

**Annual Report
Litigation Section
State Bar of Michigan**

Over the next year, the Litigation Section will be engaging in the process of strategic planning for our future. We are very pleased with the progress we have made in the eight years since we formed the Litigation Section, and we want to make sure that we continue responding to our members needs in the future.

We now have grown to a membership of over 2,000 Michigan lawyers. Most of our efforts to serve our members have focused on developing solid educational opportunities for the practicing litigator. As one example, our summer conference will take place at Boyne Highlands on the weekend of June 18, 19, and 20, and it will include an engaging and advanced program designed by Professor Ashley Lipson on “Technical Evidence & Guerilla Discovery.” We will also have a panel of four distinguished judges, and plenty of opportunities for networking.

We are also quite proud of our ongoing collaboration with the Institute for Continuing Legal Education in producing the Masters in Litigation programs. In the past year, advanced programs presented by Stephen Easton and the Honorable Mark Drummond have brought large turnouts and favorable reviews from the attendees. In the coming year we will have two great Masters Programs: Todd Winegar presenting “Lessons Learned from Trials of the Century” on Thursday October 28, 2004; and Larry Posner and Roger Dodd presenting their program on Advanced Cross-Examination on Thursday, April 7, 2005. We also have worked with ICLE in the development of their Litigation Boot Camp for newer lawyers, which will have a follow-up series next year.

In addition to educational programs, the Litigation Section has been involved in supporting a variety of efforts to improve our legal system, ranging from the State Bar’s Access to Justice Program to high school moot court competitions. We have assisted the State Bar in preparing informative brochures for prospective jurors as well as other efforts make the legal system more accessible to the general public. Based on feedback from our membership, we are considering the establishment of Litigation Section committees dealing with specialized areas of litigation. We are looking for ways to improve the use of our website and our listserve to best provide assistance to our members, and although we have not engaged in policy development in the legislative arena in the past, we are in the process of developing a protocol for identifying those issues where it may be appropriate for the Litigation Section to take a position on pending legislation or court rules.

In providing all of these services with a modest dues assessment of only \$25.00 per year, we are perhaps most proud of our financial stability due to our careful budgeting. As we embark on the process of strategic planning, we welcome ideas for improving our services to practicing litigators in Michigan. Thank you.