

Connections

Linking
State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

links to help you

Public Policy Handbook

[http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/pdfs/
PublicPolicyHandbook.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/pdfs/PublicPolicyHandbook.pdf)

Michigan Law Schools

<http://www.michbar.org/resources/lawschools.cfm>

Practice Management Resource Center

<http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/content.cfm>

Find the SBM on Twitter and Facebook

[http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/
archives09/SBM_facebooktwitter.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives09/SBM_facebooktwitter.cfm)

Casemaker 2.1

[http://www.michbar.org/eBlasts/SBM_Today_
October09.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/eBlasts/SBM_Today_October09.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, 2010

June 15, 2010

October 15, 2010

Happy New Year!

Candace Crowley

Yes, the summer hiatus is *well* behind us. The elections, installations, and orientations of the fall are over, and the season of active bar work is underway. If patterns hold true, nearly 300 section events will occur between now and the end of June. While primarily programs with a continuing legal education focus, they also include some interesting social events. Bar associations will offer CLE programs too, but will mix in quite a variety of bench-bar dialogues, public outreach activities, monthly meetings, and membership drives. And don't forget that Law Day falls in that time frame as well, generating countless programs offered by bars and their community partners.

The organized bar in Michigan works hard to make its members knowledgeable, skilled, and responsible professionals. Whether through bar association or section activities, lawyers provide time and talent to improve themselves and others in service to the public. What lawyer, judge, or other justice system stakeholder can't applaud these kinds of efforts?

It is indeed the season of heavy lifting in the organized bar. Let's pause to recognize that all of your efforts really make a difference in the quality of services lawyers have to offer, and in the confidence we try to instill in the public. While we're at it, let's also take a moment to extend season's greetings of the more traditional sort. Here's to a successful and happy new year in both your professional and personal endeavors. Enjoy the season.

Calendar of Events

Master Calendar of Bar Activities

ABA Mid-year Meeting

Orlando, Florida
February 3–9

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program Fundraising Dinner

April 15
Country Club, Northville

Bar Leadership Forum

Mackinac Island
June 11–12

Upper Michigan Legal Institute

Mackinac Island
June 11–12

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 29–October 1
Grand Rapids

Board of Commissioners Meetings

January 22
March 26
April 30
June 11 Mackinac Island
July 23
September 29 (Grand Rapids)



Hon. Joseph Fabrizio, Hon. Dennis Powers, and Oakland County Bar Association President Kurt Schnelz (Photo courtesy of Kristin Bennett, Oakland County Bar Association)



State Bar President Charles Toy meets with Gogebic County's Judge Anders Tingstad

Oakland County Bar Hosts Legal Aid Clinics

Thanks to the generosity of the Oakland County Bar Foundation, the OCBA was able to undertake a pilot project in partnership with the Youth Assistance program (YA), the Family Law Assistance Project (a Lakeshore Legal Aid and Cooley Law School collaborative), and Legal Aid and Defender Association. Three legal aid clinics were hosted, and volunteer attorneys and legal aid providers were on-site to provide basic legal information and brief advice and counsel in areas including juvenile law, family law, criminal law, landlord/tenant, probate and estate law, and other civil matters. Not only did members of the community receive much-needed assistance, but several cases were opened on-site by the legal aid providers, OCBA members volunteered to take pro bono cases or work clinics for the legal aid providers, and of course, members had the great satisfaction of knowing that they had volunteered and reached out to their community. Surveys were distributed to the attendees, results are being finalized, and the OCBA will be meeting with its Youth Assistance partners to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the pilot and to provide recommendations to the board regarding its continuation.

New Member Service! Casemaker 2.1 for You!

