

# UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

## SBM Team Joins Governor for Mid-East Trade Trip



Photo by Marty Stern

A State Bar team was in Tel Aviv November 18, accompanying our governor on a mission to promote more Mid-East investments in Michigan. From left to right: Charles Toy, State Bar of Michigan president-elect; Governor Jennifer Granholm; James Cunningham, U.S. ambassador to Israel; Janet Welch, SBM executive director; and Margaret Dobrowsky, Ann Arbor attorney. The SBM contingent also met counterparts at the Israel Bar, law professors at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, practicing attorneys, and law students. ■

## Pappas Meets U.P. Lawyers

State Bar President Ed Pappas (right) met many Upper Peninsula attorneys, including Ishpeming's Jim Steward and Ken Seavoy in Marquette, during his mid-October tour. Lawyers in the U.P. attended receptions and other get-togethers to welcome the 74th president of the State Bar. Pappas, accompanied by an SBM delegation, made stops in Sault St. Marie, Escanaba, Iron Mountain, Ironwood, Hancock, and Marquette. During the tour, Pappas emphasized SBM goals and spoke of the ways that lawyers can take advantage of what the



Photo by Candace Crowley

Bar offers in terms of education and technology to meet the challenges of difficult economic times. ■

## Judge On-Line Debuts in Oakland County Circuit Court



As an alternative to face-to-face court hearings, a new pilot teleconferencing program called Judge On-Line has

been launched by the Oakland County Circuit Court. It is designed especially for scheduling, status, and pretrial and settlement conferences, as well as motion hearings and other court proceedings at the discretion of the presiding judge. Parties and attorneys may appear for these court events from work or home and while on vacation for a nonrefundable \$30 convenience fee. Court officials said the new service will save attorneys and litigants travel time and fuel costs and help manage the court docket more effectively. Judges participating in the pilot program are Steven Andrews, Martha Anderson, Rae Lee Chabot, Shalina Kumar, Colleen O'Brien, Edward Sosnick, and Joan Young.

"This is a win-win for the courts and the entire legal community," said Chief Judge Wendy Potts. "Judge On-Line is our initial foray into what will become a full-fledged interactive and state-of-the-art audio and video conferencing program. We want to be sure that parties and attorneys embrace the concept of a 'virtual' court appearance through telephone conferencing. When that happens, it's full steam ahead toward interactive video that will save both litigants and attorneys time and money."

Potts said Judge On-Line will help promote effective docket management by moving cases faster through the system to completion because there will be fewer adjournments due to scheduling conflicts. Oakland County's 19 circuit judges handle more than 30,000 cases annually. For more information, visit the circuit court's website at [www.oakgov.com/circuit/](http://www.oakgov.com/circuit/) or call the circuit court's Case Management Office at (248) 858-0351. ■

## Michigan Bar Journal Wins National Luminary Award

The *Michigan Bar Journal* has won a national Luminary Award for communications excellence. The recognition came at the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Communications Section conference October 24 in Austin, Texas.

The Luminary Award is given to “a publication effort that exemplifies excellence in writing, editing, and design in meeting the needs of the publication’s targeted legal audience.” The *Michigan Bar Journal* won in the “Excellence in Regular Publications” category for large bar organization with more than 15,000 members. This category—which includes magazines, periodicals, journals, e-newsletters, newspapers, newsletters, and CLE materials—also had the most entries.

Judges’ comments about the *Michigan Bar Journal* included remarks like “Outstanding publication. Excellent redesign. Issues clearly well thought out. All-around top-quality work. Great-looking publication. Looks like a real newsstand magazine, and not just another association journal. Very impressive, modern design.”



Seated left to right: Joyce Nordeen, editorial assistant; Linda Novak, *Michigan Bar Journal* editor; Jackie Warner, CiesaDesign; and Naseem Stecker, manager of media and public relations/staff writer. Second row, standing: Kevin Liuzzo, CiesaDesign; Michael Sundermann, CiesaDesign; Nancy Brown, director of member services and communications; Stacy Sage, sales coordinator; Mike Eidelbes, media coordinator/staff writer; and Mike Smith, graphic designer. Not pictured: Frederick M. Baker, Jr., chairperson, Publications and Website Advisory Committee.

“It takes a dedicated, talented group of people to produce each issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*,” said State Bar Executive Director Janet Welch. “An award of this caliber attests to our staff’s professionalism and is a wonderful recognition of the work the State Bar does to serve its members and the public. Kudos also go to the SBM Publications and Website Advisory Committee and CiesaDesign for their hard work.”

The State Bar of Michigan was one of just 16 bar associations to receive NABE Luminary Awards this year. The program recognizes excellence in marketing, public relations, regular publications, special publications, electronic publications, and websites. Winners include representatives from small, medium, and large bar associations from around the country. ■

## Cooley Auburn Hills Expansion Signals Green Days Ahead

Count Thomas M. Cooley Law School among the entities making a commitment to environmental friendliness with the construction of its 67,000-square-foot addition to its existing facility in Auburn Hills.

Among the eco-friendly innovations included in the expansion project is a sedum roof; the plant growth, along with white reflective roofing, will cut cooling costs by allowing the building's temperature to regulate naturally. Natural lighting is emphasized, limiting the use of artificial illumination, and the facility will house a recycling center to eliminate waste. The drywall used in construction is made from a combination of recycled paper and a synthetic byproduct generated by power plants, and nearly 1,400 tons of construction waste will be recycled.

The addition, scheduled for completion in January, will also include a fully functional trial courtroom and a combination classroom/appellate courtroom. The expansion will more than double the size of the Auburn Hills campus and allow the campus's enrollment to increase by more than 300 students. ■



## Atrium Named After Former SBM Executive Director Bachmann

Proudly displaying a plaque honoring his father's achievements, William Bachmann from New York City was at SBM headquarters in Lansing November 14 to take part in a brief dedication ceremony. The atrium in the SBM building has been named after Milton E. Bachmann, an executive director of the State Bar from 1947 to 1970. A resolution in his honor states that he was a dedicated friend to the legal profession and a quiet public servant who devoted countless hours to improve the Bar. The resolution also notes that while serving as SBM executive director,

Milton Bachmann "wore many hats, personally handling grievance cases, making arrangements for the Annual Meeting, editing and supervising the *Michigan Bar Journal*, visiting with public officials, and working with John W. Cumiskey, then State Bar president, to create the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary," among other official duties. During Bachmann's tenure, State Bar membership grew from less than 7,000 to more than 11,000. Currently, the Bar has over 40,000 members. ■

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## "You and the Law" Booklet on Sale at SBM Website

The eighth edition of the State Bar of Michigan's popular "You and the Law" booklet can now be purchased from the SBM website.

"You and the Law" is a 36-page publication geared toward junior high and high school students. The booklet uses a reader-friendly question-and-answer format to present a basic picture of state and federal statutes and their impact on the teenage audience.

Topics highlighted in the booklet include drivers' licenses, employment, school, criminal offenses, and tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

The publication costs \$2 per copy; a PDF order form can be found at [http://www.michbar.org/publications/pdfs/pub\\_order.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/publications/pdfs/pub_order.pdf). "You and the Law" is a product of the State Bar of Michigan Public Outreach Committee and the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary. ■