

Administrative Law Section

The Administrative Law Section, in cooperation with the Public Corporation Law Section, is hosting a luncheon lecture with Michigan Tax Tribunal Chief Judge Patricia Halm, fellow judges, and staff. Judge Halm will discuss current issues facing the Michigan Tax Tribunal. The luncheon lecture will take place at the Kellogg Center Centennial Room on February 27 from noon to 2 p.m. Please contact Heather Anderson at the State Bar at (517) 346-6414 or handerson@mail.michbar.org.

Animal Law Section

On March 20, our Annual Animal Law Symposium will be held at the MSU College of Law. Topics will include a legislative update, an update on tort animal law, and much more. The section worked on the passage of a new law in 2008 that increases penalties for killing, torturing, or poisoning an animal. We are working with the American Humane Association to introduce bills to ban pound seizure and euthanasia by gas chambers in shelters.

Arts, Communications, Entertainment and Sports Section

The Arts, Communications, Entertainment and Sports Section is co-hosting a panel discussion with the Ann Arbor Film Festival on business, artistic, and legal issues affecting filmmakers. The discussion will take place as part of the 47th Ann Arbor Film Festival, March 24–29, at the Historic Michigan Theater; exact times and dates to follow. For more information, please contact Matthew Bower at mbower@saffordbaker.com.

Aviation Law Section

At the Great Lakes International Aviation Conference on January 31, Section Chair Charles J. Senger introduced a panel of speakers, including Michael F. McKinley, FAA Office of Regional Counsel; Steven M. Chait, section member; Donald C. Frank, *InnerMarker* editor; Dean G. Greenblatt, council member; Euel W. Kinsey, chair-elect; and Peter R. Tolley, section member.

Environmental Law Section

During late 2008, the Hazardous Substances/Brownfields Committee of the Environmental Law Section (ELS) met to hear a presentation from Lynelle Marolf of the MDEQ on the MDEQ's plans to amend Part 201 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The changes could dramatically affect obligations of owners and operators of contaminated sites. The ELS is also developing article topics for an upcoming edition of the *Michigan Bar Journal*, which will focus on environmental law.

Health Care Law Section

An update on Michigan certificate of need (CON) issues will be presented via teleconference on March 25 at noon. The joint presentation by Phyllis Adams, a health care attorney and CON expert at Dykema Gossett, and Larry Horvath, manager, CON Program Section, Michigan Department of Community Health, will address new developments in CON and compliance and enforcement issues, and offer general tips for effective management of CON issues by hospitals and other health care providers.

Prisons and Corrections Section

Council subcommittees met in December 2008 to review the program for the Bar-sponsored "School for Legislators" in February. The council has prepared an extensive overview, including historical and statistical perspectives of corrections, prison operations and programming, parole and the parole revocation process, and strategies for prison population reductions. This spring, the council may repeat the well-attended "Balancing Our Priorities" symposium on prison spending in the Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb areas.

Real Property Law Section

"Ports in the Storm: Setting a New Course in 2009" will be held March 12–14 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa,

Bonita Springs, Florida. Program chairs are Margaret Van Meter of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP and Gregory J. Gamalski of Giarmarco Mullins & Horton PC. Registration: first-time attendees, \$375; section members, \$425; non-section members, \$475. For more information, visit www.michbar.org/realproperty/ and click "2009 Winter Conference" or call Arlene Rubinstein at (248) 644-7378.

Senior Lawyers Section

The Senior Lawyers Section's annual meeting will be held August 21–23 at Crystal Mountain Resort. In addition to section business meetings, there will be plenty of time for golf, fellowship, and the chance to visit a member's lakeside cottage. Mark your calendar now and watch for further announcements.

Taxation Section

The section opposed the expansion of the State Real Estate Transfer Tax (HB 6122), which passed both houses at the end of December 2008. The section's Annual Tax Conference will be held at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth on April 29. The section is accepting applications for 2009 grants to organizations that provide assistance to low-income taxpayers. Applications must be received by March 1. For information regarding qualification and application requirements, visit <http://www.michigantax.org/grantprogram.cfm>.

Workers' Compensation Law Section

The section welcomes its members and other sections' members to attend its seminar in Las Vegas, April 30–May 3. Keynote speaker Patricia E. K. Dudek will present "How to Use Public and Private Funds to Protect the Disabled Client." Deborah A. Strain will present on "CMS' New Reporting Requirements for Carriers under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act." To register, contact the State Bar of Michigan or Deborah A. Strain at Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C. ■