

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

**Bar Year: 2009-10**

**Section Name:** Law Student Section

**Mission Statement:**

- The purpose of the Law Student Section (Section) shall be to promote and encourage active participation by law students in the program and activities of the State Bar of Michigan, to promote communication both among law students, and between law students and the active members of the State Bar of Michigan, to render public service, and to advance the legal profession.
- The mission of the Law Student Section Governing Council is to represent the students of Michigan's law schools and to act as a liaison to the State Bar sections; to increase student involvement in the State Bar of Michigan; to actively support other State Bar sections' philanthropic activities; and to further professional opportunities among law students.

**Officers and Council Members:**

Office	Name	Address	Email
Chair	Douglas Koenig	Okemos, MI	<a href="mailto:koenigdo@msu.edu">koenigdo@msu.edu</a>
Chair-Elect	Stefan Fletcher	East Lansing, MI	<a href="mailto:fletc119@msu.edu">fletc119@msu.edu</a>
Secretary	Mylika Johnson	Detroit, MI	<a href="mailto:mylikaj@hotmail.com">mylikaj@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Michael Colter II	Northville, MI	<a href="mailto:ColterMC@msu.edu">ColterMC@msu.edu</a>
1L Competition Chair	Ryan Shannon	Ann Arbor, MI	<a href="mailto:RSHANNON@umich.edu">RSHANNON@umich.edu</a>

Member	Term
Bria Barker-Lewis <barkerbr@msu.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Dennis McCloud <mccloudd@cooley.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Douglas Koenig <dkoenig.1381@gmail.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Heather Gosnick <gosnickh@msu.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Jeff Steinport <jeff.steinport@gmail.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Jessica Kingston <jgreenia@gmail.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Joshua Birk <birkjoshua@gmail.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Kristine Kowalski <kowalskk@cooley.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Michael Colter II <mcolterii@yahoo.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Mya Marshall <marshamy@cooley.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Mylika Johnson <mylikaj@hotmail.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Ryan Shannon <RSHANNON@umich.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Stefan J Fletcher <fletc119@msu.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Victoria Hyde <hydevict@msu.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
William Murray <wmurray@msu.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Heather Johnson <hlj517@gmail.com>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Chelsea Homer <homercj@udmercy.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Fran Marie Silveri <fmunaco@umich.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Anthony Randazzo <aranda@umich.edu>	Academic Year, 2009-10
Pete Domas, petedomas@gmail.com	Academic Year, 2009-10

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SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

***Council Meeting Schedule:***

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Council meetings as an addendum.

<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location or Function</b>
Audio	August	Business
Audio	September	Business
Business, in person	October	Dearborn, State Bar annual meeting, election of chair-elect
Audio	November	Business
Audio	January	Business
Audio	March	Business
Audio	April	Spring Meeting and elections

**General Budget Information:**

The Law Student Section has a balance of just over \$6125, which is an increase of \$1,179 from the previous year. Revenue (from dues) amounted to \$3630, and expenses totaled \$2450. Primary expenses are the cost of the 1L Oral Advocacy Competition and attendance at the Bar Leader Forum in June. This indicates a healthy section with reasonable expenses balanced to existing income.

**Events and/or Seminars:**

<b>Event or Seminar Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
1L Oral Advocacy Competition	1/30/2010	Michigan State University College of Law

**Legislative issues:**

One issue that recurs each year is the overwhelming interest in the sections and State Bar activity by members and students from Thomas Cooley. These students are active and involved and quite reasonably would like us to consider membership based on separate campus locations rather than by school. However, our bylaws are quite clear and past Council discussions have consistently held that the members should be limited to a school, rather than to multiple campuses of any given school.

A new issue raised this year is whether LLM students are eligible for membership in the Governing Council. After discussion with other officers, the chair interpreted Section 3.0 (Membership) to not exclude any "student who is in good standing at a Michigan law school." Therefore, LLM students fulfilling other criteria for membership may be members of the Governing Council. No decision was reached as to Toledo as this question was not raised, but Toledo law students are allowed to be members under the current interpretations.

**Recommendations for next Council:** As section chair for the calendar year 2009-10, I had two 'missions' for the LSS ... a) to build relationships with the key sections in the state bar and bring their

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SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

expertise closer to the hands of students, and b) to increase options to work together to deliver meaningful pro-bono work to those in need.

- a) For the first, I advocated section meetings be held at each law school. This simple action taken by State Bar Sections would offer one meeting a year at one law school that would involve a normal business meeting followed by an open “meet-n-greet” for students at the school. Most sections meet every month at a restaurant, so I reasoned that this would be an easy step to improve accessibility to students. Some sections did take a look at the idea, and some even held meetings at the schools. I would invite all sections to expand this simple activity to build membership and interest in the State Bar. A second area within key relationships is the provision of scholarships to the law school students. Many of the sections have scholarships and they asked me why more students are not applying. The answer is composed of many factors, but one clear answer is that scholarships are not well publicized. The new leadership for 2010-11 has already jumped into this project and I am confident they will make improvements.
- b) As for the second, service orientation is very important to Dean Howarth at Michigan State as well as to other Deans of the respective law schools. Any efforts we can make to improve such activities will be appreciated. The Law Student Section co-sponsored a panel event on Pro-Bono work in April at MSU and included Heidi Naasko (Dykema), Lori Pourzan and Kara Jennings from Legal Services of Mid Michigan, and MSU College of Law Professor Troy Brown. The panel was chosen to coordinate local opportunities in Legal Services, a firm-based pro-bono counsel, and a local professor as contact for students. This event was well-received and could be a model for other local events at other law schools. It should be held earlier in the year to facilitate access to opportunities during the academic year.

**Other Information:** The 1L competition was completed successfully again this year. The venue was easy to use and has been suggested as venue again for 2011. Improvements to the instructions and judging criteria improved the scoring and speed of results availability; Ryan Shannon did a super job! Ryan is also creating a new guide for the competition which he will make available to our incoming chair of this event, Heather Johnson. The event was attended by about 48 students and as many attorneys, professors, and judges. In addition, the event was well under the \$2000 budget, so kudos to the entire team!

Incoming members for the Governing Council include the following:

Office	Name	Address	Email
Chair	Stefan Fletcher	East Lansing, MI	<a href="mailto:fletc119@msu.edu">fletc119@msu.edu</a>
Chair-Elect			
Secretary	Pete Domas		<a href="mailto:petedomas@gmail.com">petedomas@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	William Murray		<a href="mailto:wmurray@msu.edu">wmurray@msu.edu</a>
1L Competition Chair	Heather Johnson		<a href="mailto:hlj517@gmail.com">hlj517@gmail.com</a>

MSU: William Murray - <a href="mailto:wmurray@msu.edu">wmurray@msu.edu</a>
MSU: Heather Johnson - <a href="mailto:hlj517@gmail.com">hlj517@gmail.com</a>
MSU: Bria Barker-Lewis
UDM: Chelsea Homer - <a href="mailto:homercej@udmercy.edu">homercej@udmercy.edu</a>
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