

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The ADR Section held its annual meeting September 23–24 at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. In addition to its regular meeting agenda, it offered an advanced mediation training featuring Eric R. Galton and our own Tracy L. Allen, both of whom are designated as distinguished fellows of the International Academy of Mediators. Newly elected section officers are A. David Baumhart III, chair; Robert E. L. Wright, chair-elect; Richard J. Figura, secretary; and Antoinette R. Raheem, treasurer.

Business Law Section

Congratulations to James Cambridge, recipient of the Stephen Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award! Business Boot Camp II—Basic Training for Business Lawyers will be held November 7–8 in Grand Rapids and January 23–24, 2012 in Plymouth. Visit our website for registration information. The next council meeting will be held December 3 at Butzel Long. Watch for our monthly e-newsletter, visit our website, join our LinkedIn group, or visit us on Facebook to learn about section events.

Criminal Law Section

The Criminal Law Section welcomes new Chair Stephen M. Taratuta. The names of other officers and newly elected council members are listed in our newsletter and

posted online at <http://www.michbar.org/criminal/councilinfo.cfm>. The council looks forward to another successful year with many events for its members, including the 35th annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference at Shanty Creek. Watch for details about the conference and other offerings.

Elder Law and Disability Rights Section

The section presented the ELDRS 16th Multi-Disciplinary Fall Conference, “Changes and Choices,” at Crystal Mountain September 21–23. Speakers included Michael Gilfix, founding member of the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys; Thomas Byerley, Eaton County probate judge; Janet K. Welch, SBM executive director; and Jeffrey Geller, MD, MPH, University of Massachusetts Medical School. The section is seeking proposals from presenters for the spring conference next March and articles for our newsletter.

Environmental Law Section

The Environmental Law Section celebrates its 30th anniversary on October 6. On November 10, the section will hold its Joint Fall Conference with A&WMA at Lansing Community College. We elected new officers and council members at the annual meeting, and are excited to introduce Joan O’Sullivan, our new Environmental Law Section administrator.

Negligence Law Section

The Negligence Law Section offered a free seminar at the State Bar Annual Meeting on September 16 at the Hyatt Regency, Dearborn. Speakers included Justice Mary Beth Kelley, Barbara Patek on the effects of insolvency on litigation, Donna MacKenzie on the latest Medicare/Medicaid issues, Thomas James on recent developments in auto negligence, and Mark Granzotto on hot appellate issues. The section’s business meeting took place immediately before the seminar.

Real Property Law Section

The next Homeward Bound seminar, “Strategies and Pitfalls Associated with Loan Workouts, Purchases of Distressed Assets, and Foreclosures,” will be held November 3. The moderator is Danielle D. Jackson of Orleans Associates PC, Troy. Speakers are Patrick E. Mears, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Grand Rapids; James Robert Porritt III, Kotz Sangster Wysocki and Berg PC, Birmingham; and Wendy L. Zabriskie, Bodman PLC, Troy. For details, visit www.michbar.org/realproperty/homeward.cfm. Register online at www.icle.org/hb.

Taxation Section

On August 23, the SALT committee held a reception at Dykema’s Lansing office attended by Lt. Governor Brian Calley and approximately 50 practitioners from private practice, the Attorney General’s Office, the Michigan Department of Treasury, and several judges of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Watch your e-mail—the next Tax Court lunch will be held during the last week in October.

Workers’ Compensation Law Section

The section held its annual meeting in Traverse City in June 2011. The newly elected officers for the section council are John M. Sims, chair; Denise Levasseur, vice chair; Charles Palmer, secretary; and J. William Housefield, treasurer. The section is currently involved in putting together proposals regarding contemplated changes to the Workers’ Disability Compensation Act. ■