

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN



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May 19, 2004

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
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RE: Annual Report
Senior Lawyers Section
State Bar of Michigan

The following is a concise statement of the activities of the Senior Lawyers Section State Bar of Michigan during the period August, 2003 through the present and perhaps terminating with August, 2004:

1. Given the increase in the State Bar dues, which was probably long overdue, but more particularly because of the elimination of the age 70 exemption which had existed for more than 40 years, it was reported that there was a great increase in the number of resignations from the State Bar by attorneys age 70 and over. As a result of those resignations, the Senior Lawyers Section conducted a poll of those attorneys age 70 and over, who had submitted their resignations, to determine if there was a correlation between the age 70 exemption and the resignations. Approximately 290 surveys were mailed, approximately 250 responses were received. Approximately 77% of the responses indicated that the resignations were due to the elimination of the age 70 exemption. The Senior Lawyers Section in conjunction with the State Bar is hopeful that the Supreme Court will seriously consider restoration of the age 70 exemption which is still the rule of the American Bar Association.

We have now been informed that the Supreme Court has decided to have a Hearing on an Amendment to the Rule which would create an "Emeritus" status for those attorneys age 70 and over. While this is a move in the right direction, hopefully the age 70 exemption will be restored in the not too distant future.

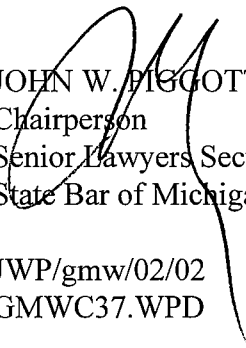
In the past, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the State Bar, those attorneys who had been Members of the State Bar for 50 years were honored by the Bar at a dinner held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the State Bar. The 2002 Honoree Program was still held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting as was the 2003 Program, though no longer the "formal affair" it had been theretofore.

This year, the 50 Year Honoree Program will be co-sponsored in part by the State Bar of Michigan, the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar and the Senior Lawyers Section of the State Bar and will not be held as a part of the Annual Meeting but will be held on May 21, 2004 at the Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, Michigan.

The Senior Lawyers Section is working toward a Mentoring Program for newly admitted lawyers and is also working on a Pro Bono Mediation Program to assist Community Dispute Resolution Centers and to also assist organizations requiring Mediation services but which do not have access to Community Dispute Resolution Centers. Hopefully this project would be staffed by Senior Attorneys who would devote their time, pro bono, after limited Mediation Training to assist Community Resolution Centers and/or those Communities which do not have Community Dispute Resolution Centers in resolving disputes. The Program, as envisioned, would not be a substitute for, nor be in conflict with the general Court Rules governing Mediation and/or Arbitration.

The Annual Meeting of the Senior Lawyers Section will be held at Crystal Mountain Resort on August 13 through the morning of August 15, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN W. PIGGOTT
Chairperson
Senior Lawyers Section
State Bar of Michigan

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