

# connections *with* SECTIONS

## links to help you

Section Chair handbook

[http://www.michbar.org/sections/chair\\_handbook.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/sections/chair_handbook.cfm)

Section membership form

[http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/app\\_03v2\\_exst.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/app_03v2_exst.pdf)

Section events checklist

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

Section bylaw change form

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

Subscribe to Public Policy Weekly Update

<http://capwiz.com/michbar/mlml/signup/>

Member Benefits and Discounts

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

**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, 2011  
June 15, 2011  
October 15, 2011

## Holiday Respite Prepares Sections for New Year Activities!

Candace Crowley

Section activities for the 2010-2011 Bar year are well underway. We all made it through the flurry of meetings and programs that occurred at the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. We launched the new Master Lawyers Section, with free and automatic membership for the 12,000 plus lawyers who are 60 years of age or older, or who have 30 years of practice. (A \$25 membership is available for those who are 50 years or have 20 years of practice.) Sections are presenting seminars, planning workshops, issuing newsletters and anticipating the many professional development events to occur between January and late August of 2011.

Some of you are celebrating the holidays with gatherings to mark the season, but more are using the change of pace to prepare for the substantive work ahead. Whether you celebrate the holiday season with a section party, or simply use the seasonal change of pace to recharge for the opportunities of 2011, this time allows us to celebrate with you all of the accomplishments you have attained in the past, and the great things to occur ahead. On behalf of all of the State Bar staff that support your work, let me wish you all of the best for a successful year ahead, and thank you for all you do to improve our profession.

## Law Practice Economics Survey Flash Report: Imminent

Thanks to the hard work of a Smith v Khouri workgroup and the input of many of our sections, a new and improved LPE survey was launched on October 1. More than three times the previous number of respondents had taken the survey by the time it closed in late November. Bar staff is reviewing preliminary results with the data consultants and is excited about the richness of information obtained. Watch for a flash report before the end of the year, and a more detailed report to be released in early 2011. Thanks for your input in making this a success both in the design and response rate.

## Section Orientation Success!

On October 7, 2010, the State Bar gave a warm welcome to 26 of our 37 active sections as they attended an orientation for the new chairs. We love the

## Calendar of Events

Dec. 2—The Real Property Law Section's Homeward Bound series continues with "Economics of Property," cosponsored by ICLE, at the Inn at St. John's.

Dec. 2—The Young Lawyers introduced over a dozen new lawyers to the practice of law in Washtenaw County, enjoying networking opportunities and a tour of the courts.

Dec 9—It's that time of year! The Labor and Employment Law Section hosted its holiday party at the Birmingham Country Club in Birmingham, a rousing success as always.

Dec 17—The Administrative & Regulatory Law Section held a very successful luncheon lecture with a panel from the Michigan Tax Tribunal, featuring Tax Tribunal Chief Judge Halm, fellow judges, and MTT staff.

Jan 13—The Real Property Law Section will feature the topic of "Energy is Here to Stay" at their Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtable at the Townsend Hotel, Birmingham.

Jan 20-21—The Labor & Employment Law Section will hold its widely-attended Mid-Winter Meeting at the Detroit Athletic Club, welcoming their featured speaker, Karolyn Smardz Frost, author of *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*.

Feb 4—The Public Corporation Law Section will host its annual Winter Seminar at the Hotel Baronette, Novi.

Bar Leadership Forum

June 10-11, 2011

Mackinac Island

Board of Commissioners Meetings

January 21, 2011

March 11, 2011

April 8, 2011

June 10, 2011

July 22, 2011

September 14, 2011

Annual Meeting

September 14-16, 2011

Dearborn, MI

opportunity to meet with our section leaders face to face, and to hear firsthand your questions and concerns. Everyone was able to enjoy a networking luncheon and meet the many faces of the State Bar.

