

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

SBM Board of Commissioners 2008–2009



Photo by Doug Elbinger

Seated left to right: Bruce Courtade, Charles Toy, Edward Pappas, Julie Fershtman, and W. Anthony Jenkins.

Second row, standing: Margaret (Peggy) Costello, Gregory Ulrich, Victoria Radke, Katherine Kakish, Beverly Hall Burns, Lambro Niforos, Lori Buiteweg, Brian Einhorn, Kurt Schnelz, Julie Sullivan, and Elias Escobedo, Jr.,

Third row: Eric Pelton, David Brake, Michael Riordan, David Kallman, Elizabeth Moehle Johnson, Richard Cunningham, Richard Siriani, B.D. "Chris" Christenson, Hon. William Murphy, James Erhart, Donald McGinnis, Jr., Thomas Rombach, Robert Fergan, and Donald Rockwell. ■

SBM Officers 2008–2009



Photo by Doug Elbinger

Left to right: Bruce Courtade (Treasurer), Charles Toy (President-Elect), Edward Pappas (President), Julie Fershtman (Secretary) and W. Anthony Jenkins (Vice President). ■



Pope Park, Hamtramck

Revisiting “Poletown and Eminent Domain”

What happened in Hamtramck 28 years ago still reverberates today. Back then, in an effort to bolster Detroit’s crumbling economic base, a working-class neighborhood known as Poletown was demolished to make way for a new General Motors plant. This action was challenged by some homeowners and small businesses in the area, but rebuffed by the Michigan Supreme Court in 1981 in a landmark 5–2 decision. This ruling had national ramifications and set a new standard—expanding the power of eminent domain and allowing the definition of public use to include economic development. In 2004, the Court reversed itself.

On Tuesday, December 2, 2008, the State Bar of Michigan will commemorate the 1981 *Poletown* decision (*Poletown Neighborhood Council v Detroit*) as part of its Michigan Legal Milestones program, which highlights significant legal cases in our history. A bronze marker will be unveiled at the ceremony, to be held at the Polish National Alliance Council 122, located at 10211 Conant Street in Hamtramck. This plaque will later be permanently installed at Zussman Park

at City Hall in Hamtramck. State Bar President Edward H. Pappas will serve as master of ceremonies at the dedication. Speakers, representing a range of viewpoints, will include some prominent eminent domain attorneys involved in the dispute: Alan Ackerman, Ackerman Ackerman and Dynkowski; Norman Ankers, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP; David Baker Lewis, Lewis and Munday PC; Jerome P. Pesick, Steinhardt Pesick and Cohen PC; and Ron Reosti, Reosti James and Sirlin PC.

Also scheduled to speak are local historian Gregory Kowalski and the Hon. Paul J. Paruk, chief judge 31st District Court, Hamtramck, and a board member of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. The DMBA is partnering with the Bar to present this event. The program begins at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

“Poletown and Eminent Domain” is the 33rd milestone dedicated by the State Bar Public Outreach Committee. Jeffrey Paulsen chairs the committee. For a complete listing of all milestones to date, visit <http://www.michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm>. ■

Barr Awarded Municipal Ethics and Civility Award



John M. Barr, Sr., of Ypsilanti was presented the William L. Steude Ethics and Civility in Local Government Award by the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys during the association annual meeting in Petoskey September 30. “The Steude award is given to a person who has demonstrated significant achievements in the field of local governmental ethics and civility. However, with no less importance, the award is given to a person whose kind demeanor has earned him the level of respect among his colleagues to be described as a true gentleman,” said Andrew J. Mulder, president of the association. Barr, who has received many other awards and honors, is a principal in the general practice law firm of Barr, Anhut and Associates, P.C., with offices in Ypsilanti. The firm has served Washtenaw County since 1959. ■

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Committee on Justice Initiatives Gathers for Annual Kick-Off Event

The Committee on Justice Initiatives' annual kick-off event took place at SBM headquarters in Lansing on October 15. The event serves as an orientation session for new committee members, and allows attorneys and staff members involved with the committee or one of its four initiative efforts to start the Bar year on the same page. The initiatives address issues such as indigent criminal defense, equal access to civil legal aid, and expanding and coordinating pro bono services. ■



Photo by Mike Eidelbes

Seated left to right: Robert Gillett, Evanne Dietz, Terri Stangl, Hon. Cynthia Stephens, Frank Eaman, and Margaret Costello.

Standing: Hon. Angela Sherigan, Coffian Hawthorne, Serah Wiedenhofer, James Neuhard, Mark Cody, Mark McWilliams, Martin Krohner, Alfredo Casab, Linda Rexer, Hon. Alton Davis, Pamela Galloway, Linda Johnson, Hon. William Caprathe, Erika Butler-Akinyemi, and Teresa Bingman.

Young Lawyers and Mentors Plus Host Multicultural-Themed Picnic

Volunteers (left to right) Nicholas Even, Stephanie Arndt, Maureen McGinnis, and Kevin Kleinstiver spent Saturday, October 4, at the Drayton Plains Nature Center in Waterford hosting a multicultural-themed picnic. The annual event—"Around the World with Mentors Plus"—was a project of the State Bar Young Lawyers Section and the Oakland County Youth Assistance Mentors Plus Program. Over 60 attendees, including SBM volunteers and those from local Youth Assistance offices, were on hand to set up a picnic-style lunch, complete with hotdogs and hamburgers from the grill. Five different areas from around the world were represented at different stations. Mentors and their matches could sample different



music, games, clothing, food, and activities from countries such as India, Japan, Mexico, and France. At lunchtime, Brant Mitchell of Redford, a Native American from the Ojibwa tribe, told several stories and practices of his tribe. Attendees were also treated to a half-hour program of music,

song, and dance by Renee Ginell's Celtic dance troupe whose members used traditional dance to illustrate the evolution of Celtic dance from Scotland and Ireland to the Americas. A bonfire, hayride, and marshmallow roast rounded off the very successful gathering. ■

Judge Marable Honors Students for Academic Excellence

Four years ago, Flint 68th District Judge Herman Marable, Jr., established a program to encourage area high school students to focus on academic achievement and career goals. Awards are given on a monthly and annual basis to outstanding students. Anya Young (left) of Flint was recently selected as the Student of the Year (2007–2008) by Judge Marable and his Citizens Advisory Committee. Anya, who graduated from Holmes Academy, currently attends the Genesee Early College on the campus of the University of Michigan–Flint. She will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, trophy, and a certificate. Anya plans to be a pediatrician. ■



Anya Young and Flint 68th District Judge Herman Marable, Jr.