

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR

May 30, 2003

In large part, this has been a year of transitions. Annual meetings of the State Bar are now expected to be both shorter and at a permanent location. The Section Council has proposed an amendment to our ByLaws. The country as a whole is engaged in crafting a measured response to a new set of security and safety realities.

The Section's ListServ (www.lists@michbar.org) is gaining subscribers and seems to be meeting members' expectations while garnering few complaints. The ListServ is available to any member of the Bar who asks to subscribe by sending an E-mail message to the List Administrator (i.e. me) at the following address : attycdavis@ameritech.net

The Section Web Site (www.michbar.org/general/) has made available Elizabeth Silverman's insightful explanation of current Wayne County Friend of The Court procedures and guidelines.

The impact upon, and implications for Section members and their clients of, the USA Patriot Act and related Homeland Security legislation has been the subject of considerable discussion on the Council. An effort is underway to publish (via. the Newsletter and/or the Web Site and/or CD ROM) a set of references and a preliminary checklist for members as they confront resolving the difficult conflicts between security and liberty.

We have been in contact with the Unauthorized Practice of Law department as the State Bar and look forward to an article describing both proceedings currently underway and procedures that practitioners can utilize and initiate when they encounter questionable practices.

I was pleased to accept the invitation of the Bay County Bar to speak at a luncheon where I was able to describe the activities and goals of the Section.

The Council reviewed and commented upon proposed legislation and Court rules ranging from filing by FAX to PPOs to Substituted Service to type and paper size limits on pleadings.

Maury Klein and Bill Cataldo in editing and compiling our Newsletter, The General Practitioner, continue to present relevant and timely articles and comments. We are investigating making past issues available on CD-ROM..

Richard White is the upcoming chair of the General Practice Section. The Council looks forward to working with hin in proactively navigating the current transitions and investigating new issues of value to our membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Clark S. Davis, Chair