

# connections *with* SECTIONS

## links to help you

Blog on!

<http://sbmblog.typepad.com/sbm-blog/>

SBM Online - Logon!

<http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives10/memberarea.cfm>

Gavel order form:

<http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/GavelOrderForm.pdf>

Plaque order form:

<http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/PlaqueOrderForm.pdf>

Section Officer form

[http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/officers\\_councilinfo.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/officers_councilinfo.pdf)

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](mailto: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 •

## Passing the Torch

Heather Anderson

Annual meeting season is upon us again! Don't forget these key details as your leadership changes over at your annual meeting:

1. Let the SBM know when and where your annual meeting will take place. We'll post the information on your website, the most common place for section members to look for information.
2. Are there any traditions your section has for recognizing outgoing leaders, like ordering recognition plaques, or for welcoming incoming leaders, like ordering gavels?
3. Do you have notes collected throughout your section's year that need to be passed on - several sections have leadership manuals that pass from chair to chair!
4. Once you've elected your new council and officers, don't forget to let the SBM know. We'll get your new council list published to your website as soon as possible.

## Section Orientation - Save the Date

State Bar President-elect Tony Jenkins has identified Thursday, October 7, 2010 as the date for the section orientation. Current chairs-elect, please mark your calendars now! If the chair-elect is unable to attend, other officers are welcome. Plan on joining Mr. Jenkins and State Bar staff for a full day of networking, lunch, and helpful information about the myriad of State Bar services available to you.

## Your Section and Social Networking

More and more sections are using Facebook and Twitter, among other sites, to reach out to the public and their membership. Many sections have published articles on social networking in their journals. In particular, the ADR Section has addressed the use of Twitter: <http://www.michbar.org/adr/pdfs/May10.pdf>, and the Appellate Practice Section recently published an article on the use of tablets, like the iPad. Does your section have a Facebook or Twitter page? Make sure you add the State Bar! <http://www.facebook.com/sbm.news?ref=nf> or <http://twitter.com/SBMNews>

## Calendar of Events

### Annual Meetings:

#### June

- 19 Workers' Compensation, Crystal Mountain
- 25 Public Corporation Law, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

#### July

- 23 Intellectual Property Law, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme

#### September

- 16 Taxation, TBD
- 19 Probate & Estate Planning, University Club, East Lansing
- 22 Information Technology Law, Inn at St. Johns, Plymouth
- 23 Business Law, Sheraton Hotel, Novi
- 23 Health Care Law, Charles Wright Museum, Detroit

#### During SBM's Annual Meeting

Administrative Law Section  
 American Indian Law Section  
 Animal Law Section  
 Antitrust, Franchising & Trade Regulation Section  
 Appellate Practice Section  
 Aviation Law Section  
 Children's Law Section  
 Consumer Law Section  
 Criminal Law Section  
 Environmental Law Section  
 Family Law Section  
 General Practice Section  
 Insurance & Indemnity Law Section  
 Labor & Employment Law Section  
 Law Practice Management & Legal Administrator Section  
 Litigation Section  
 Master Lawyers Section  
 Negligence Law Section  
 Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section  
 Real Property Law Section  
 Senior Lawyers Section  
 Young Lawyers Section

#### October

- 16 Arts, Communications, Entertainment & Sports, Birmingham Community Center, Birmingham
- 22 Alternative Dispute Resolution, Auburn Hills Campus of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School

#### No current information

Elder Law and Disability Rights  
 International Law  
 Judicial Conference  
 Latin American Bar Activities  
 Prisons & Corrections  
 Social Security Lawyers



Present at the Environmental Law Legal Milestone at the Treetops Resort Wilderness Cabin were (from the left) former Section Chairs Jeff Haynes, Charles Toy, current State Bar president and former Section Chair, Susan Topp, Chuck Barberi primary campaigner for the milestone, Chris Dunskey current Section Chair, Anna Maiuri, Secretary Treasurer, and Kurt Brauer Program Committee Chair.

### Important News from Ethics:

#### New Trust Account Overdraft Notice Rule (TAON) Takes Effect Sept. 15 Trust Account Overdraft Notification

On September 15, 2010, a new Michigan Rule of Professional Conduct—Rule 1.15A, known as the Trust Account Overdraft Notification (TAON) rule, will take effect. New Rule 1.15A, or TAON, serves to enhance enforcement of lawyers' ethical obligation to diligently safeguard client or third party funds as provided by MRPC 1.15—Safekeeping Property. Both lawyers and banks must perform implementation steps under TAON. Banks must sign a written agreement agreeing to comply with TAON. Lawyers must confirm that their bank is on the State Bar of Michigan-approved institution list and give written notice to their bank confirming each account that is a lawyer trust account, including both, IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Account) and non-IOLTA trust accounts as defined by MRPC 1.15. Further information, including standardized forms that may be used by banks and lawyers for the implementation steps, will be made available in the upcoming months. No steps need to be taken immediately by lawyers in anticipation of TAON.

[View MRPC 1.15A PDF](#)

#### New Opinion Approves Unbundling Legal Services

The Professional Ethics Committee has determined in [RI-347](#), issued April 24, 2010: "So long as a Michigan lawyer complies with the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct and other law, the lawyer may, without appearing in a proceeding or otherwise disclosing or ensuring the disclosure of the lawyer's assistance to the court or to other counsel and other parties, assist a pro se litigant by giving advice on the content and format of documents to be filed with the court, including pleadings, by drafting those documents for the litigant, by giving advice about what to do in court, or any combination of these."

