

# connections *with* SECTIONS

## links to help you

Facebook privacy tips

[www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/](http://www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/)

State Bar Annual Financial Report

[www.michbar.org/generalinfo/pdfs/annual\\_fin\\_report.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/pdfs/annual_fin_report.pdf)

State Bar online member directory

[www.michbar.org/memberdirectory/](http://www.michbar.org/memberdirectory/)

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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, 2009  
June 15, 2009  
October 15, 2009

## It's Time to Think of Your Best

Candace Crowley

This is the time of year when everyone is working hard and producing those key events that spell success for their associations. Over 125 separate State Bar section events occurred during March, April, and May of 2008. President Pappas will work at or attend more than 40 Bar-related events in a similar time span this year. Bar associations are planning for Law Day while they maintain all of their regular activities and even begin thinking of year-end celebrations. It's a focused time when dedicated people show their best and really bring life to our organizations. It's a perfect time to reflect on those whose efforts should be recognized in a larger setting. It's awards time.

Nominations are now open for major State Bar of Michigan awards that will be presented at the September 2009 Annual Meeting in Dearborn. New this year is the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award that will be presented to a recognized local or affinity bar association, program, or leader. The Cummiskey Pro Bono Award is looking for a winner. The State Bar will recognize one of your Liberty Bell winners with another award. Champions of Justice are coveted awards, too. And don't forget the Representative Assembly awards that are described separately in this newsletter.

The deadline for most awards is April 3. Application forms can be [downloaded from the SBM website](#). It's a great time to thank those members whose work makes your association great by nominating them for a State Bar award. Think of your best!

## Chief Justice to Address Representative Assembly at April Meeting

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly will address the Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan on the morning of April 18, 2009, at the Lansing Community College West Campus. The address will be broadcast live on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). The Assembly, comprised of 150 members elected from throughout the state, serves as the final policy-making body of the State Bar. More information on the Assembly is available online at <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/repassembly.cfm>. The agenda for the Assembly's April meeting will be posted online on March 23 at the link. The meeting is open to the public.

## Calendar of Events

### Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program and Brighton Hospital First Annual Fund Raising Dinner

April 16, 2009 Meadowbrook Country Club, Northville

### Law Day May 1, 2009

### 50-Year Golden Celebration

May 11, 2009  
Inn at St. Johns  
Plymouth, MI

### 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

### First National Pro Bono Celebration Set for October 2009

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service has made October National Pro Bono Celebration. The Pro Bono Initiative (PBI) has convened a workgroup to address ways in which the State Bar of Michigan can support, encourage, and recognize pro bono efforts throughout the state during this time.

### Board of Commissioners Meetings

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

## Representative Assembly Awards

Nominations are now open for the two 2009 State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly Awards. The Michael Franck Award is given to an attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the legal profession. The Unsung Hero Award goes to a lawyer who has exhibited the highest standards of professional practice and commitment to the benefit of others. The Assembly encourages you and your membership to submit nominations. The nomination form for each award is available at <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/awards.cfm>. The deadline is Friday, March 13, 2009. The awards will be presented to recipients at the Assembly meeting on September 17, 2009.

## E-journal Now Available through Mobile Phones

The SBM has launched a new e-Journal Mobile version that members can easily access on their smartphones and PDAs. By linking to the mobile pages, members will have access to the latest appellate opinion summaries with links to the full case opinions. To access the mobile version, visit <http://www.michbar.org/e-journal/m/content.html>.

## New FedEx Member Service

The SBM has completed an arrangement with FedEx that allows members to save up to 26 percent on select FedEx Express services and up to 12 percent on select FedEx Ground services. For more information, or to enroll, please visit [www.1800members.com/SBM](http://www.1800members.com/SBM). A new UPS service will also be available to members as soon as the contract is finalized.

## Time to Join a State Bar Committee—Online Application Process Coming Soon

President-elect Charles R. Toy invites you to consider membership in one of nearly 30 State Bar committees. This year's application process is moving online and will be available after the March *Bar Journal* is published. Applications for service are due by May 15. Watch for more information.

## Lawyers and Judges Assistance Announces Fundraising Dinner

The State Bar's Lawyers and Judges Assistance Committee and the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, working in conjunction with Brighton Hospital, are hosting a fundraising dinner on April 16, 2009, at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. World-renowned authors Jeff and Debra Jay will speak about intervention. All proceeds from the event benefit the Richard Steinberg Memorial Fund with the Brighton National Addiction Foundation, which supplements treatment and related costs for attorneys who are experiencing financial hardship. For more information and to register, go to [www.brightonhospital.org/events](http://www.brightonhospital.org/events).

