

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

links to help you

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www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/

State Bar Annual Financial Report
www.michbar.org/generalinfo/pdfs/annual_fin_report.pdf

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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, 2009

June 15, 2009

October 15, 2009

It's Time to Think of Your Best

Candace Crowley

This is the time of year when everyone is working hard and producing those key events that spell success for their associations. Over 125 separate State Bar section events occurred during March, April, and May of 2008. President Pappas will work at or attend more than 40 Bar-related events in a similar time span this year. Bar associations are planning for Law Day while they maintain all of their regular activities and even begin thinking of year-end celebrations. It's a focused time when dedicated people show their best and really bring life to our organizations. It's a perfect time to reflect on those whose efforts should be recognized in a larger setting. It's awards time.

Nominations are now open for major State Bar of Michigan awards that will be presented at the September 2009 Annual Meeting in Dearborn. New this year is the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award that will be presented to a recognized local or affinity bar association, program, or leader. The Cumiskey Pro Bono Award is looking for a winner. The State Bar will recognize one of your Liberty Bell winners with another award. Champions of Justice are coveted awards, too. And don't forget the Representative Assembly awards that are described separately in this newsletter.

The deadline for most awards is April 3. Application forms can be [downloaded from the SBM website](#). It's a great time to thank those members whose work makes your association great by nominating them for a State Bar award. Think of your best!

Chief Justice to Address Representative Assembly at April Meeting

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly will address the Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan on the morning of April 18, 2009, at the Lansing Community College West Campus. The address will be broadcast live on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). The Assembly, comprised of 150 members elected from throughout the state, serves as the final policy-making body of the State Bar. More information on the Assembly is available online at <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/repasssembly.cfm>. The agenda for the Assembly's April meeting will be posted online on March 23 at the link. The meeting is open to the public.

Calendar of Events

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program and Brighton Hospital First Annual Fund Raising Dinner

April 16, 2009 Meadowbrook Country Club, Northville

Law Day May 1, 2009

50 Year Golden Celebration

May 11, 2009 Inn at St. Johns, Plymouth, MI

Bar Leadership Forum

Mackinac Island
June 12-13, 2009

Upper Michigan Legal Institute

Mackinac Island
June 12-13, 2009

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 16-18, 2009
Dearborn

First National Pro Bono Celebration Set for October 2009

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service has made October National Pro Bono Celebration month. The Pro Bono Initiative (PBI) has convened a workgroup to address ways in which the State Bar of Michigan can support, encourage, and recognize pro bono efforts throughout the state during this time.

Board of Commissioners Meetings

April 17, 2009
June 12, 2009 (Mackinac)
July 24, 2009
September 16, 2009 (Dearborn)



Judge Richard Caretti, Ed Pappas, and Association of Defense Trial Counsel President John McSorley smile at the ADTC holiday reception.



The Lansing Black Lawyers held a membership roundup in late January. President Rico Neal and Secretary Dawn Jack chat with State Bar President-elect Charles R. Toy.

Representative Assembly Awards

Nominations are now open for the two 2009 State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly Awards. The Michael Franck Award is given to an attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the legal profession. The Unsung Hero Award goes to a lawyer who has exhibited the highest standards of professional practice and commitment to the benefit of others. The Assembly encourages you and your membership to submit nominations. The nomination form for each award is available at <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/awards.cfm>. The deadline is Friday, March 13, 2009. The awards will be presented to recipients at the Assembly meeting on September 17, 2009.

E-journal Now Available through Mobile Phones

The SBM has launched a new e-Journal Mobile version that members can easily access on their smartphones and PDAs. By linking to the mobile pages, members will have access to the latest appellate opinion summaries with links to the full case opinions. To access the mobile version, visit <http://www.michbar.org/e-journal/m/content.html>.

New FedEx Member Service

The SBM has completed an arrangement with FedEx that allows members to save up to 26 percent on select FedEx Express services and up to 12 percent on select FedEx Ground services. For more information, or to enroll, please visit www.1800members.com/SBM. A new UPS service will also be available to members as soon as the contract is finalized.

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Announces Fundraising Dinner

The State Bar's Lawyers and Judges Assistance Committee and the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, working in conjunction with Brighton Hospital, are hosting a fundraising dinner on April 16, 2009, at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. World-renowned authors Jeff and Debra Jay will speak about intervention. All proceeds from the event benefit the Richard Steinberg Memorial Fund with the Brighton National Addiction Foundation, which supplements treatment and related costs for attorneys who are experiencing financial hardship. For more information and to register go to www.brightonhospital.org/events.



