

Administrative Law Section

On February 12, members of the Administrative Law Section Council participated with the State Bar of Michigan in the “Law School for Legislators.” Various council members discussed with the legislators topics such as separation of powers, rulemaking, adjudication through contested case hearings, and other topics related to administrative law in Michigan. The council’s participation allowed the Administrative Law Section to establish itself as a reputable source of information for Lansing policymakers.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Please join us at the 8th Annual Advanced Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Institute on March 12 at The Inn at St. John’s in Plymouth. The featured presenter is Gary J. Friedman. For more information, visit the ICLE website at http://www.icle.org/modules/store/seminars/schedule.aspx?PRODUCT_CODE=2009CI0460.

Appellate Practice Section

The Appellate Practice Section is presenting a seminar entitled “Sixth Circuit Practice: Federal Appellate Practice Insiders’ Tips, or Everything You Wanted to Know About the Sixth Circuit But Were Afraid to Ask.” It will be held on June 4 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. John’s Conference Center in Plymouth. Topics will include e-filing in the Sixth Circuit, mediation, and pointers on briefing and argument from Sixth Circuit clerks and judges.

Arts, Communications, Entertainment and Sports Section

The Arts, Communications, Entertainment and Sports Section (ACES) is co-sponsoring with the Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF) two panel discussions on legal issues affecting filmmakers. A panel on Wednesday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m. will address business issues affecting filmmakers, including the Michigan film tax incentives. A panel on Thursday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m. will address filmmaking and copyright’s “fair use”

doctrine. Monitor the ACES and AAFF websites for upcoming details.

Business Law Section

Network with members of the section and enjoy a taste of tempting Cuban offerings at *An Evening at Vicente’s* on March 11. A meeting of the section’s council will take place on March 19 in Lansing. The 21st Annual Business Law Institute will be held in Grand Rapids May 8–9. 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.

Environmental Law Section

The Environmental Law Section is soliciting articles for a fall edition of the *Michigan Bar Journal* and the section’s separately published law journal. The section is also seeking the approval of a legal milestone to recognize the case of *West Michigan Environmental Action Council v Natural Resources Commission*, a landmark Michigan Environmental Protection Act case. The section is considering working with other State Bar sections to sponsor a seminar in the spring on sustainability and climate change.

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.

Law Practice Management Section

The section’s council continues to emphasize its wide range of knowledge and experience by offering educational programming. Recently, three members of the section spoke to students at Michigan State University College of Law regarding starting

a law practice. The section continues to discuss the pros and cons of a potential merger with the Legal Administrator Section.

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

Mark your calendars for the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section’s Annual Day of Education to be held on Friday, May 1 at Daventon University in Grand Rapids. Details will be available soon at the section’s website at www.michbar.org/legalassistants.

Prisons and Corrections Section

The Prisons and Corrections Council met in January to lay final plans for the section’s role in the upcoming Bar-sponsored “Law School for Legislators” program. The council is also preparing to repeat this spring the symposium “Balancing Our Priorities” on prison spending and population options in the Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb areas. The council is discussing a public policy statement on reform in the truth-in-sentencing law. An open position on the council was filled.

Probate and Estate Planning Section

Estate tax nugget—not going away? Watch for action on HR 436, the Certain Tax Relief Act of 2009. If enacted, CTRA would become effective after 12/31/2009, making the unified credit amount \$3,500,000 and making the maximum estate tax rate 45 percent. In addition, it proposes what has been called “a sweeping new set of valuation rules,” including the elimination of some discounts currently available.

Real Property Law Section

Save the date! The 34th Annual Summer Conference is scheduled for July 15–18 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, Michigan. Program chairs are Lorri B. King of Law Offices of King & King PLLC and Dawn M. Patterson of United General Title. Registration before May 1: first-time attendees, \$250; section members, \$295; non-section members, \$345. For more information, visit www.michbar.org/realproperty/ and click “2009 Summer Conference” or call Arlene Rubinstein at (248) 644-7378. ■