

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke

Wall of History

They are not just photos on the wall. Current and former leaders of the State Bar Representative Assembly gathered in Lansing recently to pay tribute to the accomplishments of past chairpersons and to commemorate a pictorial display. Sixteen past chairs and several family members turned up to hear welcoming remarks from current RA Chair Katherine Kakish and SBM President Ed Pappas and comments by Ed Haroutunian (2006–2007 RA chair) and Robert Gardella (2007–2008 RA chair). The 150-member Representative Assembly was created in 1972 to increase the proportion of members who actively participate in bar policy; it serves as the final policymaking body of the State Bar. For more information about the RA, visit <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/repassembly.cfm>. ■



Representative Assembly Chairs

▲ John S. Clark	Petoskey	1972–1974
▲ Robert S. McKenzie	Harbor Springs	1974–1976
Daniel M. Clark	Detroit	1976–1978 *
Donald L. Reisig	Lansing	1978–1979 **
Hon. Michael G. Harrison	Lansing	1979–1980 ***
Bruce M. Groom	Midland	1980–1981
▲ David A. Goldman	Southfield	1981–1982
Richard D. Reed	Kalamazoo	1982–1983
▲ Angus G. Goetz, Jr.	Bloomfield Hills	1983–1984
Bruce A. Barton	Jackson	1984–1985
Susan A. Howard	East Lansing	1985–1986
Dennis C. Valkanoff	Lincolnton, NC	1986–1987
Carl L. Chioini	Mount Clemens	1987–1988
Antoinette Beuche	Ann Arbor	1988–1989
Hon. Terry L. Clark	Saginaw	1989–1990
Gregory L. Ulrich	Livonia	1990–1991
Lorraine H. Weber	Detroit	1991–1992
Dawn A. Van Hoek	Detroit	1992–1993
Michael W. Legg	Farmington	1993–1994
Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn	Detroit	1994–1995
Lynn H. Shecter	Bloomfield Hills	1995–1996
Paul R. Sowerby	Lake Havasu City, AZ	1996–1997
Scott S. Brinkmeyer	Grand Rapids	1997–1998
Kurt E. Schnelz	Birmingham	1998–1999
▲ Kimberly M. Cahill	Center Line	1999–2000
Bruce A. Courtade	Grand Rapids	2000–2001
Julie I. Fershtman	Farmington Hills	2001–2002
Thomas C. Rombach	New Baltimore	2002–2003
Daniel M. Levy	Detroit	2003–2004
Elizabeth A. Jamieson	Caledonia	2004–2005
Lori A. Buiteweg	Ann Arbor	2005–2006
Edward L. Haroutunian	Bingham Farms	2006–2007
Robert C. Gardella	Brighton	2007–2008

▲ Deceased

* Officers elected to serve two-year terms

** Chair/Clerk elected to serve two-year terms

*** Rule amended for service of one-year term



Current and former RA leaders gather to listen to tributes.



Former RA chairpersons and current SBM commissioners Greg Ulrich (left) and Bruce Courtade.

U-M Law Opens Center for Family Advocacy

Wayne County's overburdened Department of Human Services, which handles a third of the state's foster care cases and half of the state's permanent court wards, started receiving aid from the University of Michigan's Law School July 6 when it opened its new Detroit Center for Family Advocacy.

The center, which is operating on a three-year pilot program, will work through attorneys, social workers, and parent advocates to help parents and extended families care for their own children in hopes of keeping

them out of the foster care system. It's located in the Osborn Neighborhood, an area with one of the highest rates of children being removed from their families in Detroit.

Professor Vivek Sankaran will direct the project and Professor Don Duquette will coordinate its evaluation. Law students from Michigan Law's Child Advocacy Clinic, where both professors teach, under faculty supervision and as part of their studies, will help manage the cases. It's hoped the program will help 600 children during its pilot phase. ■

Schnelz Elected President of Oakland Bar

Kurt E. Schnelz, a principal shareholder in the Birmingham law firm of Schnelz Wells, P.C., was recently elected as president of the Oakland County Bar Association, the largest voluntary bar association in the state. Mr. Schnelz will serve as president until the OCBA's annual meeting next June. ■



September 17 is Constitution Day



Photo by Candace Crowley

Constitution Day is fast approaching. Every year on September 17, students such as these from St. Joseph and Berrien County high schools (2008) get an opportunity to visit a courthouse and to learn more about the legal process. Michigan bar associations and lawyers are partnering with schools throughout the state to increase awareness of our Constitution. For more information about Constitution Day, including materials available to lawyers, teachers, and the public, visit the State Bar of Michigan website at www.michbar.org. ■

Tweet, Tweet!

The State Bar of Michigan has begun communicating via the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter.

To follow SBM on Facebook, register for a Facebook account, and then locate State Bar of Michigan News at www.facebook.com/sbm.news. Click on the "Become a Fan" button, and SBM news will begin popping up on your home page.

To follow SBM on Twitter, register for a Twitter account, and then locate SBMNews at <http://twitter.com/SBMNews>. Just click the "Follow" button, and SBMNews updates will appear on your Twitter page. ■

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