The State Bar of Michigan has partnered with Casemaker to bring premium state and federal research materials to its membership. The new service provides case law, constitution, and statutes for all 50 states, including the District of Columbia. In addition, the service provides Michigan primary law, administrative code, state court rules, federal court rules, attorney general opinions, and the model civil jury instructions. The entire 50-state collection is available until September of 2010 to the entire State Bar membership. For more information, visit http://www.michbar.org/eBlasts/SBM_Today_October09.cfm



President Toy and Detroit Bar President John Runyan congratulate Dennis Archer Public Service Award winner Saul Green, middle



President Toy, Genesee County Bar member Erwin Meiers, and Genesee County Bar's Executive Director Ramona Sain

Legal Milestones

A new Michigan Legal Milestones website is now live at http://www.michbar.org/programs/milestone/milestones_home.cfm. The site features an interactive map showing the location of all the milestone markers around the state, the complete text from all of the plaques, and historical information and photos from the dedication ceremonies. The 35th Michigan Legal Milestone will focus on a landmark environmental law case involving the Pigeon River State Forest, its elk population, oil drilling, and the development of a unique statute which is now known as Part 17 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. An early-mid June 2010 date for a ceremony and plaque unveiling, expected to be in the Gaylord area, is being finalized.

Pro Bono Month a Success!

Governor Granholm signed a proclamation naming October 2009 as Pro Bono Month to build “support for pro bono work and swell the ranks of those involved...so that all people may receive adequate appropriate representation and protection in the legal system regardless of their economic standing.” Various training opportunities were offered throughout the month, including Project SALUTE. See more information on the training at http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives09/10_13_09_ProjectSALUTE_attorneys.cfm The month ended in a capstone event at the Hall of Justice on the evening of October 29, 2009.



Jennifer Williams

Welcome Jennifer Williams

State Bar staff member Jennifer Williams has been named as the administrative support person for the local and special purpose bar association initiative. Jennifer is a Bar stalwart, joining the staff in 1997 and working with the Access to Justice and Justice Initiatives efforts. She will work with Candace Crowley to coordinate information and services for affinity bars.

Out and About

Mitzy Sharp Futro is the new executive director of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association.

The year 2009 introduced the South-Asian Bar Association—new to Michigan’s special purpose bar associations—to be led by President **Raj A. Malviya**, Secretary **Naeha Dixit**, and Treasurer **Adil Daudi**. Welcome.

The year 2009 also welcomed the Monroe County Criminal Defense Bar Association—new to the special purpose bar associations—to be led by President **Michelle Duell**.

The year 2009 also saw the Saginaw County Senior Circuit Pro Bono Association merge with the Saginaw County Bar Association.

The Floyd Skinner Bar Association announced their 2010 president as **Kenyatta L. Brame**.

The Mallory-Scott VanDyne Bar Association elected **Jade Jozzmenia Edwards** as their 2010 president.

Kim D. Winokur will lead the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

Brendan Curran was elected president of the 46th Judicial Circuit Bar Association.

The Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association will be led by President **Jo L. Bullis**.

The Wayne County Probate Bar Association elected **Valerie Manos Geftos** as their president.

The Detroit, Michigan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild elected **David M. Kramer** as their 2010 president.



Members of the Alger-Luce-Schoolcraft Bar Association meet with President Toy at a luncheon meeting in Manistique

Master Calendar of Bar Activities

With Jennifer Williams as newly identified State Bar staff support for affinity bars, a renewed effort is underway to provide an updated calendar of bar activities throughout the state. The calendar will be updated by Jennifer at least monthly. It can be found on the State Bar website at <http://www.michbar.org/resources/calendar.pdf> which can be accessed from the home page by following “Opinions, Research and Links” to the “Local and Affinity Bar Associations” page. Please send calendar entries to Jennifer at jwilliams@mail.michbar.org

Arab and Armenian Bars Join to Welcome President Charles Toy

The Arab and Armenian Bar Associations will welcome State Bar President Charles Toy at their joint membership meeting on January 28 in Dearborn. Charles enjoys meeting members when they gather at bar association meetings, and travels far and wide to join associations when they meet. If you have not already done so, please invite President Toy to an upcoming meeting; contact Anne Smith to make arrangements, asmith@mail.michbar.org

Upon a Member's Death

The State Bar is not always informed by a member's family when a death occurs, and this has led to unintended consequences such as suspension of license upon failure to pay dues. Needless to say, this is a painful event for a family. We ask for your help in letting us know when you learn of the death of one of your members, because we may or may not independently learn of it. Please alert us to this information by sending a brief e-mail to Joan Kreutzman at jkreutzman@mail.michbar.org Thanks for your help.