

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

Law School for Legislators



Photo by Naseem Stecker

From left to right: Kieran Patrick Marion, Thomas J. Buiteweg, Tim Reeves, Representative Kim Meltzer, Representative Justin Amash, and Ben Vanderveen.

Since February, legislators and policy professionals have been streaming into the State Bar building to attend classes. A new program titled Law School for Legislators provides an up-to-the-minute overview of basic legal information relevant to specific, important policy areas. Each class includes basic concepts, terms, statutory law, cases,

and emerging issues in a nonpartisan and nonbiased manner. Twenty-two classes were organized by areas of the law and included topics such as domestic violence, senior citizens' rights, children and the courts, and mediating public policy compromise. More information is available online at <http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/legislators.cfm>. ■

Popular e-Journal Can Now Be Accessed by Mobile Devices

The State Bar of Michigan *e-Journal* electronic publication is now available in a format easily viewed by smart phones, PDAs, and other mobile devices. Current subscribers can simply select the mobile version link in their daily e-mail or click the "mobile version" link at the top of the *e-Journal* page.

The *e-Journal*, a daily electronic newsletter sent free of charge to more than 16,000 subscribers, updates the legal profession daily on changes in the law and summarizes opinions to help attorneys stay up-to-date with the law as it emerges from the courts. Apart from case summaries, the publication also contains legal news, public policy updates, classified advertisements, a calendar of events, and fields of practice listings.

Notice

The August 2008 issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* included, at page 25, an article by Ashish S. Joshi, entitled "The ABCs of Internal Investigation." The Joshi article included several verbatim (or near verbatim) passages from an article entitled "10 Ways to Retain Confidentiality During (and After) an Internal Investigation: A Strategy for Minimizing the Damage of Disclosure," which was published in the Spring 2007 edition of the American Bar Association publication, *Criminal Litigation*, and written by Jon W. Monson, an attorney with

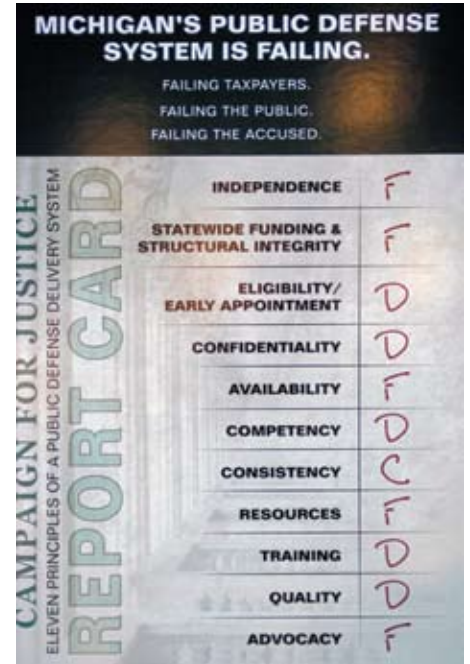
O'Melveny & Myers LLP, in Los Angeles, California. Proper quotation marks were not used, and no citation to Mr. Monson's article was included. Two citations to Mr. Monson's article that were included in an earlier, longer draft of his *Journal* article were omitted unintentionally by Mr. Joshi from the revised version that was published in the *Journal*. Mr. Joshi has acknowledged that his article failed to properly quote or attribute passages that first appeared in the Monson article and has apologized to Mr. Monson and the ABA. ■



To date, more than 37,000 appellate and district court opinions and orders have been summarized in the *e-Journal*, one of the most popular services provided by the State Bar. To sign up for the *e-Journal*, visit www.michbar.org/publications/signup.cfm. ■

A Push for Public Defense Reform

Photos by Naseem Stecker



A broad-based initiative seeking to reform Michigan's failing public defense system was launched February 18 at the Capitol in Lansing. The Michigan Campaign for Justice wants to win legislation to ensure adequate state funding for public defense and to implement and enforce national standards. Beth Arnovits, president of the Campaign for Justice (center), introduced a

slew of speakers at the press conference. From left to right: Walter Swift (recent exoneree); John Shea of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan; Hon. Fred Borchard, president of the Michigan Judges Association; Regina Daniels, chief counsel, Legal Aid and Defender Association Juvenile Law Group; and Laura Sager, director, Campaign for Justice. ■

A new Michigan Report Card on Public Defense was also released at the event. The report card, based on the findings of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), paints a bleak picture of Michigan's performance in meeting its constitutional responsibilities. The 11 Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System listed on the card were established by the State Bar of Michigan, which is also a partner in the coalition. In June 2008, the NLADA and the State Bar released the findings based on studies conducted in 10 Michigan counties. The report, which was requested by the legislature, points out that Michigan has myriad defense systems that vary greatly from county to county. ■



Judge Fred Borchard of the 10th Circuit Court and president of the Michigan Judges Association reiterated the need for state funding and the continued certification of counsel for indigent defendants. ■

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar:

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| May 1 | Law Day 2009 | June 12-13 | Bar Leadership Forum and Upper Michigan Legal Institute, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island |
| May 11 | 50-Year Golden Celebration, The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth | Sept. 16-18 | State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting, Hyatt Dearborn |

INTERESTED IN BEING **UpFront?**

The news, people and events featured on this page attract notice. If you'd like to share news of an interesting event or law-related news, send us a few lines (not to exceed 150 words) and include a photograph or high-quality digital image. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, and the right to decline to publish. Please submit your news to:

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"So...You Have a Deaf Client"



Photo by Mike Eidelbes

David Moss, professor at Wayne State University Law School and supervisor of its Disability Law Clinic, and Janet Juras, an interpreter for the State of Michigan in the Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, spoke to participants in a February 12 seminar at the State Bar of Michigan in Lansing. The goal of the program, titled "So... You Have a Deaf Client," was to help attorneys provide services to deaf and hard of hearing people. Topics covered included the needs

of deaf and hard of hearing people, the perception the deaf and hard of hearing have of the legal system, finding and using qualified interpreters, and the legal obligations for accommodations for both the court and attorneys. The seminar was presented by the State Bar Committee on Justice Initiatives' Equal Access Initiative and Deaf CAN!, a nonprofit organization that has served the deaf and hard of hearing community in southeastern Michigan for nearly 30 years. ■



Live Remote Broadcast to Kick Off SBM Law Day Observances

Law Day 2009 will get off to a rousing start May 1, with a live remote broadcast from the State Bar's premises in Lansing. Bar leaders, including President Ed Pappas and President-Elect Charles Toy, will be featured in a special edition of the Michigan Talk Network's "The Big Show" with host Michael Patrick Shiels. The program, which originates from Lansing's WJIM-AM will be simulcast on 10 radio stations statewide. Listeners will get an opportunity to ask law-related questions and to learn more about the legal system. This year's Law Day theme is "A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial." Also in conjunction with Law Day, the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary and the State Bar will host an awards luncheon to honor winners of a statewide essay contest. Bar associations throughout Michigan will arrange and sponsor events such as mock trials, contests, courtroom visits, scholarship opportunities, and more. ■



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