

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

links to help you

Board of Commissioners

www.michbar.org/generalinfo/board.cfm

Representative Assembly

www.michbar.org/generalinfo/repasssembly.cfm

State Bar Staff

www.michbar.org/generalinfo/staff.cfm

Access to Justice

—Year-End Giving Donation
www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pledgeOnline.cfm

New Pro Hac Vice Rule

—Effective 9-1-2008
www.michbar.org/opinions/ethicsopinions.cfm#recent

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 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

A Great Bar Year Ahead!

By Candace Crowley

This issue of Connections marks the first communication to new leaders of the 133 affinity bar associations and the 39 State Bar sections working to improve the administration of justice in Michigan during the 2008-2009 Bar leadership year. Welcome aboard, new leaders, and a warm hello to those of you who remain at the head of your organization!

Connections is meant to improve communications among all of us so we can learn from each other, use our resources most effectively, ask for help from each other, and find allies to enlist in common goals. The pictures are meant to help us visualize your activities and stimulate thinking as to whether a featured event is something your audience is ready for. "Out and About" showcases your programs and introduces your leaders—we are always looking for information, so send us ideas to include in upcoming issues.

One of the most important messages from the State Bar is that we are here to support your work and to help you succeed. We can assist you in finding partners, developing materials, or strategizing policy work. Our presidents are always open to supporting your events, and this year is no exception. Ed Pappas is a friendly but competitive person and is eager to attend more events than any of his predecessors. Please invite him to join you at a meeting, discussion, or celebration. I can help you with his calendar, so give me a shout. Most of all, let me know how the State Bar can help you with your work this year.

Genesee Bar Association Promotes Professionalism

The Genesee Bar adopted *Standards for Professional Conduct* within Michigan's Seventh Judicial Circuit in 1993, and it continues to encourage members to adhere to the standards to improve the climate of the practice of law in Genesee County. The standards are distributed to every attorney in the area and to all of the courts within the county. Members are encouraged to adhere to the principles so that clients will be better served and the profession will gain greater respect. Past President Kurtis Brown encouraged members "to refer to this code whenever you feel that an opposing counsel has violated it or whenever you feel a member of the bench should direct parties to abide by the spirit intended by the standards of conduct."

Calendar of Events

**Poletown and Eminent Domain
Legal Milestone**

December 2, 2008
Hamtramck, MI
http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives08/sbm_poletown_milestone.cfm

**Free Legal Workshop on Legal Issues
Concerning Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual
and Transgender Clients**

December 5, 2008
http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives08/lgbt_seminar.cfm

ABA Mid-year Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts
February 11-17, 2009

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

Board of Commissioners Meetings

January 16, 2009
March 6, 2009
April 17, 2009
June 12, 2009 (Mackinac)
July 24, 2009
September 16, 2009 (Dearborn)



26th Judicial Circuit Bar President Elizabeth Church and Chippewa County Prosecutor Brian Peppler join State Bar President Ed Pappas at the Sault Ste. Marie UP Tour stop in October 2008.

Revised *You and the Law* Booklet Now Available

The Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary and the Public Outreach Committee of the State Bar announce the availability of an updated *You and the Law* booklet for young people in Michigan. Janet Welch's foreword explains that "The State Bar of Michigan offers this booklet to help you be aware of your rights and responsibilities under the law and to be a responsible citizen of Michigan and the United States. It is specially designed to tell you about areas of the law that are of special concern to young people." The book costs \$2.00.

Affinity Bar Directory Available Soon

The 2008-2009 directory should be posted online and mailed to you before the end of November. It was especially difficult getting updated information from bars this year; we appreciate your patience while we track everyone down. Note for the future: please provide updated officer information upon our first request to you!

Looking for Interested Attorneys to Participate in Disabilities Access Issues

The Justice Initiatives Committee and its disabilities work group are looking for attorneys who are willing to participate in a survey to determine the accessibility of courts for persons with disabilities. A note to this effect was sent to section leaders earlier this year, but the work group is still looking for two populations: (1) attorneys who have represented clients with disabilities and (2) attorneys who would voluntarily identify themselves as people with a disability that requires accommodation. Those who are identified should be willing to participate in a survey to identify barriers/challenges/issues.

If you or your members can help identify attorneys within these populations, the disabilities work group would be very appreciative. Please contact Katy Conklin, kconklin@mail.michbar.org.



Judge Mabel Mayfield leads students from St. Joseph and Berrien County High Schools during a Constitution Day visit to the Berrien County Courthouse organized in part by the Berrien County Bar Association.



Ed Pappas chats with Armenian American Bar President Marjorie Nanian and Hellenic Bar Past President Tom Christy at their November joint dinner meeting.

Announcing the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award

This new State Bar of Michigan award is established in memory of Kimberly M. Cahill, president of the State Bar of Michigan (2006-2007). The award will be presented to a recognized local or affinity bar association, program, or leader, for excellence in promoting the ideal of professionalism or equal justice for all, or in responding to a compelling legal need within the community during the past year or on an ongoing basis. Watch for more information in January.

Out and About

State Bar President **Ed Pappas** addressed the Centennial American Inn of Court in Flint on November 18, 2008.

State Bar Director of Professional Standards **Dawn Evans** presented an ethics program to the Emmet-Charlevoix Bar Association at its November 6, 2008 lunch meeting.

The Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar welcomes **Jill Porter** as its new executive director.

Kimberly Coleman will lead the Michigan Association of Bar Executives (MABE) again this year.

The Macomb County Bar formed an **"Alternative Practice"** Committee earlier this year.

The Washtenaw County Bar formed a **"Same Gender Law"** Section.

The **Armenian-American Bar Association** now has a website at www.aabami.org.

Mitch Moldovan is the president of the Cass County Bar Association.

Keith Moir will lead the 23rd Judicial Circuit Bar Association this year.

The Menominee County Bar Association elected **Wayne Erickson** as president.

President **Gabriel Cameron** is leading the Delta County Bar Association.

Rico Neal will lead the Lansing Black Lawyers Association again this year.

President **Nellie Lim** is in charge of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



Hispanic Bar Association members proudly join President Lawrence Garcia (tan slacks, dark shirt, middle front) at the June Unidos Ganamos (United We Stand) community celebration at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market. The event featured a voter registration table.



Young Lawyers and Mentors Plus Host Multicultural-Themed Picnic. Complete story in the November *Michigan Bar Journal* "Up Front" section.

"A Lawyer Helps" Campaign Announced

The Board of Commissioners recently approved the launching of a statewide campaign to enhance the image of lawyers and the legal profession by focusing on attorney public service. Thousands of Michigan attorneys are active volunteers in their local



Leaders of the Straker, Chaldean-American, Michigan Pacific Asian, Black Women Lawyers, B'Nai B'rith, German-American, Armenian-American and Oakland County Bar associations join State Bar President Ron Keefe and Executive Director Janet Welch for an April 2008 dinner meeting.

communities, and this campaign will help us publicize the good deeds and services performed by these lawyers—not only as members of the Bar, but also as members of their own communities. Bar associations, sections, law firms, legal aid organizations, law schools, and individual Michigan attorneys will all be encouraged to participate. T-shirts, buttons, golf shirts, hats, and aprons will carry the distinctive "A Lawyer Helps" logo.

State Bar staff continues to meet with potential partner groups to identify the best way to move forward with the campaign. A Law Day launch is anticipated.