

# Environmental Law Theme Introduction

The Environmental Law Section of the State Bar is pleased to sponsor this issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* as a way to honor one of its own. State Bar President Charles Toy was chair of the Environmental Law Section in 2000–2001 and headed the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the section in 2001. Ours is one of the first environmental law sections in the nation. The painting by noted artist Russell Cobane, seen in the background on the December 2001 *Bar Journal* cover, was commissioned by the section to commemorate that anniversary. The painting is currently displayed at the Michigan Hall of Justice and is annotated there and on the section's website at <http://www.michbar.org/environmental>; a mouse click on any feature displays the case defining the environmental law regarding that natural resource.

This issue of the *Bar Journal* is focused on new and changing areas of environmental law. Christopher Bzdok and James Clift provide an overview of the new renewable and clean energy legislation. Richard Barr examines the history of Michigan's environmental contamination liability statutes and proposals to combine and change them. Susan Sadler reminds us that the laws of commercial and government contracting have not changed as we contract for "greener" practices. Anna Maiuri and Mark Bennett discuss the use of renewable energy credits and carbon trading in the new energy economy. CERCLA/Superfund arranger liability was recently the subject of United States Supreme Court decisions in the *Burlington* and *Shell* cases; Marc Lawrence updates us on the impact of those opinions.

Those who wish to learn more about these and other environmental subjects are encouraged both to join the section and to read the *Michigan Environmental Law Journal* published on the section's website. The section's *Michigan Environmental Law Deskbook* is expected to be available soon on the website and in print. ■



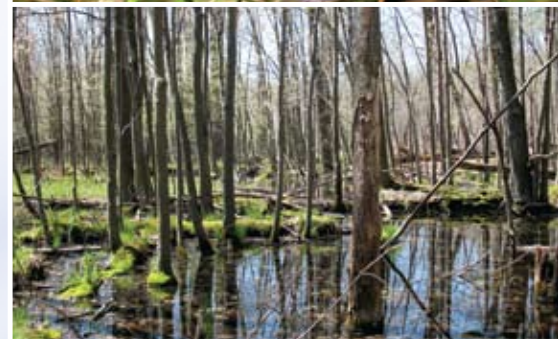
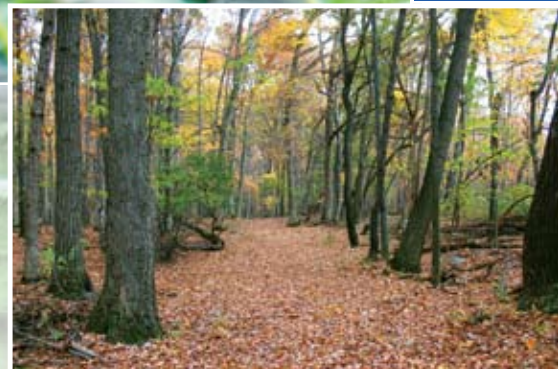
*Charles E. Barbieri, a shareholder with Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C., served during 2008–2009 as chair of the Environmental Law Section. He previously served as council member, secretary-treasurer, and chair-elect and as chair of the section's Hazardous Substances and Brownfield Committee. He has contributed materials and participated in many of the section's environmental programs.*



*Christopher J. Dunsy has practiced environmental law in Michigan and Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years, first with the enforcement office of the Environmental Protection Agency and later as a partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP. He now practices environmental law in Grosse Pointe Farms and serves as an adjunct professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He is the current chair of the Environmental Law Section.*



*John L. Tatum served as chair of the Environmental Law Section in 2001–2002. His solo practice is focused on environmental mediation and particularly allocation at Superfund and similar sites. He is on the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution's professional roster and the mediator roster for courts in Michigan.*



The beautiful photos used in the feature articles were provided courtesy of Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, which conserves over 1,000 acres in Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, and Genesee counties through nature preserves, conservation easements, and stewardship agreements. Six Rivers works locally and regionally toward a collaborative vision of green and interconnected open spaces and natural areas for everyone. Please visit [www.sixriversrlc.org](http://www.sixriversrlc.org) to sign up for a weekly e-mail newsletter and to learn more about the conservancy's work to "conserve, sustain, and connect natural areas, lands, and waters that make the places we live special."