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# Memorandum

**To:** Ron Keefe, Janet Welch  
**CC:** Naseem Stecker  
**From:** Candace Crowley  
**Re:** 2007 Law Day Activities  
**Date:** March 7, 2008

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While we prepare for Law Day this year, I thought you would be interested in seeing a summary of some of the Michigan Law Day activities from 2007. This memo describes twenty-five events sponsored primarily by local and special bar associations. [Law Day activities](#) were also featured in the Up Front portion of the June 2007 Michigan Bar Journal. I know you will be proud of the rich programming presented by Michigan bar associations, and many thanks to them for reporting their activities to us last year. Please note that most of the entries are attributed to a spokesperson whose title was accurate for the 2007 year; new presidents or Law Day chairs are of course in place for 2008.

## **STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

The State Bar sponsored the Michigan Talk Network's "Big Show" on Law Day, to help educate and inform listeners about important legal issues. This special edition of the show was a live remote broadcast from the State Bar premises in Lansing. It highlighted several programs during the broadcast to inform listeners of their legal rights, protect them from unlicensed practitioners, and assure equal justice for all regardless of income. Listeners asked questions related to these matters on the air by calling in between 9 and 10 a.m.

Also, the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary and the State Bar hosted a luncheon for Law Day essay award winners and their guests at the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing. The luncheon honored winners of a statewide Law Day essay contest from grades six, seven, and eight. The Hon. William C. Whitbeck, chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals, was the featured speaker. Other highlights included tours of the Hall of Justice Learning Center and the Capitol.

Also, the Public Outreach Committee concerns itself with the monitoring, coordination, promotion, and, at the request of the Board of Commissioners, the development of community programs and materials advancing the understanding of law and the legal profession, including Law Day programs, with particular emphasis on programs and materials for youth.

### **35<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT COURT, PLYMOUTH MICHIGAN**

On May 1, 2007, the local middle school visited the 35<sup>th</sup> District Court in Plymouth for a variety of events. Each court had an activity in every courtroom. The sixth graders could watch real proceedings or participate in a mock trial. The Police Department was also there with a patrol car and motorcycle for viewing. Students had the opportunity to talk with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers.

This program was balanced with the Teacher Lawyer Classroom at the Center for Civic Education. Three hundred students from the Central Middle School were broken into 5 groups, with each group having a participating lawyer. The students were able to come into the courtroom, observe and discuss proceedings, tour the courtroom, and ask questions. This program covered April 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>.

- Judge Ron Lowe of the 35th District Court in Plymouth

### **ARMENIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

The president of the Bar Association, Marjorie Nanian, had a law day/career day presentation at Novi Middle School. She set up the classroom as a courtroom, and role-played the juror selection process in a mock trial. Mike Shiels also interviewed Ms. Nanian on the "Big Show" radio program.

### **BAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Bay County Bar Association sponsored an essay contest with monetary awards. There were three winners for the local high school and middle school. The Association also had a Liberty Bell presentation, and sponsored a law day luncheon for the entire community at the Doubletree Hotel with guest speaker, The Honorable Judge Karen Tighe.

In 2006, the Law Day presentation had 275 people in attendance.

- Winnifred Boylan, President

## **DELTA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

To promote the theme of empowering youth and assuring democracy, this bar helped fund a scholarship in memory of Special Warfare Operator Second Class Petty Officer Joseph Clark Schwedler, a Navy Seal killed in action in Iraq. Officer Schwedler was the son of Judge C. Joseph Schwedler and Susan Schwedler of Iron County. The bar also helped fund a scholarship for a 9<sup>th</sup> grade high school student who fundraised for a People to People Student ambassador Program trip to Europe.

The Delta Bar held a memorial meeting to honor three local judges that passed away in the last year – Delta County Circuit Judge Claire J. Heohn, Schoolcraft County Circuit Judge William J. Hood, and Michigan Workers compensation Administrative Law Judge Karl E. Mikko. John W. Allen also addressed the Bar regarding the attorney-client privilege and recent trends of abusive practices that threaten the sanctity of the privilege.

## **DETROIT TEACHER, STUDENTS HONORED WITH ABA LAW DAY ACTIVITIES AWARD**

High School teacher Timothy Constant and students from the Advanced Law Class at Casa Richard Academy in Detroit were presented with the American Bar Association's Law Day Activities Award in 2007 at a luncheon held at the ABA mid-year meeting in Miami. Casa Richard Academy students studied the concept of separation of powers and its incorporation into the US Constitution. After analyzing and comparing the US and new Iraq constitutions, the class wrote to the Iraqi government with recommendations for strengthening its constitutional language to better reflect balance of powers through separate branches of government.

“We are extremely proud to celebrate this award with a Michigan school,” said SBM President Kimberly M. Cahill. “Mr. Constant and his students did an exceptional job in looking at a complex constitutional issue and suggesting strategies to help a new government in trying times.”