## Criminal Law Section Hosts June "Mental Health Cases in the Criminal Justice System" Forum at Mackinac

The Criminal Law Section presents its biennial conference at the Grand Hotel on June 12, 13, and 14, attracting legislators, policy makers, and other professionals.



Law Practice Management Section council members meet in Novi. Elizabeth Jolliffe, Vince Romano, Austin Anderson, Henry Gornbein and Chair Rebecca Simkins take care of business.

Did you know that 95 percent of mentally ill persons committed to prison fail after release? The successful alternative handling of this population in other jurisdictions will be examined. For more information, contact **Chair Matthew P. Smith**, [mattboss01@aol.com](mailto:mattboss01@aol.com)

### Save the Date—Section Chair Orientation

Thursday, October 1 has been set for the popular and helpful chair orientation. The meeting is convened at the State Bar building at 9:30 and adjourned at 3:00. Be sure to mark your calendars for a day of interacting with your peers, identifying key partnerships, and learning how to access State Bar services for sections.

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

Your own bylaws tell you the procedure to follow. While section bylaws are all different, it is common that significant advance notice, publication in the *Michigan Bar Journal*, or presentation at your annual meeting is required. No bylaws changes are effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners. Staff will help you get the matter before the Board. We suggest you talk with staff to get a preliminary opinion before undertaking a bylaws change. Contact Candace Crowley with questions about name or bylaws changes.

### Listserv Questions?

A few quick reminders to sections who have active listservs:

The State Bar does not provide listserv services. Sections contract with The Modern Firm for those.

Do you have a listserv administrator appointed? Having a listserv administrator gives a section another way to add or remove new members to listservs quickly—and

### Out and About

The **Labor & Employment Law Section** celebrated a rousing success for their Midwinter Meeting—over 240 section members gathered for the reception and dinner on Friday, January 25, and over 170 members attended the Saturday Seminar. Venue: DAC.

The **Social Security Lawyers Section** enjoyed a record turnout for their latest seminar on February 20. Venue: Hannah Community Center.

The **Administrative Law Section** rocked the house with Michigan Tax Tribunal Chief Judge Patricia Halm and other MTT judges at a luncheon attended by nearly 100 members and non-members on February 27, 2008. Venue: Kellogg Center, MSU.

The **International Law section** will gather at a reception at Butzel Long on March 5.

The **Elder Law Section** is looking forward to its 7th Annual Spring Conference on March 13, where they will be joined by SBM President Ed Pappas. Venue: Inn at St. Johns.

The **Animal Law Section** has planned an awesome symposium for March 20, which will feature Rep. John Espinoza and Rep. Pam Byrnes from the Michigan House of Representatives, along with Allie Phillips of the American Humane Association. Venue: MSU Law School.

In keeping with last year's proclamation by Governor Jennifer Granholm (<http://www.michbar.org/legalassistants/news.cfm>), the **Paralegal/Legal Assistants Section** will celebrate its Annual Day of Education again this year on May 1 (location unconfirmed).

**Children's Law** is anticipating an exciting conference, held jointly with the State Court Administrative Office and Child Welfare Services, on May 8 at Zehnder's in Frankenmuth.

The **Appellate Practice Section** has arranged a conference at the Inn at St. Johns for Thursday, June 2, 2009.

The **Young Lawyers Section** has scheduled another fantastic summit at the Soaring Eagle for June 5 and 6—come join them!



Chair Mark Burczyk enjoys lunch with 100 attendees before the Administrative Law Section's February 27 seminar at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

## Listserv Questions? *continued*

if it comes down to it, to restrict posting rights for users who abuse the system.

If you have an announcement list (a list where all section members names are added automatically upon becoming a section member), please be aware that The Modern Firm, the listserv company, does not remove past section members (i.e. members who do not renew their memberships) from listservs automatically. If you would like this changed, please send an e-mail to [sbm-support@chard.net](mailto:sbm-support@chard.net).

If you have a discussion list, new members who join the section are added automatically within a few days, and members who do not renew section membership are removed on an annual basis in February.

All listserv issues need to be submitted to The Modern Firm's helpdesk at [sbm-support@chard.net](mailto:sbm-support@chard.net), or to 1.800.741.8034. The State Bar receives many phone calls each day requesting support that we are unable to provide, and a quick reminder over the listserv or in a section newsletter might help provide your members the best service possible.



The Animal Law Section gathered to recognize Michigan legislators who support the section's work. Representative Rick Jones, Section Chair Rose Stern, David Favre (professor of animal law, Michigan State University College of Law), and Bee Friedlander (managing director, Animals and Society Institute) pause for the camera.