

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

ABA Hosts National Conference for Lawyer Assistance Programs

The American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP) hosted its annual national conference October 9–12 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The conference, themed “Meeting Our Challenges for 25 Years,” aimed to educate judges, disciplinary staff, bar leaders, lawyer assistance program directors and staff, law school administrators, and law firm managers. ■



Photo by Rudy Malmquist for the State Bar of Michigan

Welcoming remarks at the CoLAP conference were made by (left to right) 55th District Court Judge Donald L. Allen; SBM President Bruce A. Courtade; Hon. Sarah L. Krauss, chair of CoLAP; and former SBM President Dennis W. Archer.

Michigan State University College of Law Launches Eviction Diversion Program

The Michigan State University College of Law Housing Law Clinic formed partnerships with several mid-Michigan organizations to provide services to indigent tenants in Ingham County through a new Eviction Diversion Program. Student clinicians participating in the program help indigent tenants avoid eviction and homelessness by assessing eviction proceedings at the 55th District Court,

directing need-based tenants to local agencies for financial assistance, referring some tenants with affirmative legal defenses to Legal Services of South Central Michigan, or retaining them as clients of the Housing Law Clinic. The program diverted more than 10 evictions in the first week alone. ■

State Bar of Michigan Hosts Pro Bono Fair in Grand Rapids

Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School



State Bar President Bruce A. Courtade addresses Pro Bono Fair attendees.

Rhoades McKee sponsored the State Bar of Michigan's 2012 Pro Bono Fair on October 11 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Grand Rapids campus. The annual fair provides attorneys and law students an opportunity to learn about various pro bono opportunities throughout west Michigan. This year's fair featured more than 20 organizations that provide free or reduced-fee legal services to the public. ■

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Administers Voluntary Pro Bono Pledge in Lansing

Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School



Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael Cavanagh administered the Cooley Voluntary Pro Bono Pledge to Thomas M. Cooley Law School students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local attorneys on October 3 at the school's Lansing campus. Sixty-eight individuals pledged to complete at least one pro bono activity during the upcoming year and either continue to do so every year throughout their legal careers or comply with or exceed the SBM voluntary pro bono standards. ■

Correction

In the September issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*, we honored the 2012 SBM award winners. In the tribute to Champion of Justice Award winner Fred Lauck, we mistakenly implied that he handled both the trial and the appeal in *People v Wade*. While Lauck vigorously represented

Wade at trial, several attorneys represented him through his appeal, including Mary Chartier of Alane & Chartier, P.L.C., who secured the victory at the Michigan Supreme Court that led to his release. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. ■