

# UpFront

By Samantha Meinke



## New Member Service: Click Through SBM History in the New *Bar Journal* Archive

The *Michigan Bar Journal* has been around since 1921—that's 14 years before the State Bar of Michigan was even unified.

Now, just in time for the State Bar's 75th anniversary, every issue of the *Bar Journal* since 1921 is available online in a new archive provided in collaboration with HeinOnline. By simply logging on to the member area of the State Bar's website ([www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)) and clicking "bar journal archive," members can search every issue of the *Bar Journal* by keyword.

"This will put members in touch with the history of our organization and the developments in Michigan law that have been the subject of comment in the *Journal* in a way that has never been possible until now," says

Frederick Baker, chair of the State Bar Publications and Website Advisory Committee.



Baker has worked on the *Bar Journal* since 1983, and recalls how much the publication has changed since his first days of involvement.

"Page layouts were done with scissors and adhesive, and page proofs were in silver-print," Baker says. "We had no computers, the fax was a modern marvel, and type was set one keystroke at a time.... The wealth of information that members can now access on the State Bar's website with the click of a mouse is truly astonishing."

If the wealth of information seems a bit overwhelming, Baker recommends starting with something fun—something like George Hathaway's Plain Language column.

"George, with Joe Kimble, pioneered the plain language movement in the *Journal*," Baker says. "He spent his first year publishing it under a pseudonym, and ran a photo of himself with a brown paper bag over his head. So entrenched were the traditionalists in the use of obfuscatory legal prose... that George only half jokingly considered this disguise essential to his safety, because of the sanctity of the linguistic cows he skewered monthly. Those early columns were gems." ■

## A Lawyer Helps: Submit a Story Today

Know of any attorneys who have sacrificed time for pro bono or community service? Let SBM know about them by submitting their stories at [www.michbar.org/alawyerhelps/](http://www.michbar.org/alawyerhelps/). ■

## SBM on LinkedIn

The State Bar of Michigan now offers members the opportunity to network via the social media site LinkedIn.

**Join the official State Bar of Michigan members group at:**

<http://tinyurl.com/sbmlinkedin>

**Become a fan of SBM on Facebook at:**

<http://www.facebook.com/sbm.news>

**Follow SBM on Twitter at:**

<http://www.twitter.com/SBMNews>

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## Royal Oak Firm Gives Hope to a Needy Family



Courtesy photo

Rather than exchanging gifts this past holiday season, employees of Wachler & Associates, P.C., donated more than \$700 in gifts to an indigent family with five young children through the Adopt-A-Family program coordinated by the Social Work Department of the Children's Hospital of Michigan. ■

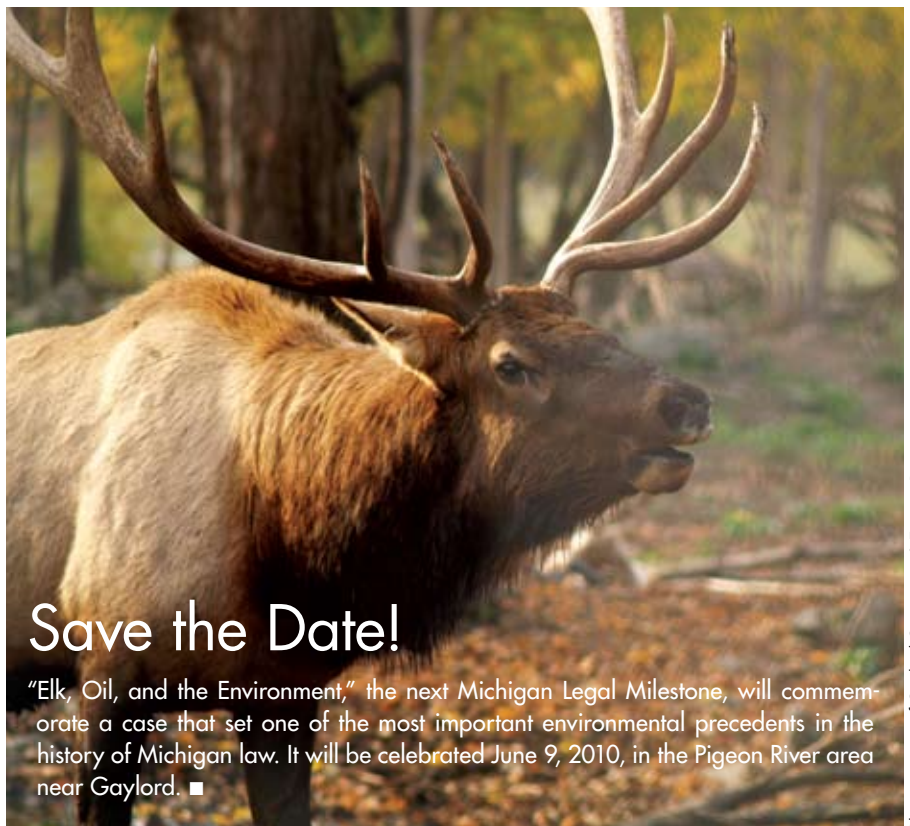


Photo courtesy of Gaylord Convention & Tourism Bureau

## Save the Date!

"Elk, Oil, and the Environment," the next Michigan Legal Milestone, will commemorate a case that set one of the most important environmental precedents in the history of Michigan law. It will be celebrated June 9, 2010, in the Pigeon River area near Gaylord. ■