

connections with SECTIONS

links to help you

Public Policy Handbook—<http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/pdfs/PublicPolicyHandbook.pdf>

Section Chair Handbook—http://www.michbar.org/sections/chair_handbook.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

Casemaker 2.1—http://www.michbar.org/eBlasts/SBM_Today_October09.cfm

Connections with Sections is an electronic newsletter published three times a year by the State Bar of Michigan and distributed without charge to section chairs and chairs-elect and the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Announcements, articles, and pictures for *Connections with Sections* 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

Seasons Greetings!

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 timeframe too, 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.

Judicial Crossroads Task Force Begins Work

You may remember our immediate past president of the State Bar, Edward H. Pappas. Pappas has taken the helm of the new Judicial Crossroads Task force with former Chief Judge Barry L. Howard to perform a critical job: identifying how Michigan's justice system can meet the needs of the public in the face of major economic changes in the state. He feels that "it's essential that we seize this opportunity to accomplish what needs to be done."

The task force is composed of 28 prominent lawyers and judges, and is supported by four subcommittees: Court Structure and Resources, Access to Justice, Technology, and Business Impact. The task force has a goal in mind of just a year complete their work, focusing intensely on issues at hand.

Calendar of Events

ABA Mid-year Meeting
Orlando, Florida
February 3-9, 2010

Bar Leadership Forum
Mackinac Island
June 11-12, 2010

Upper Michigan Legal Institute
Mackinac Island
June 11-12, 2010

State Bar Annual Meeting
September 29–October 1, 2010
Grand Rapids

Board of Commissioners Meetings

- January 22, 2010
- March 26, 2010
- April 30, 2010
- June 11, 2010 Mackinac Island
- July 23, 2010
- September 29, 2010
Grand Rapids

Sections Invited to Provide Input on BLF Breakout Sessions

In response to popular demand, we are reducing speaker time and adding yet another set of breakout sessions to the 2010 BLF which will be held June 11-12 on Mackinac Island. Now is the time to suggest any ideas you have for breakout sessions, which are 1 ½-hour programs that usually feature a panel with audience interaction. Whether it's specific to a section, or of interest to both bar and section leaders, please send your thoughts. Responses can be sent to [Candace Crowley, ccrowley@mail.michbar.org](mailto:CandaceCrowley@ccrowley@mail.michbar.org) Thank you!

Court Rules Red Flags Rule Does Not Apply to Lawyers

Following oral argument on October 29, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) lacks authority to apply the Red Flags Rule to practicing lawyers, offering a reprieve to law firms across the country that faced weekend deadlines to put programs in place to meet the rule's requirements, scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2009.

Litigation Section Contributes \$10,000 to Access to Justice Fund!

Following a strong tradition of section support for civil legal aid work in Michigan, the Litigation Section recently made a \$10,000 gift to the ATJ Fund Endowment. In transmitting the gift to the Michigan State Bar Foundation, section treasurer David Centner said, "We feel fortunate to have the opportunity to add to the endowment and provide support into the future for civil legal aid to the poor." Foundation Executive Director Linda Rexer said "We are very grateful for the generosity of the Litigation Section. I also want to thank Bonnie Sawusch and James Partridge for their leadership in making this gift possible as well as the entire Litigation Section for setting a wonderful example of helping those in need." Others who wish to contribute to the ATJ Fund can find information about gift options at www.atjfund.org.



Meet the Governmental Relations Director, Elizabeth Lyon!

Elizabeth K. Lyon received her bachelor's degree in public affairs, majoring in political economy and social relations, from James Madison College at Michigan State University. While completing her degree, she began working for a multi-client lobbying firm where she remained until joining the State Bar of Michigan in August 2003. Elizabeth was hired at the State Bar to assist in rebuilding its public policy program. She is now the State Bar's director of governmental relations, where she serves as the main advocate and liaison for the Bar with the legislature and other governmental agencies. In addition to developing and recommending policy positions, she manages the public policy program connecting over 39,000 attorneys, governmental agencies, and members of the public. Elizabeth has worked on important issues such as the delivery of public defense services and the implications of a tax on legal services. Contact her today with your questions regarding policy positions for your section! elyon@mail.michbar.org

