigan Legal Milestones; \$ 4,000 in Cash Prizes to be Awarded

The State Bar of Michigan is starting a new Law Day tradition in 2012 by launching a statewide multimedia contest to highlight the theme “Michigan: No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom” using Michigan Legal Milestones- based content. The Michigan Legal Milestones is a 25-year old bar program that commemorates important jurists and court cases that have contributed to our rich legal history. Bronze plaques detailing the background and importance of the case, event or personality have been placed throughout the state. There are 36 milestones to date.

To participate, contestants should familiarize themselves with the [milestones](#) and tie in the 2012 Law Day theme to appropriate ones through a project. Examples of projects include dramatic or musical plays, debate, video game design, podcast, commentary, re-enactment, mock trial, short documentary, etc... More information about the contest rules, cash prizes and resources will be posted on the State Bar website by the first of the year. Questions can be directed to Naseem Stecker, at (517) 367 6428 or nstecker@mail.michbar.org or to Samantha Meinke at (517) 346 6332 or smeinke@mail.michbar.org.



Antonio Ruiz, Jessica Pelto, President Julie Fershtman at Delta County Bar in Escanaba

Out and About

Holiday Celebrations!

- **Livingston County Bar Association**, Friday, December 30 at Cleary's Pub, Howell
- The **Federal Bar Association–Eastern District**, December 14 at the Westin Book Cadillac, Detroit
- The **Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association**, December 1 at the International Center Ballroom in Detroit
- **The Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers** Christmas Party at the Detroit Historical Museum on Friday, December 2.
- **Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan**, December 8 evening Holiday Cocktail Sip at the elegant home of Hon. Ronald Giles in Detroit. (A portion of the ticket proceeds were donated to “Operation Good Cheer.”) Donations of new gloves, hats, and scarves for the homeless were encouraged and accepted at the door.
- **Macomb County Bar Association**, December 9 at 6:00 p.m., holiday party and foundation raffle giveaway at Villa Penna's, Sterling Heights

Congratulations to **Anthony Ruiz** on his presidency of the **Delta County Bar Association**. Mr. Ruiz was elected President in October.

Matthew H. Vitoe is the new president of the **Monroe County Criminal Defense Bar Association**.

The Newaygo County Bar Association and the Oceana Bar Association have merged and are now one. Please note the new name of the association is the **Newaygo & Oceana Bar Association**.

The 50th Judicial Circuit Bar Association has changed its name to the **Chippewa County Bar Association**.

The State Bar of Michigan is pleased to welcome the newly recognized **Albanian-American Bar Association** and its **President Diana Shkreli**. Also new to the recognized bar roster is the **Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Diocese of Lansing** with **President Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.**

The **Michigan Judges Association** has named the **Honorable Timothy G. Hicks** of Muskegon as its new president effective December 1, 2011. Congratulations, Judge Hicks!

The **Polish American Legal Society's** new president is the **Honorable Richard Wygonik** of the 19th District Court. Congratulations!

Doraid B. Elder is the new president of the **Arab-American Bar Association**.

James Bearinger is president of the **Benzie County Bar Association**.

The **Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association** is being led by **President Elizabeth C. Jolliffe**.

Madelyne Lawry is the new executive director of the **Ingham County Bar Association**, led by **President Scott L. Mandel**.

Welcome to the new **Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association Executive Director April Sala** and greetings to **President Corey James Wiggins**.



- 1 Julie Fershtman, Commissioner Jim Erhart, and President Michael Winnick at Chippewa County Bar Association Lunch
- 2 Harold Pope, Veronica Leonard, and Michael Lee at Straker Bar Trailblazer's Dinner
- 3 SBM UP Tour delegation visits Menominee County Bar Association
- 4 Rebecca Simkins, Kathy Ossian, Marjorie Nanian and Diane Paulsen (second from right) welcome national Armenian Bar Association
- 5 President Julie Fershtman and Judge Michael Anderegg, Marquette County Bar Association reception
- 6 Judy Cunningham, Lisa Stadig Elliott and Julie Fershtman at NABE Awards Lunch
- 7 Mike Sepic, Judge Maybel Mayfield, Ann Cooper at Berrien County Constitution Day Courthouse Activities