

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society Gets Humanities Council Grant

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society received a \$9,400 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council during a ceremony at State Bar of Michigan headquarters in Lansing October 2.

The grant will be used to fund a project called "The Verdict of History: the History of Michigan Jurisprudence Through its Significant Supreme Court Cases." Excerpts of Michigan Supreme Court decisions, case studies, and additional educational material will be placed on the historical society website at www.micourthistory.org as a reference tool.

Another component of the project involves turning seven Michigan Supreme Court cases into units of study that high school teachers can integrate into their lesson plans—complete with reference materials and other supporting documents. Options for teachers will range from a single-day class discussion to an in-depth study of cases through moot courts or brief writing.

The Michigan Center for Civic Education Through Law, which is collaborating with the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center on the effort, will announce the seven cases comprising the second portion of the project in December. The entire project is expected to be complete by March.

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society was established in 1988 by then Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley to increase public awareness of Michigan's legal heritage, promote the study of the history of the state's court system, and preserve court documents, records, and memorabilia. The Michigan Humanities Council is the state's independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. ■



Left to right are: Chong-Anna Canfora, assistant to Sen. Debbie Stabenow; Tony Baltimore, assistant to Rep. Mike Rogers; Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society President and former State Bar of Michigan President Wallace D. Riley; "Verdict of History" fiscal agent Lawrence P. Nolan; Michigan Humanities Council Executive Director Jan Fedewa; Jim Turner, assistant to Sen. Carl Levin; and Angela Bergman, executive director of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.

Macomb's Legally Speaking Wins Two Emmys

The Macomb County Bar Association and its Sterling Heights Television partner have done it again! Their public affairs television show, *Legally Speaking*, recently snagged two prestigious Emmys at the awards ceremony of the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Sterling Heights Television Production Specialist Matthew Phillips and Ma-

comb attorney Charlie Langton, host of the show, received nominations in four categories. They won for an episode featuring Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox. A second Emmy was awarded for a current affairs program. *Legally Speaking* is funded by a grant from the Macomb County Bar Foundation. ■

Michigan, Ontario Lawyers Battle for Jenni Cup

Team members representing Michigan at this year's Jenni Cup Classic pose at Loch Ness Links in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The annual golf tournament—named in honor of Canadian-born SBM member Governor Jennifer M. Granholm—pits State Bar

of Michigan members against members of the Ontario Bar in a Ryder Cup-style format. The Ontario contingent reclaimed the trophy in September, beating the Michigan team by a single point. ■



Members of Michigan's 2007 Jenni Cup team are: front row, left to right, John Racine, Traverse City; Jason Bomia, Marshall; Michael Gemmete, Grosse Pointe Woods; David Anderson, Lansing; Daryl Mumford, Battle Creek; and captain Hon. Douglas Dosson, Roscommon County probate judge. Back row, left to right, Eric Stevens, Muskegon; Charles Nebel, Munising; Hon. Milton Mack, Wayne County probate judge; Hon. William Carmody, Alger/Schoolcraft County probate judge; Hon. Steven Timmers, 62-A District court judge; and Bruce Trogan, Saginaw.

ADB Finds Non-refundable Retainer Language "Inconsistent" with MRPC

A recent Attorney Discipline Board decision finds "non-refundable retainer" language in a fee agreement unenforceable in the face of MRPC 1.16(d)'s mandate that a lawyer refund unearned fees. To review the ADB opinion, visit <http://www.michbar.org/opinions/ethics/cooper.pdf>. To access form retainer agreements that comport with the opinion, visit the Practice Management Resource Center on the SBM website and click Resources/Client Relations/Client Intake/Forms. ■

State Bar Officers Address Ontario Bar Council



Ontario Bar Association President Gregory Goulin (left) with State Bar President Ron Keefe in Grand Bend, Ontario on September 30. Keefe and State Bar Executive Director Janet Welch addressed the Ontario Bar Council meeting. (Courtesy photo)