Judge Mark Goldsmith and State Bar President Ed Pappas at B’Nai B’Rith Barristers Association February meeting in Farmington Hills.



President Brian Madar on behalf of the Clinton County Bar Association presents a \$500 check to Ed Pappas for the Access to Justice Fund, Legal Services of South Central Michigan.

Macomb and Irish Bars Join to Welcome Pappas and Toy

The joint meeting with the Macomb County Bar Association (MCBA) on January 21, 2009 was a great success. The ISIAL had a strong turnout for speakers State Bar of Michigan (SBM) President Ed Pappas and President-elect Charles Toy. Mr. Pappas entertained the crowd with a comical video of what certain jurists thought of him becoming SBM president before he spoke of the issues being met by the SBM. Everyone seemed to enjoy what became a festive meeting between the two groups. ISIAL and MCBA thank pub owner Tommy Mac, who upon seeing such a large crowd provided appetizers at no cost.

Immigrant Rights Project Offers Free Summits

The Michigan Immigrant Rights Project (MIRP) <http://mirp.mplp.org/> is pleased to announce the 2009 Statewide Immigrant Rights Summits. The first Summit is an opportunity for Michigan attorneys, community advocates, faith leaders, and others who serve immigrants or are concerned about immigrant rights to come together, share information, and seek new opportunities to collaborate. A full day of discussion groups and panels are planned, as well as a special address by State Representative Rashida Tlaib.

The first of two 2009 Summits will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009, at the Lansing Community College West Campus <http://www.lcc.edu/maps/westcampus.aspx> in the Executive Amphitheater. Registration is free, but please submit a registration form by Friday, March 20, 2009. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. As part of the Summits, the Michigan Immigrant Service Provider Reference Guide will be updated. The Guide is available at http://www.michbar.org/public_resources/MI_immigration.pdf. For more information contact Susan Reed, susanree@umich.edu.

Time to Join a State Bar Committee— Online Application Process Coming Soon

President-elect Charles R. Toy invites you to consider membership in one of nearly 30 State Bar committees. This year’s application process is moving online and will be available after the March *Bar Journal* is published. Applications for service are due by May 15. Watch for more information.

Out and About

Z. Kay Fitzpatrick is the new executive director of Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

Barry County Bar announces that **Robert Byington** is their new president.

The Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association will be led by President **Robyn McCoy**, Vice-President **Kim Moore**, Secretary **Miriam Perry**, and Treasurer **Joy Gaines**.

William Meengs will lead the Emmet-Charlevoix Association this year.

The Flint area’s Mallory Scott Van Dyne Bar elected **Jade Edwards** as president.

Chuck Nebel is the president of the Alger-Luce-Schoolcraft Bar Association.

The 26th Judicial Circuit Bar Association in Alpena is led by President **Jeffrey Mock**.

Christopher Elton Burnett is president of the Allegan County Bar Association.

Michael Ekdahl is president of the Cheboygan County Bar Association.

Jerry Sherwood is leading the Livingston County Bar.

The Chaldean-American Bar Association president is **Joel F. Yono**.

Michael J. Behm heads up the Flint Trial Lawyers Association.

The Michigan District Judges Association has the Honorable **Susan Moiseev** as president.



Michigan Association of Bar Executives members gather to plan their second annual Boot Camp for executive directors and incoming presidents. From left to right: Lisa Stadig Elliot, Lorraine Weber, Z. Kay Fitzpatrick, Brian Figot, Kyeena Slater, Rick Troy, and President Kim Coleman. Boot Camp will be held on May 8.



Pontiac Northern High School students and Thomas M. Cooley Law School mentors gather at the Oakland County Bar Association Diversity Committee's "Diversity in the Legal Profession" dinner. Photo and newsletter story courtesy of Kristen Bennett, OCBA director of communications.

[Oakland Diversity Committee Convenes Dinner](#)

On Thursday, October 16, 2008, the Oakland County Bar Association's Diversity Committee hosted its bi-annual Diversity in the Legal Profession dinner event at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. The event started with a reception for presidents of many special purpose and local bar associations, and the dinner program included the presentation of the 2008 Leon Hubbard Award to E. Christopher Johnson, former vice president and general counsel of General Motors. The committee would like to thank all of the sponsors of this year's event. It was because of their generosity that nearly 20 students from Pontiac Northern High School were able to attend with their mentors from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.