

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

This summer, thanks to the work of Marc Stanley of the ADR Section Council, the Pro Bono Initiative determined: “When an attorney provides ADR services for free...to low-income individuals...the ADR services count as pro bono legal services” [for purposes of meeting Michigan’s aspirational pro bono service goal]. Finding that “ADR services play a significant part in Michigan’s legal system,” the Pro Bono Initiative acknowledged our section’s many volunteers at community dispute resolution centers. Thanks, Marc!

Business Law Section

Congratulations to Diane Akers, recipient of the 2014 Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award. Business Boot Camp II, basic training for business lawyers, will be held November 3–4 in Grand Rapids and January 23–24, 2015 in Plymouth. Visit our website for registration information and to learn about upcoming section events. The next council meeting will be held on December 3 at Clark Hill in Birmingham.

Criminal Law Section

The Criminal Law Section Council thanks its members for another successful annual meeting and program, and welcomes new chairperson Charles H. Marr. The names of other officers and newly elected council members are listed in our newsletter and on our website at <http://www.michbar.org/criminal>. The council looks forward to another productive year with many member events, including the 38th annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference at Shanty Creek. Watch for conference details and information about other offerings.

Environmental Law Section

Check out the section’s revamped web pages at <http://www.michbar.org/environmental>. You will find webinar links to registration for upcoming events (including the October 28 joint conference with the Air Waste Management Association at Lansing Community College), details about the 2014–2015 webinar series that begins soon, materials and pictures from recent events, and lots of interesting “stuff.” Questions? Contact section administrator Brian Figot at brian@attorneywordsmith.com.

Family Law Section

The Michigan Supreme Court decided *In re Sanders* and *In re AJR*. In each case, the section submitted an amicus brief for the prevailing position. *Sanders* found that the “one parent doctrine” unconstitutionally infringes on the rights of fit parents because jurisdiction over one parent may be based on the unfitness of the other. *AJR* held that stepparent adoption is only available to the spouse of a parent with sole legal custody of the child.

Law Student Section

The Law Student Section prioritizes recruitment and establishing connections with other SBM sections. This fall, the LSS will hold its first upper-class (2L and 3L) oral advocacy competition. As with the 1L competition, this will be a great way for law students to not only gain valuable experience but also to get to know the judges, many of whom are members of other SBM sections.

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

Danon Goodrum-Garland, SBM professional standards investigative counsel, spoke at the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Meet & Greet on August 22 at the MET in Troy. The section’s annual business meeting was held on September 19 at the DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, in conjunction with the SBM Annual Meeting. We are seeking nominations for the Shining Star Award; submit at <http://www.michbar.org/paralegal/shiningstaraward.cfm>.

Real Property Law Section

Register today! The next Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtable, “Real Property Acquisitions: Caveat Emptor,” will be held October 16, 7:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m., at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Real estate activity is on the rise. Learn from the experts how to protect your clients who are buying properties. The program will focus on due diligence, letters of intent, and purchase agreements. Glen Zatz of Bodman PLC is the program chair. Register online at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/roundtables.cfm>. ■

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