

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

## A Great Man is Remembered



A bronze plaque outlining the extraordinary career and achievements of African-American trailblazer Otis M. Smith was unveiled June 21, 2006, at a dedication in Flint.

Speakers and dignitaries at the event were, from left to right: Most Reverend Carl F. Mengeling, Bishop of Lansing; David Collins, executive director of corporate compliance, General Motors; Justice Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court; Hamilton Smith, brother of honoree, Otis Smith; State Bar President Tom Cranmer; Olivia Maynard, University of Michigan regent; and Dennis Archer, former mayor of Detroit. The plaque dedication was the 31st undertaken by the State Bar Public Outreach Committee as part of its Michigan Legal Milestone program.

*(Photo by Miles Postema)*



## Strander is President of Michigan Registers Association

George M. Strander, of Albion, has been elected president of the Michigan Probate and Juvenile Registers Association (MPJRA) for the coming year. Strander assumed the presidency of the MPJRA at the association's annual conference June 14-16 in Kalamazoo. The MPJRA is a statewide association for registers, deputy registers, and other related court personnel, of probate courts and of juvenile divisions of circuit courts.

Strander is currently court administrator and probate register for Ingham County Probate Court in Lansing. Before coming to Ingham County, he was a management analyst with the State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court. *(Courtesy photo)*

# Governor Congratulates MTLA for Helmet Safety Campaign



**G**overnor Jennifer Granholm stopped by Grand Rapids June 22 to congratulate the proud members of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA) for providing 750 safety helmets, 400 balloons, and 40 bikes to needy kids in the area. So far this year, the MTLA has distributed over 3,700 helmets to children all over the state as part of its Helmet Safety Campaign. Since it began six years ago, the campaign has become the largest of its kind in Michigan. More than 13,700 helmets have been provided to kids statewide. Money to purchase the helmets is donated by MTLA members.

From left to right: front row, kneeling: Keeli Kornak-Kotarba and Makinni Kornak-Kotarba; Second row: Alexandra Johnson, Callahan Kornak-Kotarba, Dylan Grimm, Davis Grimm, Delayni Kornak-Kotarba, and Christopher Green. Back row: MTLA Director of Communications Jesse Green, MTLA Executive Board Member Steve Grimm, Governor Jennifer Granholm, MTLA Executive Board Member Traci Kornak, and MTLA Secretary Jane Beckering. *(Courtesy photo)*

## Interested in Being UpFront?

The news, people, and events featured on this page attract notice. If you'd like to share news of an interesting event or law-related news, send us a few lines (not to exceed 150 words) and include a photograph or high-quality digital image. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, and the right to decline to publish. Please submit your news to: Naseem Stecker, State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933; e-mail [nstecker@mail.michbar.org](mailto:nstecker@mail.michbar.org); phone (517) 367-6428.

## SBM e-Journal Gets High Ratings from Subscribers

**N**ow in its seventh year of operation, the State Bar of Michigan daily electronic e-Journal publication is still getting rave reviews from member subscribers. It has been described as "the single best service provided to its members by the Bar." A recent online readership survey found that 99 percent of e-Journal subscribers find the summaries helpful to their practice, and of those, 77 percent use them to stay current in their preferred area of practice.

The e-Journal updates the legal profession daily on changes in the laws and summarizes cases to help attorneys stay up-to-date with the law as it emerges from the courts. To date, more than 27,000 appellate and district court opinions and orders have been summarized.

Survey highlights also show the following:

- 73 percent read the e-Journal on a daily basis and another 21 percent read it several times a week.
- 50 percent of subscribers have been reading the e-Journal for more than five years.
- 93 percent of the subscribers consider the length of the summaries to be just right, and 97 percent read the full-text opinions after reading the summaries.
- Besides the summaries, members also read: News from the Bar (21 percent), Public Policy (13 percent), Classifieds (14 percent), Fields of Practice and In Memoriam (11 percent).

Staff and members of the Publications and Website Advisory Committee will be assessing readership comments for future enhancements to the publication. Specific areas that will be addressed include building a searchable index of past summaries and reevaluating content offerings and delivery options for reaching a wider segment of members.

The e-Journal currently goes to 17,000 member subscribers free of charge. A total of 1,634 completed the questionnaire online, for an overall response rate of 9.6 percent. To subscribe to the e-Journal visit: <http://www.michbar.org/publications/signup.cfm>.