

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

LINKS TO HELP

Affinity Bar 2010-2011 Bar Directory

<http://www.michbar.org/resources/associations.pdf>

Affinity Bar Association Request for an SBM Membership List or Labels

<http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/labelrequest.pdf>

Affinity Bar Associations Online Calendar of Events

<http://www.michbar.org/resources/calendar.pdf>

Advertising on the SBM website

http://www.michbar.org/publications/AdRequest_website.cfm

Connections is an electronic newsletter published three times a year by the State Bar of Michigan and distributed without charge to recognized Michigan local and special purpose bar associations and the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Announcements, articles, and pictures for Connections are highly encouraged. Please send suggestions to Candace Crowley at ccrowley@mail.michbar.org. The State Bar of Michigan reserves the right to edit for clarity and suggests that submissions be kept at 500 words or fewer.

Submission Deadlines:

February 15, 2011

June 15, 2011

October 15, 2011

Holiday Celebrations Abound!

Candace Crowley

It did not take me long to realize that the one thing most bar associations have in common is the annual holiday party. It's the sign of life that binds us together, and this season has plenty of great examples. For the first time, the Ottawa and Allegan County bar associations decided to have a joint holiday party and include heartfelt farewells to two beloved judges and an address by former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver. It was successful beyond their imaginations, with nearly 200 people in attendance. The Oakland County Bar's annual Holiday Gala was a sellout at 400 guests. The Muskegon Bar gathered on December 3. The Irish lawyers will meet this week, as will the Association of Defense Trial Council. I imagine the annual joint meeting of the 50th Judicial Circuit Bar Association and the Ontario Bar in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada has already occurred. The Livonia Bar had its "The Not a Christmas Party" gathering on December 9.

This is a good thing, especially because it allows lawyers—and sometimes their families—to celebrate together in a common spirit, and exercise the civility and professionalism that is a hallmark of our profession. So, great thanks to you who organize these traditional gatherings, and best wishes for the New Year ahead. We hope you enjoy a few photos from your gatherings that we've included in this issue.

Law Practice Economics Survey Flash Report: Imminent

Thanks to the hard work of a *Smith v Khouri* workgroup and the input of many of our sections, a new and improved LPE survey was launched on October 1. More than three times the previous number of respondents had taken the survey by the time it closed in late November. Bar staff is reviewing preliminary results with the data consultants and is excited about the richness of information obtained. Watch for a flash report before the end of the year, and a more detailed report to be released in early 2011. Thanks for your input in making this a success both in the design and response rate.

Affinity Bar Websites

We have noticed that many sites have old officer and event information. If your local or special purpose bar association has a website through the State Bar of Michigan's website, please visit <http://www.michbar.org/resources/localspecialbar.cfm> to see if your association's webpage(s) are up-to-date. If the State Bar developed

Master Calendar of Bar Activities

Board of Commissioners Meetings

January 21, 2011

March 11, 2011

April 8, 2011

June 10, 2011, Mackinac Island

July 22, 2011

September 14, 2011 Dearborn

NABE Mid-year Meeting

February 8-10, 2010

Atlanta, GA

NBA Mid-year Meeting

February 9-12, 2011

Oakland, CA

ABA Mid-year Meeting

February 9-15, 2011

Atlanta, GA

ABA Bar Leadership Institute

March 10-11, 2011

Chicago, IL

Bar Leadership Forum

Mackinac Island

June 10-11

Upper Michigan Legal Institute

Mackinac Island

June 10-11

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 14-16, 2011

Dearborn

your site, Sandi Barger sbarger@mail.michbar.org can post your updates or remove outdated information.

Membership Benefits Insurance (new*)

The State Bar of Michigan has a full range of insurance programs available, including health, disability income, dental, and reduced auto, plus many others for State Bar of Michigan members. For more information, contact the Paul Goebel Group at (800) 632-4591, visit their website, or complete an online request information form.

SBM Upper Peninsula Tour

SBM President W. Anthony Jenkins led a contingent of SBM leaders on a tour of the Upper Peninsula legal community October 11-13, 2010. The annual tour gives U.P. bar associations, the media, and the public an opportunity to meet the person leading the State Bar during its 76th year. The tour included stops in Sault Ste. Marie, Escanaba, Menominee, Iron Mountain, Ironwood, Houghton/Hancock, and Marquette. President Jenkins is available to visit bar associations throughout the state and would welcome an invitation to visit your bar. Contact Anne Smith asmith@mail.michbar.org, (517) 346-6374.

SBM Members Urged to Sign Diversity Pledge

The State Bar of Michigan is urging its members to sign a Michigan Pledge to Achieve Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession. The SBM Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the pledge at its July 23 meeting in Lansing. It was the culmination of the efforts of attorneys across the state who participated in three colloquia held early this summer by the SBM Equal Access Initiative. A recent American Bar Association study shows that the legal profession lags in diversity, with people of color making up only 10 percent of the population of the profession, compared to 25 percent of medical doctors, 21 percent of accountants, and 18 percent of college professors. In Michigan, attorneys of color make up approximately 15 percent of the attorney population. To sign the pledge, visit www.michbar.org/diversity/. For more information, please contact SBM Diversity Director Greg Conyers at (517) 346-6358 or gconyers@mail.michbar.org.

