

**NEGLIGENCE SECTION**  
**ANNUAL REPORT – 2006**

Over the past year, the Negligence Council has directed most of its attention to two key areas.

First of all, we have tried to keep the number of members stable, with the Negligence Council no longer being the largest section of the State Bar. Our Council members have contacted those members who have not renewed. Based upon these efforts this year and last year, the section has been financially stable.

Secondly, we have continued to keep a high profile in Lansing through the efforts of our Section lobbyists. Several Executive Council members have appeared at various meetings and hearings in Lansing, both as participants and observers, regarding tort reform issues, asbestos litigation issues, and other subjects that are important to the Negligence Section.

Because of this, we have renewed our lobbying contract and are committed to continue to monitor legislation in Lansing and trying to explain the concerns of our members to the legislators, most of whom are not attorneys.

Our group consists of both plaintiff and defense attorneys, which means that we are considered an organization with a balanced viewpoint and have a better chance of effectuating positive changes than the organizations that consist solely of defense attorneys or solely plaintiff attorneys.

Our management consultant, Madelyne Lawry, has continued to do an excellent job of editing the quarterly newsletters and keeping our members informed and up to date on Section activities. We have continued to incorporate into our quarterly newsletter photographs of special events and Council member profiles.

The Council has also filed Amicus Briefs on important legal issues and expect to do so in the future.

This year's Spring Seminar took place in Las Vegas, and through the efforts of incoming Chairperson Barry Goodman, it was a fabulous success. We had close to 90 participants at the Seminar, and we had a very interesting and informative presentation by an Ohio trial judge regarding trial practice.

The plans for 2007 will most likely involve a cruise which helps keep all participants together and leads to a much greater level of camaraderie.

The Negligence Council will continue to review proposed changes and procedures, rules and statutes and comment where it is necessary.

The practice of negligence law has changed drastically over the past few years with civil filings drastically reduced. This is in spite of the common perception that there are far too many lawsuits and that most are without merit. We will continue on our mission to provide access to the court and our jury system to resolve civil grievances and we will do what is necessary to protect the interests of negligence lawyers throughout the state.

Very truly yours,

**ROBERT P. SIEMION**  
***Chairperson, Negligence Law Section***  
***State Bar of Michigan***

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