## **DETROIT METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

In 2006 individuals who participated in the DMBA Barrister's Law Day program held at Detroit's Denby High School helped students formulate oral arguments, think of questions and make rulings on a scenario based on whether the President has the authority to conduct electronic surveillance and physical searches without obtaining an order under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, ("FISA") 50 USC 1801 et seq., from the FISA Court.

In 2007 the DMBA Barristers welcomed the participation of volunteers in helping the students of Detroit's Denby High School formulate oral argument in front of the supreme court based on New Jersey v TLO, 469 US 325 (1985). The Denby High School students had to argue whether the search of the student's purse violates the 4th amendment.

The presentation began with a 10-minute slide show on the history and meaning of the 4th amendment. Then the students and Law Day volunteers were divided into three groups: (1) the government; (2) the arrested student; and (3) the Supreme Court justices. The students were provided with the fact pattern and had 30 minutes to review the fact pattern, relevant law and formulate an argument. The Law Day Volunteers were asked to help the students formulate their arguments and work with the Supreme Court justices and help the students formulate questions to ask the government and student's attorneys. Each side had five minutes for argument and two minutes for rebuttal. The justices convened for a few minutes and announced their ruling.

- Angela English Deputy Executive Director Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association

### **FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION, EASTERN DISTRICT**

On May 1, 2007, the U. S. District Court and the FBA Eastern District of Michigan Chapter are hosted an open house at the courthouse from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This included tours of the courthouse and the historic courtroom. Several federal agencies provided demonstrations and displays. An "Ask the Lawyer" pro bono program was also held.

- Brian Figot, Executive Director, FBA, Eastern district

### **GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The weekend before May 1, over one hundred thousand attorney guides were distributed as an insert in the Sunday Edition of The Flint Journal.

A coloring and poster contest was offered for grades 1-6 and over seven hundred submissions were received. The top ten posters were displayed at Flint Public Library for the first half of May, and each winner in each grade received a \$25 gift certificate to Border's.

On May 1, there was a community forum at the Public Library discussing "High School Military Recruitment: Patriotism or Invasion of Privacy?" Furthermore, that Friday (May 4) high school students participated in a mock trial, focusing on jury orientation. Two hundred and twelve persons joined for a lunch at the Masonic Temple in Flint, where the following awards were given: Liberty Bell Award, Golden Apple Award, and Crime Victims Advocate Award.

May 1, community forum at Flint public library involving provision in no child left behind act of 2001 “High School Military recruitment: Patriotism or invasion of privacy?”

**GRAND TRAVERSE LEELENAU ANTRIM BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Agenda of Events for May 1, 2007 included two “Ask the Lawyers” pro bono opportunities at 9 AM and 2 PM, and a complimentary dinner at the Elks Lodge with a Student Essay & Liberty Bell Presentation.

- Barb LaSusa, President, GTLA Bar

**HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (36<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT EVENT, DETROIT)**

The 36<sup>th</sup> District Court hosted a community outreach event, "Providing Free Legal Advice." Beginning on Tuesday, May 1st, Wednesday, May 2nd and Thursday, May 3rd Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan participated as volunteers to staff a Legal Information Booth.

- Deborah R. García-Luna, President

**INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Law Day Program occurred on Friday, April 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 303 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing. The Bar Association honored six local middle school students for their winning entries in the essay contest. The students, their parents/guardians, other family members, teachers, and school principals were treated to an hors d'oeuvres reception, followed by tours of the courthouse & the inner working of 30th Judicial District Court, and were presented their awards (certificates and US Savings Bonds) by the Honorable Janelle Lawless and ICBA President David Brake. The ICBA, ICBF, and IC Bar Auxiliary sponsor the event.

- Kris Kemp, ED of ICBA

**MACOMB COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Law Day Ceremony was held on Friday, May 4, 2006 at 3 PM in the Commissioners meeting room on the 9th floor of 1 S. Main, Downtown Mt. Clemens. A reception followed the ceremony.

The Association scholarship recipients were: Mary M. Hare & Jason P. Smalarz. There were also two Liberty Bell recipients: Jennifer Clein and Craig Pappas.

- Patti Manick, Lawyer Referral and Information Service Director

### **MICHIGAN CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION**

The Center offers programs and instructional materials aimed at providing young people with the knowledge, and the opportunity to practice the skills necessary for effective citizenship in a democracy.

Some of its key programs are: “We The People” which focuses on imparting knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles; and “Mock Trial Tournament” giving students a better understanding of the law, court procedures and the legal system. Both of these programs give an opportunity to communicate and cooperate with members of the legal profession, and provide an increased appreciation for academic studies and stimulated interest in law-related careers.

### **MICHIGAN LAWYERS AUXILIARY**

The Law Day Luncheon was held at the Hall of Justice, with the guest speaker The Honorable William C. Whitbeck. Nine middle school essay contest winners from all over the state were honored. In preparation 3,000 letters were sent to every school in Michigan, with 1,000 submission received. Thirty volunteer judges from all over the state participated in the Crystal Apple Award for the middle school/high schoolteacher who excelled in law related education.