## Seminars, Events, and Parties, oh my!

Is your section contemplating an event or seminar, and lost in the planning? The State Bar offers a wide variety of services that your section is encouraged to use, all the way from publicizing, to registering, to preparing materials, and onsite assistance! Please contact Heather Anderson, [handerson@mail.michbar.org](mailto:handerson@mail.michbar.org) to discuss details and planning. A look at the section planning checklist will help with your discussion with Heather. <http://www.michbar.org/sections/pdfs/seminarchecklist.pdf>

## SBM Members Urged to Sign Diversity Pledge

The State Bar of Michigan is urging its members to sign a Michigan Pledge to Achieve Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession. The SBM Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the pledge at its July 23 meeting in Lansing. It was the culmination of the efforts of attorneys across the state who participated in three colloquia held early this summer by the SBM Equal Access Initiative. A recent American Bar Association study shows that the legal profession lags in diversity, with people of color making up only 10 percent of the population of the profession, compared to 25 percent of medical doctors, 21 percent of accountants, and 18 percent of college professors. In Michigan, attorneys of color make up approximately 15 percent of the attorney population. To sign the pledge, visit [www.michbar.org/diversity/](http://www.michbar.org/diversity/). For more information, please contact SBM Diversity Director Greg Conyers at (517) 346-6358 or [gconyers@mail.michbar.org](mailto:gconyers@mail.michbar.org).

## Section Chair/Co-Chair Listserv Available!

We invite you to use the section chair listserv to communicate with each other. The address is [SectionLeaders@groups.michbar.org](mailto:SectionLeaders@groups.michbar.org). One of the most frequent questions received when we are helping sections to publicize events is how to get the word out to other sections. The listserv here is a perfect solution!

## "Celebrating 75 Years of Vision"

A book about the vision of former SBM presidents is now available. For an interesting glance into the history of the State Bar, take a look at this new publication. Preview and order today at <http://www.blurb.com/books/1636548>.

## John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Assistance Encourages Careers as Prosecutors, Public Defenders

The Michigan Department of Treasury has received a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice to fund a student loan repayment program for eligible public defenders and prosecuting attorneys in Michigan. Congress enacted the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders and to continue in that service. Funds are available for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to continued qualified employment for at least three years. Treasury has been awarded almost \$300,000 for the program and has worked with the State Appellate Defender Office and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan to tailor the program to meet Michigan's needs. Applications, along with all required documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Treasury's Student Financial Services Bureau by January 17, 2011. More information is available at [www.michigan.gov/jrj](http://www.michigan.gov/jrj).

### Congress Exempts Lawyers from Onerous Red Flags Rule

In the face of litigation pending on appeal from the D. C. district court, the Senate acted to exempt lawyers from the Federal Trade Commission's holding that lawyers are "creditors" under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. The House followed suit, and the litigation should be dismissed once the legislation is signed into law. See <http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives10/redflags.cfm>.

### Nominations for McCree Award Now Being Accepted

The Wade H. McCree, Jr. Awards for the Advancement of Justice recognize Michigan broadcast, print media, and online journalists who foster greater public understanding of the inherent values of our legal and judicial system through their published materials. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 11, 2011. See [http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives10/12\\_2\\_10\\_McCree.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives10/12_2_10_McCree.cfm).

### Practice Management Resource Center Helpline Available

(800) 341-9715—Do you have a question about the retention of old files, the development of a conflict of interest checking system, or the purchase of digital equipment? Call the PMRC Helpline to receive informal advice and information regarding practice management resources and emerging technology. To reach a practice management advisor, call the PMRC Helpline or email your questions to [pmrcHelpline@mail.michbar.org](mailto:pmrcHelpline@mail.michbar.org).

### More Sections Move to Electronic Newsletters

Sections are responding to member preferences and realizing tremendous cost savings by producing electronic newsletters. Check these out:

[http://www.michbar.org/business/eNews/eNews\\_October10.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/business/eNews/eNews_October10.cfm)

<http://www.michbar.org/antitrust/newsletter/december10.cfm>

[http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/eNews/eNews\\_October10.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/eNews/eNews_October10.cfm)

[http://www.michbar.org/computer/eNews/eNews\\_December10.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/computer/eNews/eNews_December10.cfm)

For help in putting together an e-newsletter for your section, contact Sandi Barger, [sbarger@mail.michbar.org](mailto:sbarger@mail.michbar.org) or Julie Turcotte, [jturcotte@mail.michbar.org](mailto:jturcotte@mail.michbar.org).



Section chairs gather at October orientation.





Master Lawyers Section Chair Ed Pugh conducts first section meeting.



Vince Romano and Kristen Krol donate lunches to charity on behalf of the Law Practice Management & Legal Administrators Section.



Real Property Law Section's Book Award winners: Scott Foess, Jehan Yousry Farrag, Helen Mills, and Mark Krynski. These awards were given out at the RPLS meeting at the SBM Annual Meeting.



Criminal Law Section Chair Ken Malkin presents outgoing chair Opolla Brown with recognition plaque.



Young Lawyers Section gathers for fall 2010 retreat.