Scholarships Available for ABA Bar Leadership Institute

The ABA Bar Leadership Institute will be held in Chicago on March 10-11, 2011. Five scholarships are available for bar leaders from small associations with limited resources. A scholarship consists of a registration fee waiver and a \$500 reimbursement of meeting and travel expenses. Applications are due January 7, 2011. More information about the scholarship application process is available on the BLI website http://maestro.abanet.org/trk/click?ref=zpqr74vj_3-fe3ex342c7x195&, or contact Jennifer Lewin at lewinj@staff.abanet.org.

"Celebrating 75 Years of Vision"

A book about the vision of former SBM presidents is now available. For an interesting glance into the history of the State Bar, take a look at this new publication. Preview and order today at <http://www.blurb.com/books/1636548>.

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Assistance Encourages Careers as Prosecutors, Public Defenders

The Michigan Department of Treasury has received a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice to fund a student loan repayment program for eligible public defenders and prosecuting attorneys in Michigan. Congress enacted the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders and to continue in that service.



Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan holiday party.

Funds are available for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to continued qualified employment for at least three years. Treasury has been awarded almost \$300,000 for the program and has worked with the State Appellate Defender Office and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan to tailor the program to meet Michigan's needs. Applications, along with all required documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Treasury's Student Financial Services Bureau by January 17, 2011. More information is available at www.michigan.gov/jrj.

Congress Exempts Lawyers from Onerous Red Flags Rule

In the face of litigation pending on appeal from the D. C. district court, the Senate acted to exempt lawyers from the Federal Trade Commission's holding that lawyers are "creditors" under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. The House followed suit, and the litigation should be dismissed once the legislation is signed into law. See <http://michbar.org/news/releases/archives10/redflags.cfm>.

McCree Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Wade H. McCree, Jr. Awards for the Advancement of Justice recognize Michigan broadcast, print media, and online journalists who foster greater public understanding of the inherent values of our legal and judicial system through their published materials. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 11, 2011. See http://michbar.org/news/releases/archives10/12_2_10_McCree.cfm.

Practice Management Resource Center Helpline Available

(800) 341-9715—Do you have a question about the retention of old files, the development of a conflict of interest checking system, or the purchase of digital equipment? Call the PMRC Helpline to receive informal advice and information regarding practice management resources and emerging technology. To reach a practice management advisor, call the PMRC Helpline or email your questions to pmrcHelpline@mail.michbar.org.



Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan holiday party.

Out and About

Straker and Wolverine Bar Associations

host holiday gathering Wednesday, December 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the South Bar in Birmingham. The cost to attend is \$15 for law students; \$25 for association members, and \$35 for non-members. To register, contact Kym Kinchen at kkinchen@clarkhill.com or T.L. Summerville at tsummerville@dykema.com.

Congratulations to Sarah Elizabeth Huyser, the new president of the **Isabella County Bar Association** elected in November of this year.

WLAM – Wayne Region to host **"Rockin' Holiday Party"** on Thursday, December 16th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Hard Rock Café at the Compuware Building in Detroit. The cost to attend is \$5 for WLAM members and \$10 for non-members. Appetizers will be provided and a cash bar will be available. To make reservations send an E-mail to hrohn-dave@bsdd.com by Monday, December 13th.

The new president of the **Michigan Probate Judges Association** is **Kenneth L. Tacoma**. Congratulations on your new appointment!

The **Hon. Benjamin H. Logan, II** is the current president of the **Floyd Skinner Bar Association**.

Genesee County Bar Association and **Genesee County Bar Foundation** to host **2010 Community Holiday Dinner** on Tuesday, December 21 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Downtown Flint. Donations are needed to support this program, which are used exclusively to purchase items for the dinner. Donations can be sent to the Genesee County Bar Foundation at 315 E. Court St., Flint, MI 48502. A gift wrapping party will also be held on Monday, December 6, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at the GCBA/GCBF office. Pizza will be served. Please join us! For more information, call (810) 232-8310.

Gary F. Heisler is the new president of the **Michigan Association of Administrative Law Judges**. We hope you have an exciting and successful presidential year.



Ottawa-Allegan bar associations joint holiday party.



Michigan District Judges Association.



President Tony Jenkins meets with members of the Menominee Bar Association.



President Tony Jenkins meets with members of the National Lawyers Guild.



President Jenkins and Representative Assembly Chair Victoria Radtke meet with leaders of the Dickinson-Iron County Bar Association.

An electronic copy of this newsletter can be found at
http://www.michbar.org/resources/pdfs/connections_S10.pdf
