

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The ADR Section is offering to present an informative, interactive show on civil mediation to your association. The presentation includes a simulated mediation, demonstrates how mediation works, and explains how lawyers can better serve their clients through mediation. For more information, contact Robert E.L. Wright at (616) 776-6334 or Richard Morley Barron at (810) 487-1368.

Animal Law Section

Our Annual Animal Law Symposium will be held Friday, April 11, at the Michigan State University College of Law. Speakers at this afternoon symposium include Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn J. Kelly and Detroit Animal Cop and Humane Investigator Deborah MacDonald. Topics include tips for negotiating contracts for purebred dogs, investigating and prosecuting animal cruelty, forming coalitions, the link between human and animal violence, and economic and non-economic damages. To register, visit <http://michbar.org/animal/>.

Aviation Law Section

Aviation Law Section members Steve Chait, Waterford; Don Frank, Okemos; Dean Greenblatt, Bloomfield Hills; Charles Senger, Lansing; and Dave Baxter, Detroit participated as panelists with guest speaker Michael McKinley of the FAA's Great Lakes Regional Counsel's office at the recent Great Lakes Aviation Conference and Expo held in Novi on February 1 and 2. The panel presented topics such as aviation enforcement/medical and liability issues to pilots, airport operators, and aviation enthusiasts.

Business Law Section

The next council meeting will be held March 6 at the State Bar in Lansing. The section's Law Schools Committee will host a "Spring Fling" social event for attorneys and law students at the Dirty Martini on April 10. This year's Business Law Institute will be held June 13-14 at the Dearborn Inn. Watch for our monthly e-newsletter or visit our website at <http://www.michbar.org/business/> to learn more about these and other upcoming events.

Consumer Law Section

The Consumer Law Section, in partnership with Elder Law of Michigan, will be sponsoring the movie, *Maxed Out*, at the Lansing Film Festival on March 16 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing. The movie is about the misuse of credit cards. Members of the CLS and Elder Law of Michigan, and possibly some government representatives, will participate in a panel.

Insurance and Indemnity Law Section

The first issue of our publication, the *Journal of Insurance and Indemnity Law*, has been published and sent to members and many judges. We have started working on organizing our committees, and are also looking at establishing a special category of non-voting memberships for persons who are interested in our area but are not State Bar members. Our membership continues to grow, and many members have volunteered for our committees and other activities.

Intellectual Property Law Section

The March 17 Spring Seminar will cover USPTO post-KSR compliance standards, discovery under the new trademark rules, avoiding the 10 most common mistakes in patent and TTAB practice, PTO rule-making from a practitioner's perspective, how-to's for opinions of counsel after Seagate, Pacific Rim patent and trademark counterfeiting, asking the right questions in e-discovery, managing trade secrets in a digital age, enforcing design patents on auto parts in the ITC, and using state courts for IP litigation. Cost: \$75.

Law Student Section

On January 26, the Law Student Section hosted its 5th Annual 1L Oral Advocacy Competition; 1Ls from all Michigan schools and Toledo met at Ave Maria Law School to compete in their first-ever moot court contest. This year's competition focused on the constitutionality of Michigan's new Voter ID statute. It was a rewarding and fun educational experience for all. Special thanks to Kerr, Russell and Weber for their support, to our judges, and especially the Young Lawyers Section.

Prisons and Corrections Section

The section's council met in January and heard presentations from two distinguished guests on the topics of criminal justice and mental health issues as they relate to juveniles and the Michigan Partners in Crisis initiative. Two members were elected to fill council vacancies. The council is planning a conference for May 2 in Lansing to explore reasonable budgetary cuts in the corrections area. Section members are reminded to regularly review the website at <http://www.michbar.org/prisons/>.

Real Property Law Section

"What Goes Down Must Come Up: Advising Clients About Real Estate in Michigan" will be held July 16-19 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa near Traverse City, Michigan. The section would like to thank Dawn Patterson of United General Title Insurance Company and Melissa Collar of Warner Norcross & Judd PC for planning this conference. For more information, visit www.michbar.org/realproperty/ and click 2008 Summer Conference or call Arlene Rubinstein at (248) 644-7378.

Social Security Lawyers Section

The section held a seminar on February 8 featuring speakers from SSA who presented updates regarding the backlog, edib, and effectuation issues. We concluded with a presentation for beginners, a feature we will offer at future seminars. On September 14, 2007, we elected officers: Matthew Taylor, chair; Annette Skinner, chair-elect; Elizabeth Warren, secretary; and Thomas Geelhoed, treasurer. Council representatives were accepted. We heard presentations on appeals to the Appeals Council and Federal District Court.

Taxation Section

The Taxation Section's 21st Annual Tax Conference will be held at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth on Wednesday, May 28. The section is accepting applications for 2008 grants to organizations that provide assistance to low-income taxpayers. Applications must be received by April 1. Information regarding qualification and application requirements can be found at <http://www.michigantax.org/grantprogram.cfm>. ■