

Celebrating 75 Years

1935 • 2010
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN



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As we turn another page in our history, a new year and a banner anniversary year are good reasons to look at what has been and what is to come. The year 2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the State Bar of Michigan, and as members of this outstanding organization, we can rightly be proud of its long history of service to the legal profession and the public.

In the long journey to 2010, the words “access to justice” have been a constant refrain to Michigan lawyers, calling upon us to protect the rights of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. We all know that even after more than seven decades of effort, resources remain scarce. For every four people served by legal aid offices, three others are turned away. As lawyers, we share an ethical obligation to contribute to meeting this huge unmet need. To the organized bar, the phrase “access to justice” is not just a lofty ideal but a call to action. Think of a lawyer you know who has voluntarily helped to reunite a family, protect an elderly person from an unlicensed predator, or secure a PPO for a frightened woman needing protection for herself and her children. There are many, many examples out there. Michigan attorneys have made extraordinary efforts to open the doors of the courtroom so everyone can have the same opportunities. They contribute money (\$9 million to the ATJ Fund), time (40,000 hours annually), and services (pro bono and community work) every day of the year.

As far back as we have records, issues such as fairness and access have been at the front of the bar's collective consciousness. Thanks to technology, we can now easily find evidence of our long history of helping. As a part of our 75th anniversary celebration, the State Bar is pleased to announce a

1935 Notables

Legal events

- Bruno Richard Hauptmann is tried and convicted for the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh, Jr.
- Congress enacts the National Labor Relations Act and the Social Security Act
- The Works Progress Administration (WPA) is created
- Anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws go into effect in Germany
- The United States Supreme Court holds that the National Industrial Recovery Act is unconstitutional in *Schechter Poultry Corp v United States* (a.k.a. the “Sick Chicken Case”)
- The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) is formed
- The National Council of Negro Women is founded by Mary McLeod Bethune

In the news

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates Hoover Dam
- The *China Clipper* delivers more than 110,000 pieces of mail from California to Manila—the first airmail cargo to cross the Pacific Ocean
- Amelia Earhart becomes the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to California
- Hitler announces German rearmament in violation of the Versailles Treaty
- The great dust (bowl) storm hits eastern New Mexico, Colorado, and western Oklahoma the hardest
- The strongest hurricane ever to strike the United States makes landfall in the Florida Keys as a category 5 storm with 185 m.p.h. winds
- The Cincinnati Reds and Philadelphia Phillies play Major League Baseball's first night game at Cincinnati's Crosley Field

- Babe Ruth appears in his last career game, playing for the Boston Braves
- Alcoholics Anonymous is founded in Akron, Ohio
- The world's first parking meters are installed in Oklahoma City
- Porky Pig debuts
- Parker Brothers releases the board game *Monopoly*

Noteworthy births

- Woody Allen, filmmaker and actor
- Sonny Bono, singer and U.S. congressman
- Eldridge Cleaver, author and activist
- A. J. Foyt, race car driver
- Bob Gibson, baseball player
- Luciano Pavarotti, opera singer
- Elvis Presley, entertainer
- Donald L. Reisig, 54th president of the State Bar

Money matters

- Average annual salary: \$1,500
- Average home price: \$6,300
- Average automobile price: \$580
- Gasoline: 11–19 cents per gallon
- Postage stamp: 3 cents for a first-class letter
- Butter: 36 cents per pound
- Eggs: 38 cents per dozen
- Bread: 8 cents per loaf
- Milk: 23 cents for one half gallon
- Coffee: 26 cents per pound
- Flour: 25 cents per five pounds
- Sugar: 28 cents per five pounds
- Round steak: 36 cents per pound
- Bacon: 41 cents per pound
- Potatoes: 19 cents per 10 pounds
- Oranges: 22 cents per dozen

Your pro bono involvement affects the lives of so many people. In carrying out your duties, you continue one of the proudest traditions of our profession.

partnership with HeinOnline to provide the entire *Michigan Bar Journal* collection from 1921 (before the State Bar became unified) to the present. Members will be able to view and search the *Bar Journal* archives online by logging in to the member area of the State Bar of Michigan home page at www.michbar.org. Access to the journals is a rich source of information about where we've been and where we're going and a treasure trove of delights for the history buffs among us.

In 2010, our recent initiatives to reform and improve the status quo—the chronic and accelerating underfunding of court services as they are structured and delivered today and especially the delivery of public defense services—will be front and center. Our Judicial Crossroads Task Force will offer recommendations on changes that will protect and strengthen vital judicial services, even in the face of severe economic stresses. These projects reflect a labor of love for justice and a strongly held conviction that we can get to a better place where all people will be treated fairly.

As members of the State Bar of Michigan, you are all key players in the history of the legal profession in this state. The day-to-day work you do is inextricably related to protecting our freedoms, compensating for or correcting wrongs, and regulating our institutions and the way in which we carry out business in a principled and ethical manner. Your pro bono involvement affects the lives of so many people. In carrying out your duties, you continue one of the proudest traditions of our profession. Hal Borland accurately summed up anniversaries: “[It]... is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.” Cheers to the New Year and to the State Bar's next 75 years. ■

Postscript: For the curious, the State Bar had 4,278 members in 1935. By comparison, the Bar has 41,024 members in good standing as of January 1, 2010. Only one attorney remains active since 1935: John P. Keusch (P15927) of Chelsea, who was admitted to the Bar in October 1933 and is 100 years old. Two emeritus attorneys have been mem-

bers since 1935: 106-year-old Edward H. Fenlon (P13370), formerly of Petoskey and now living in Long Beach, California; and Francis W. Edwards (P13108) of Pleasant Ridge, whose current information could not be confirmed. There are presently 364 State Bar members with the birth year 1935—27 women and 337 men.