[View RI-347 PDF](#)



Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC. Apr. 22, 2010 Real Property Law Section. "Ask the Judges" at the Detroit Athletic Club. Pictured - Mark Makower, moderator, The Honorable Judge Jeanne Stempien, The Honorable Judge Robert J. Colombo and the Honorable Judge Edward Sosnick

**New Service available for members!**

**Delivery Services**



State Bar of Michigan has teamed up with FedEx to help boost your bottom line. Members are now eligible to receive valuable discounts of up to 26% on select FedEx® shipping services. There are no costs and no minimum shipping requirements to take advantage of this great new member benefit.

SBM members can save:

- Up to 26% on select FedEx Express® services
- Up to 12% on select FedEx Ground® services

For more information or to enroll, please visit [www.1800members.com/SBM](http://www.1800members.com/SBM) or call (800) MEMBERS (8 a.m.–6 p.m. EST, Monday - Friday).



State Bar of Michigan members have had a relationship with UPS for many years. With discounts on UPS Next Day Air, UPS Worldwide Express and UPS 2nd Day Air A.M., you can save up to 26%. Whether it's overnight letters across the country or international shipping around the world, you'll start saving with the first package you send. No minimums. No catch. All this with

the peace of mind that comes from using the carrier that delivers more packages on time than anyone. Simple shipping! Special savings! It's that easy! For complete details or to sign up, simply [apply online](#) or call (800) 325-7000.

**Out and About**

**The Young Lawyers Section** successfully celebrated their annual summit in Grand Traverse Bay on June 4-6. They've had a busy season with numerous events, including a well-attended Youth Leadership Summit on April 17, 2010.

**Labor and Employment** had over 90 members attend "Spring" board this year, which focused on client advocacy. The section met at the Big Rock Chophouse in Birmingham on June 3, 2010.

**The Administrative Law Section** has kept on their toes this year, with several wildly successful luncheon events. The most recent was located at the Kellogg Center on May 19, and the section welcomed the MPSC Commissioners and SOAHR Administrative Law Judges as their speakers that day.

May 7 marked the **Annual Paralegal Day of Education**. Section members enjoyed multiple tracks of continuing education, congrats to the section on a job well done!

Did you forget to register for the **Environmental Law** conference this spring? No worries, the event will be rescheduled for the fall!

**Children's Law** also experienced a successful spring; their annual seminar in Frankenmuth was very well attended, with over 100 participants on May 6, 2010.

**Criminal Law** has also been busy; their 5th Biennial Criminal Law Section Spring Conference occurred on June 11 and 12, 2010 at the Bavarian Lodge in Frankenmuth.

**Family Law** has an upcoming Summer Seminar located at The Homestead in Glenn Arbor, MI, from July 15 to 18.

Is your annual meeting coming up? Contact Heather Anderson at [handerson@mail.michbar.org](mailto:handerson@mail.michbar.org), so we can post the information on your website!



Chief Justice Marilyn J. Kelly speaks at the Young Lawyers Section Annual Summit.

## Diversity Project Colloquia

The purpose of the colloquia is to gather stakeholders from across the state to provide feedback on a proposed statement supporting increased diversity in the legal profession. These sessions are part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the profession by cultivating diverse perspectives. They will provide an opportunity to formally recognize this common goal and recommit to the work necessary to achieve it.

Attend this free event at:

Michigan State University College of Law  
368 Law College Building, East Lansing, MI 48824  
Castle Boardroom #343  
Monday, June 28, 2010  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration is strongly encouraged as seating is limited. [Register online now!](#)  
Questions: Contact State Bar of Michigan Director of Diversity Gregory Conyers by e-mail [gconyers@mail.michbar.org](mailto:gconyers@mail.michbar.org) or phone (800) 968-1442, ext 6358.

## Managing Practice

Did you know that the Practice Management Resource Center publishes a Tip of the Week? <http://www.michbar.org/pmrctips.cfm>. A recent tip promotes the use of Google Scholar for legal research, including three links to informative articles.

## Section Policy

Just a reminder to sections, all public policy positions must be reported to the SBM. • [Report a Public Policy Position](#) • [Public Policy Handbook](#)

## Legal Milestone

In early June, The State Bar celebrated the establishment of the 35th legal milestone. “[Elk, Oil, and the Environment](#),” focuses on the decade-long battle in the 1970s over drilling for oil and gas in northeast Michigan’s Pigeon River Country Forest. More information about the legal milestones can be found at [www.Michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm](http://www.Michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm); or contact Jeff Paulsen [jpaulsen@dykema.com](mailto:jpaulsen@dykema.com) or Naseem Stecker [nstecker@mail.michbar.org](mailto:nstecker@mail.michbar.org)

## From the FAQ: How Do We Change our Name or our Bylaws?

Your own section bylaws have the procedures you’ll need to undertake listed. While all section bylaws are different, most require significant lead time. The usual procedure is to publish proposed revisions in a publication such as the *Michigan Bar Journal*, and provide the opportunity for your membership to vote at your annual meeting. Once a section approves the changes, bylaws must be submitted to Candace Crowley, for presentation and approval by the Board of Commissioners. Bylaw changes are not made until that final approval is met. Are you thinking about a bylaw change? Contact Candace Crowley at [ccrowley@mail.michbar.org](mailto:ccrowley@mail.michbar.org) to jumpstart a discussion on your ideas for change.



Past Young Lawyers Section Chair Chris Christensen and State Bar’s Elizabeth Lyon join together to help section leaders meet their peers at the June 2010 Bar Leadership Forum.



Heather Anderson

## Meet your Sections and Committees Administrator!

Heather Anderson is your primary point of contact for your section needs. She works closely with the State Bar staff to coordinate services provided to the sections, including assistance with events. No question is unanswerable, according to Heather! She is a graduate of Michigan State University, and has been with the State Bar serving the sections since 2007.