

# connections with SECTIONS

## links to help you

State Bar New Comprehensive Master Calendar

<http://www.michbar.org/news/calendar.cfm>

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program

<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/ljap/>

Diversity and Inclusion Resources

<http://www.michbar.org/diversity/>

October is Pro Bono Month

<http://www.michbar.org/probono.cfm>

Find Your Elected Official

<http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/elected.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](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:

June 15, 2011 • October 15, 2011 •  
February 15, 2012

## Section Seminars Most Appreciated by State Bar Members!

Candace Crowley

As section leaders, you should know that section seminars and conferences are really valued by State Bar members. Results from the recent Membership Survey show that more than 95 percent of the many who took the survey feel that developing and providing legal education opportunities and programs is an important (29 percent), very important (41 percent) or extremely important (25 percent) aspect of what the State Bar does.

Spring and early summer are historically very busy times for sections, and 2011 is no exception. This issue of *Connections* features an unusually long “Out and About” column with information on the many section seminars and conferences that are in the works. Check it out to see the range of fascinating seminar topics, variety of venues around the state, creative partnerships, and innovative use of technologies used to present legal education opportunities. Keep up the great work in delivering services that members value and that keep lawyers at the top of their game!

## Calendar of Events

### Board of Commissioners Meetings

July 22, 2011

September 14, 2011, Dearborn

November 18, 2011

January 20, 2012

### Representative Assembly Meeting

September 15

### Bar Leadership Forum

June 10–11

### Upper Michigan Legal Institute

June 10–11

### ABA Annual Meeting

August 5–10  
Toronto, Canada

### State Bar Annual Meeting

September 14–16, Dearborn

### Section Chair Orientation

September 22



2011 Paralegal/Legal Assistants Section Council members gather at conclusion of 2010 Annual Meeting program.



Jerome Pesick and Ronn Nadis gather at Real Property Law Section meeting.

## Section Memberships Now Included in Online Member Directory

Effective immediately, the State Bar *online member directory* includes section and State Bar committee memberships. In addition to seeing an individual member's affiliations, the website's sort features allow interested viewers – such as section leaders – to see the total number of members for each section, a complete statewide listing of section member names, and number and names of individual members by city and county. Consistent with current practice and the *State Bar privacy policy*, the section sort feature allows a person to determine whether an individual State Bar member belongs to any particular section but does not allow wholesale copying of contact information into another database.

Since Michigan does not have recognized specializations or practice certifications, section memberships are valuable in understanding a lawyer's interest and skills. The online directory enhancements make the State Bar of Michigan an exceptional resource for the public to explore practice areas of interest and current contact information for Michigan lawyers. It also reduces the likelihood of relying on commercial lawyer-rating services for that purpose. The section membership display is one part of an overall directory enhancement project now in progress.

## Attorney Grievance Commission Seeks Volunteer Receivers

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission seeks licensed attorneys to serve as volunteer receivers pursuant to MCR 9.119(G), to assist in winding up the practice of lawyers who are deceased, incapacitated, missing, suspended, or disbarred. Attorneys interested in serving in such capacity should submit a letter of interest to Rhonda S. Pozehl, Senior Associate Counsel, Attorney Grievance Commission, 243 W. Congress, Ste. 256, Detroit, MI 48226. (Effective as of June 20, the Attorney Grievance Commission will be located at 535 Griswold, Ste 1700, Detroit, MI 48226.)



Insurance and Indemnity Law Section members listen to the 2010 Annual Meeting program.

### Litigation Section Matches Access to Justice Donations

The Litigation Section has launched a campaign to raise money for the Access to Justice Fund endowment. Every dollar donated by a section member to the endowment will be matched by the section ONE for ONE, up to \$10,000. The section goal is to raise a combined total of \$20,000—more than any other State Bar of Michigan section in a single appeal. Now more than ever it's important to give to the ATJ Endowment, a permanent fund supporting civil legal aid for Michigan's poor. With the current difficult economy in Michigan, over 3 million people qualify for free legal assistance. Due to insufficient resources, legal aid programs turn away half of all who request assistance. The Access to Justice Campaign is a partnership of the State Bar of Michigan, Michigan State Bar Foundation, and Michigan's civil legal aid programs. The goal of the campaign is to raise funds to improve access to justice for low-income people with civil legal needs in Michigan. For more information please visit the *Access to Justice website*.