Communicate with Your Membership

The State Bar offers many services to help keep you in touch with your membership. With the recent downswing in the economy, many SBM members



Patricia Streeter, Michael Marutiak and Avar Laws-Wright attend a Prisons and Corrections Section meeting at the State Bar Building

are choosing to trim the budget by cutting section memberships—the more visible your section is to your members, the more those members are likely to stay with you. Keep communications open by maintaining a current website with dynamic content, an active listserv, and frequent newsletters. Many sections are now issuing electronic newsletters through email or their websites!

Service Is Its Own Reward

The hallways outside the State Bar's conference rooms are filled with perpetual plaques, each one representing a prestigious award that a section confers upon an individual on an annual basis. What sort of recognition for excellent service does your section participate in? Is it a place on a perpetual plaque, an awards ceremony, recognition in your section newsletter? Take a look next time you stroll through the SBM!



Section Orientation, October 1, 2009

Section Orientation a Success!

On October 1, 2009, the State Bar was proud to welcome 25 of our 38 sections to an orientation for the new chairs. Attendees were able to meet with all the State Bar staff that sections interact with on a daily basis and provided with information about the many valuable resources the Bar has to offer for sections. Breakout sessions provided in-depth advice and focus for chairs seeking specific information, and everyone was able to enjoy time to network and interact with other sections.

Out and About

The **Labor and Employment Law Section** held their Annual Holiday Party and Story Competition on December 10, 2009, 5:00 p.m., at the Birmingham Country Club.

Over 20 sections held their annual meetings concurrent with the SBM's Annual Meeting in Dearborn on September 16-18, electing new officers and attending educational programs.

The **Administrative Law Section** held another successful luncheon meeting on November 18, 2009, with the **DEQ's Steve Chester** as the guest speaker.

Congratulations to the **Social Security Law Section**, which held another successful educational seminar on October 1, 2009 with over 100 members in attendance.

The **Elder Law Section** enjoyed their **12th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Law, Aging, and Disability** at Crystal Mountain on September 23, 2009.

Public Corporation Law is gearing up for their February 5, 2010 Winter Seminar at the Inn at St. Johns.

Labor and Employment Law is planning for its popular **Annual Winter Conference** at the Detroit Athletic Club on January 22-23, 2010.

The **Young Lawyers Section** hosted a wonderful **Public Speaking Workshop by Dale Carnegie, entitled "Stand and Deliver!"** on August 29, 2009.

The State Bar welcomed over two-thirds of the sections to its **Annual Section Orientation on October 1, 2009**. If you weren't able to attend, contact [Heather Anderson](mailto:handerson@mail.michbar.org) for more information at handerson@mail.michbar.org.

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

Is Your Website Updated?

Very few sections lack a wealth of meetings, seminars, networking events, newsletters, awards, scholarships, law student activities, radio show appearances, or other exciting activities. We are surprised, nonetheless, at how many section websites are simply out-of-date, offering no clue to visitors as to what's going on in the section. Bar staff updates the council information every year, but many times that's all that's current on the site.

Meeting minutes, newsletters, press releases, and conference materials are just a few of the items that can be posted to make your website look healthy and attract new members. This is another item that can be easily delegated to a member—just assign someone to send material to [Sandra Barger at sbarger@mail.michbar.org](mailto:sbarger@mail.michbar.org) with a request that it be posted on your section's website.

Legal Milestones

A new Michigan Legal Milestones website is now live at <http://www.michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm>



Christine Piatkowski, William Schooley, Jodi Latuszek, and Jack McKaig at a Children's Law Section meeting in the State Bar Hudson Room



The Real Property Law Section Winter Conference panel members discuss waterfront issues. David Stubbs, Jacksonville Port Authority; John Kerr, Port Authority of Detroit/Wayne County; Leif Lustig, City of Ft. Myers; Joan Cleland, Acquest Development, Inc.; Faye A. Nelson, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Inc. and moderator; Cathy LaMont, Lamont Title.

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.