- MaryAnn Farris, Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary Law Day Chair

### **MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION**

The Bar Foundation’s Administration of Justice Grants Program funds innovative projects that educate Michigan children and adults about their legal rights and responsibilities, the American justice system, and opportunities for conflict and dispute resolution.

The Huron County Bar Association received Foundation funds to support the "People's Law School" in which local judges and lawyers volunteered their time to teach the public about the legal systems and legal rights and responsibilities.

Foundation funding supported the production of a video to help the public learn about the small claims court process. Saginaw area judges and attorneys "starred" in the video, which can be found at all area libraries and at local courts. The Saginaw County Bar Association developed the project.

### **MICHIGAN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

For over 20 years the Law Offices of Goodwin & Scieszka, PC, Birmingham, has hosted their annual Law Day Legal Clinic, providing answers to legal questions ranging

from auto accidents to birth trauma, from landlord/tenant conflict to divorce, child custody and estate planning issues. This year's Law Day Legal Clinic and Safety Helmet Fitting were on June 2, 2007 from 11am to 4pm at the Goodwin & Scieszka.

This year more than 25 attorneys stepped up and volunteered their day providing this service Pro Bono. In addition the kind folks at Goodwin & Scieszka fit 350 MTLA Safety Helmets on the heads of kids who needed them, roasted 1,000 hotdogs and provide other refreshments to the attendees.

### **MIDLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

On May 1, 2007 there was a Midland County Law Day Luncheon. This event was open to a broad cross-section of the community. Various awards were presented to community members, including awards to recognize outstanding community service, excellence in law-related teaching, pro bono activities and volunteerism. In addition, attorneys gave talks in various schools, mostly social studies classes, regarding the civics, law and the practice of law.

- Paul A. Marcela, President

### **MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Agenda of Events for May 1, 2007 included

- The Ida High School mock trial team demonstration held in Judge Hohman's courtroom.
- A presentation of the high school essay contest winners: Blasé Masserant, Lydia Oehering, and Steve Solo.
- Comments from Jill M. Lavoy, President of the Monroe County Bar Association; Christian J. Horkey, Vice President of the Monroe County Bar Association; John Luchanski; Judge Michael W. LaBeau, and other Monroe County Judges.
- A Liberty Bell Presentation by Michael Weipert, with comments from the winner.

Also held was a free legal clinic on April 30, 2007 between 4 and 7 PM at the Monroe County Board of Commissioner's chambers located on the first floor of the County Courthouse.

- C.J. Horkey, Bar Association Vice President and Law Day Committee Chairman

### **NALS, ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, LANSING CHAPTER**

NALS members visited Mrs. Rush's 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at Cornell Elementary School in Lansing and spoke to the children about Law Day. The members gave an overview of the courtroom and talked about topics like what does "innocent until proving guilty." The ABA theme of Empowering Youth was used. Twenty-two students drew

Law Day posters, depicting the legal system, and those were displayed at the State Bar Building and at the Hall of Justice Learning Center.

Michelle Spiker, Law Day Committee Chair

### **NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD**

The National Lawyers Guild provided legal support for a May Day march in Detroit.

- Valerie Newman

### **OAKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The OCBA presented a Youth Law Conference and brought in a keynote speaker for youth law with topics more relevant to high school seniors. This program included several breakout sessions for further discussion and lunch. Topics discussed included a career of law, sports and entertainment, criminal, juvenile, employment related issues, credit reporting, drinking and driving, and dating.

### **ROCHESTER BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Law Day event included the local high schools and retired persons (Older Persons Commission) and the theme was "Liberty Under the Law: Exploring the Balance Between Constitutional Freedoms and Public Safety". The Rochester Bar Association attorneys offered free personal consultations on a wide range of topics such as Estate Planning, Lifetime Probate, and Nursing Home Issues. Student essay finalists presented their views to a panel of judges and Older Persons Commission senior finalists gave their commentary on the Law Day topic.

- Jim Hubbert, President

### **ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Bar Association held a Law Day essay contest and received nearly 300 essays. It took two judges, five attorneys, and one referee to read all of them. The Association awarded cash bonds to the winners: 2 \$300, 2 \$200, and 2 \$100.

Agenda Events for May 1 were hosted at the St. Clair County District Court and included an overview by Honorable Cynthia S. Platzer, a tour of the probation department, and a viewing of video arraignments.

- Gerry Mason, St. Clair County Bar Association

## WASHTENAW COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Washtenaw Bar Association had two separate locations open and available to the public for free legal consultations throughout the day. At the Ann Arbor Community Center, four lawyers were available at all times to answer questions about probate, family and landlord tenant law. At the Ann Arbor Women's Center, there were three lawyers available at all times to answer similar questions.

- Reid McCarthy, Chair of WCBA Law Day committee, WCBA board member