

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Mike Eidelbes

Photo by Jesse Green



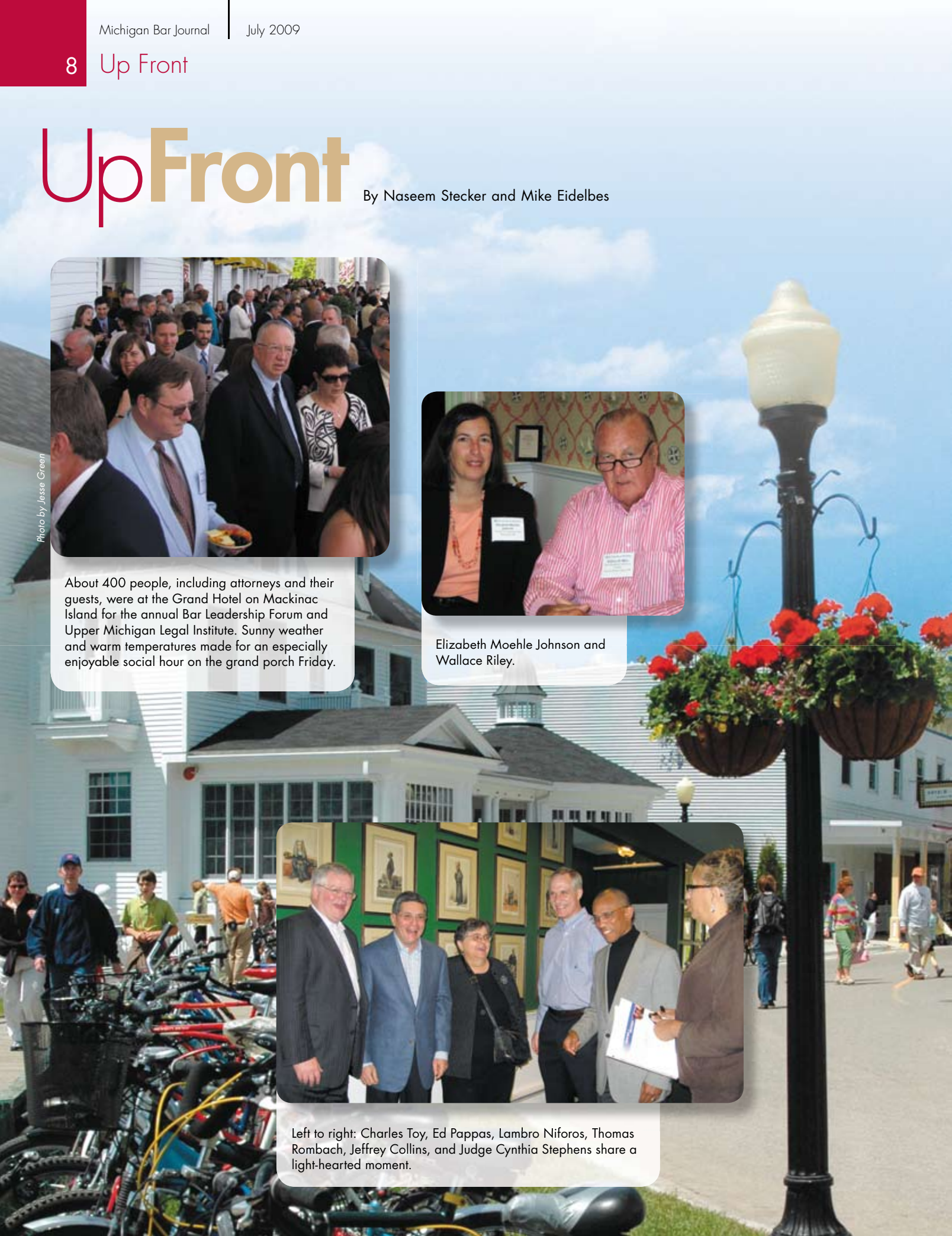
About 400 people, including attorneys and their guests, were at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island for the annual Bar Leadership Forum and Upper Michigan Legal Institute. Sunny weather and warm temperatures made for an especially enjoyable social hour on the grand porch Friday.



Elizabeth Moehle Johnson and Wallace Riley.



Left to right: Charles Toy, Ed Pappas, Lambro Niforos, Thomas Rombach, Jeffrey Collins, and Judge Cynthia Stephens share a light-hearted moment.



Mackinac Meeting

Upper Michigan Legal Institute and Bar Leadership Forum

June 12 and 13—Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island



Left to right: Marilyn Keefe, Anne Vrooman, Ron Keefe, and Ed Pappas.



Attendees at the UMLI sessions had an opportunity to get updates in various areas of the law, including real property, estate planning, family, and criminal law developments. They also picked up practice management resource tips from the State Bar and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.