### Out and About

The **Administrative & Regulatory Law Section**, in partnership with the Environmental Law and the Public Corporation Law Sections, presented a luncheon with Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette on May 19 at the University Club Ballroom in Lansing.

The Third Annual **Young Lawyers Summit** was held in Grand Rapids on May 20 and 21.

The **Appellate Practice Section** held an "Economics of Appellate Practice" seminar at the Livonia Embassy Suites on May 20.

The **Children's Law Section**, in partnership with the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, held a two-day seminar on "Transforming Child Welfare through Representation" at Lansing's Kellogg Center May 19–20.

The **Health Care Law Section** will hold another telephone conference seminar on June 15 on "Michigan Audit Landscape: Medicare, Medicaid, and Private Payor Audits."

The **Information and Technology Law Section** is sponsoring the 2011 Edward F. Langs writing award for up to three student essays which, in the opinion of the judges, make the most significant contribution to the knowledge and understanding of information technology law. Up to \$1,500 will be awarded; the deadline is June 30.

The **Social Security Section** held a seminar on June 3 at Grand Valley State University on "Electronic Practice in the Social Security Disability Field."

The **Young Lawyers Section** will hold "Think Fast! Boot Camp for New Lawyers" on Saturday June 11 at Go! Comedy Improv Theatre in Ferndale.

The **Prisons and Corrections Section** sponsored a "Representing Prisoners at Parole Revocation Hearings" seminar at the State Bar building on Saturday, June 4, 2011.

The **Probate and Estate Planning Section** will webcast "Drafting the Last-Minute Estate Plan for a Sick or Dying Client" on July 12, 2011.

The most recent **Public Corporation Law Section** quarterly newsletter featured a lead article on "Legal Lake Levels: Issues and Procedures."

July 20–23 are the dates set for the **Real Property Law Section's** 2011 Summer Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.

The **Taxation Section** is planning its annual meeting and dinner to occur on Thursday, September 15.

The **Intellectual Property Law Section** will cosponsor ICLE's 37th Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute from July 14–16 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island.

The **International Law Section** has invited its members to participate in the June 2 "Fraud, Marriage and False Testimony" audio seminar presented by the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

The **Family Law Section** hosts its mid-summer conference at Mission Point, Mackinac Island, from July 28–31.

The **General Practice—Solo and Small Firm Section** will hold a seminar on medical marijuana on June 9 at Ginopolis in Farmington Hills.

The **Labor and Employment Law Section** will hold a seminar on June 9.

The **Workers' Compensation Section** will meet June 16–17 at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City for its annual summer meeting and seminar.

The **Criminal Law Section** will convene its Biennial Mackinac Policy Conference at the Grand Hotel from June 17–19.

The **Elder Law and Disability Rights Section** presents "Basics of Advising Elderly Clients and Those with Disabilities" at the Inn at St. Johns on June 21.

The **Master Lawyers Section** holds its summer meeting August 26–28 at Crystal Mountain and will feature Shel Stark speaking on alternative dispute resolution. There will also be a "Practicing Safely and Effectively After Sixty" panel discussion.

The **Environmental Law Section** will celebrate its 30th anniversary on October 6 at the University Club with an afternoon program followed by a cocktail reception featuring "A Habeas Chorus."



Elizabeth Silverman leads General Practice—Solo and Small Firm Section seminar gathering.



Consumer Law Section Council leaders meet at State Bar building. Left to right: Karen Tjapkes, Larry Lacey, Josh Ard, and Lorry Brown.

## Engaging the Next Generation of Leaders

On April 11, 2011, the State Bar’s Committee on Justice Initiatives hosted over 50 thoroughly diverse legal professionals from around the state to address the question of “What actions, strategies and approaches can the State Bar of Michigan take to engage the next generation of lawyers in justice initiatives work?” Participants were presented with demographic information on the State Bar of Michigan membership that included generational and gender factors. General attributes of the generations were identified, including communication preferences, and a “Social Media Basics” session was presented. An interactive conversation on “Where and How Leadership Occurs” was facilitated between the audience and several participants who agreed in advance to offer provocative thoughts on the topic. Participants then worked in breakout sessions to address the day’s question. The results of those sessions were presented in a final plenary gathering and will be helpful to the JI community in addressing the specific issue.

Taken as a whole, the day produced five positive and productive points that will be useful for many bar groups. Those five points, and the entire *Summit report*, are available online.