

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

Michigan Lawyers Support Pakistani Counterparts in Rule of Law Crisis



Photo by Naseem Stecker

Dressed in black, lawyers in various Michigan communities, including Lansing, stood before courthouses November 14 to show support for their beleaguered colleagues in Pakistan, where thousands were jailed for peacefully protesting the dismantling of their legal system. State Bar President Ron Keefe (fourth from left) issued a statement urging the restoration of the rule of law in Pakistan. The Lansing group of about 30 attorneys and supporters held a vigil in front of the courthouse in the Federal Building. ■

Section Leaders Focus on Strategic Partnerships



Photo by Mike Eidelbes

Forty State Bar of Michigan section leaders took part in a day-long seminar at SBM headquarters in downtown Lansing October 18. The focus of the day's events was to foster strategic partnerships. Participants heard presentations from Bar staff and networked in smaller breakout sessions to identify potential partners in projects and programs that interested them. ■

Lawyers Enthusiastic About Keefe Presidency

State Bar President Ron Keefe (right) received a warm welcome everywhere he went in the Upper Peninsula recently. He met over 200 members of the legal community, including Jim Steward, an Ishpeming attorney, at a reception in Marquette at the Landmark Hotel. During the tour, topics that came up included a "second season of

service" for the aging lawyer, technology, access to justice, and bridging attorney ties. Mr. Keefe and a State Bar contingent stopped in Sault St. Marie, Escanaba, Iron Mountain, Marquette, and Iron Wood. Mr. Keefe, who resides in Marquette, is the first State Bar president in nearly 50 years to hail from the U. P. ■



SBM Plaque to Honor Prentiss Brown Placed in St. Ignace

SBM President Ron Keefe and Barbara Brown, vice chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, unveiled a plaque at St. Ignace November 1 to commemorate the role of attorney Prentiss M. Brown in the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. A St. Ignace native, Prentiss Brown was appointed chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority in 1950 and remained so until his death in 1973. Through his leadership, financial and building plans began to take shape. He and his colleagues overcame many obstacles, finally funding the Mackinac Bridge through the sale of revenue bonds.



Photos by Naseem Stecker



Among those attending were, from left to right: Marilyn Keefe; Michael Ekdahl, secretary, Cheboygan County Bar Association; Aaron Gauthier, president, Cheboygan County Bar Association; Ron Keefe; Paul Strom, member, Delta County Bar Association; Peter Strom, president, Delta County Bar Association; Anthony Domiano, member, Cheboygan Bar; and Thomas North, member, 50th Judicial Circuit Bar Association.

The plaque is the 32nd to be dedicated through the State Bar of Michigan Legal Milestone program that honors important cases, events, and personalities in our state's rich legal history. Many groups, including engineers, state representatives, bridge builders, students, and others, participated in the event at Bridge View Park, which marked the 50th anniversary of the first day that the Mackinac Bridge was opened for traffic. ■

Cooley Symposium Focuses on Improving Equality

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School recently hosted "The Road to Equality: Are We There Yet?," a symposium to discuss solutions for improving equality in the legal system. More than 150 attendees, including Cooley students, faculty, and community members, at-

tended the symposium to explore the effects of race and ethnicity on the administration of justice with commentary from national experts with various viewpoints. Pictured from left to right are (front row) Tracey Brame, assistant professor, Thomas M. Cooley

Law School; Richard Hillary, director, Kent County Public Defender's Office; Lorraine Weber, executive director, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association; (back row) Nelson P. Miller, assistant dean and associate professor, Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Wayne Bentley, social justice advocate and Grand Rapids City Middle/High School teacher; Mary Anne Case, professor, The University of Chicago Law School; Rudolph Alexander, Jr., social work professor, The Ohio State University; and Otis B. Grant, associate professor, Indiana University South Bend. Missing from photo is Saby Ghoshray, PhD, vice president for development and compliance, World Compliance Company. ■

Courtesy photo



'Tis the Season for Giving



Photo by Naseem Steckler

There were bags of clothes, more bags, and then some more! Staff at the State Bar of Michigan in Lansing donated very generously this year to the Horn of Plenty project. Attorneys from the Young Lawyers Section of the Ingham County Bar, Kris Arnett (right) and Leon Letter, loaded up their vehicle

recently to transport the donations, which included food, toiletries, and other necessities, to Volunteers of America and the Cristo Rey Community Center. State Bar staff member Susan Oudsema (left) coordinated the collection drive at the building. ■

Detroit Attorney Hosts New Legal Radio Program

A radio program hosted by Detroit attorney Jermaine A. Wyrick debuted on Power Talk 88.1 WHPR-FM in October. The show, called "Pursuing Justice," airs Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The program can also be heard on the Internet at www.tv33whpr.com.



Among the program's goals are educating listeners on current legal issues, recent developments in the law, and historical precedents. The program also aims to inform people of their legal rights and explain how the law applies to everyday life. Wyrick, whose practice focuses on civil rights, criminal law, government liability, juvenile law, personal injury law, and probate law, is a member of the State Bar of Michigan Public Outreach Committee. ■