Group discussion on the porch.



Diane Ebersole of the Practice Management Resource Center demonstrated new equipment, software, and time-saving gadgets.

34th Michigan Legal Milestone Plaque Unveiled at June Ceremony



Participating in the unveiling of the 34th Michigan Legal Milestone plaque were (left to right) Jeffrey Paulsen, chair of the SBM Public Outreach Committee; SBM Executive Director Janet Welch; L. G. Almeda, president of American Citizens for Justice and past president of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association; SBM President Edward Pappas; Roland Hwang, Michigan assistant attorney general, immediate past president of American Citizens for Justice, and past president of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association; Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey; Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, executive director of American Citizens for Justice; and Robert Sedler, Wayne State University Law School professor.



Photo by Sarah Nussbaumer

Jeffrey Paulsen (left), chair of the SBM Public Outreach Committee, and Michigan Assistant Attorney General Roland Hwang, past president of American Citizens for Justice and the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association, pose with the plaque commemorating the Vincent Chin case at a ceremony in Madison Heights.

An estimated 100 attendees at the Chinese Community Center in Madison Heights witnessed the unveiling of the State Bar of Michigan Legal Milestone plaque on Friday, June 19, commemorating the Vincent Chin case.

The ceremony took place 27 years to the day that Chin, a Chinese American, was beaten by two men in Highland Park in 1982. He died in a Detroit hospital four days later. The lenient sentences meted out to his assailants caused an outcry in the Asian American community and led to the birth of a civil and victims' rights movement.

The plaque commemorating the Chin case, which will be permanently installed in Ferndale later this year, is the 34th Michigan Legal Milestone unveiled by the State Bar since 1986. The Legal Milestone program is overseen by the State Bar Public Outreach Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Paulsen. ■

Kalamazoo Central Mock Trial Team Wins Fourth Straight State Title



State Bar President Ed Pappas (second from right) poses with members of the victorious Kalamazoo Central High School mock trial team after they won the state championship for the 17th time in 27 years. Seventeen was an important number for the Giants—they finished 17th at the 2009 national mock trial finals in Atlanta in May, and Kalamazoo Central's 17 trips to the national event are the most of any school in the country.

The Kalamazoo Central team was comprised of senior Alex Gillum; junior Keegan Davenport; sophomores MacKenzie DeWitt and Maura Levine; and freshmen Jaycie Botting, Traci Burton, Keeley Davenport,

Joe Duisterhof, Marlena VandeStreek, Nick Whitmore, and Adam Roth. The team's lead coach is Francis Bilancio. Attorney coaches are James L. Liggins Jr. and Kurt McCamman, both with Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, and Michael A. Roth of Hettinger & Hettinger. The team's drama coach is Jennifer Hebben-Bagge.

Pappas was one of three judges at the state finals in Lansing in March. Attorney Don Fulkerson, president of the Michigan Center for Civic Education, and Third Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry (also pictured) were the other judges. ■

Cooley Law School Doubles Size of Its Auburn Hills Campus

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School recently celebrated the opening of a 65,000-square-foot addition to its Auburn Hills campus. The expansion, which doubles the size of the school, is part of a \$36 million investment in the campus. From left to right, front row: John Nussbaumer, associate dean of Cooley's Auburn Hills campus; Virinder Moudgil, Oakland University provost; Ed Pappas, president of the State



Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Bar of Michigan; and James McDonald, mayor of Auburn Hills. Middle row: Joan Vestrand, Cooley assistant dean; Ieisha Caddle, American Bar Association Law Student Division president; and Anthony Vitucci, Jr., Student Bar Association president. Back row: Gina Torielli, director of Cooley's graduate tax program; John Taylor, Cooley professor; and Mike Maier, president of Rockford Companies. ■

Bloomfield Hills Lawyer Nets Trip to National Senior Games

Attorney and tennis player James Elsman of Bloomfield Hills will participate in this year's Summer National Senior Games, which run August 1–15 in Palo Alto, California. Elsman, 72, qualified for the event by winning the over-70 men's singles title at the 2008 Michigan Senior Olympics.

A solo practitioner whose office is in Birmingham, Elsman is a relative latecomer to the game of tennis; he didn't start playing until he was 37. He's currently rated third in his

age group in the U.S. Tennis Association's Midwest rankings, encompassing Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and is 46th in the latest USTA national rankings. Elsman took second at the 2008 USTA Midwest Hard Court Championships in addition to winning the state Senior Olympic championship last year.

Elsman is scheduled to compete August 10–13 at the Taube Tennis Center on the campus of Stanford University. ■



Photo courtesy of Oakland County Legal News, photo by John Meiu