

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

State Bar Representative Assembly Held First Meeting of 2010

The State Bar Representative Assembly kicked off its first meeting of 2010 on March 27 with an address by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. Among other business conducted at the meeting, the RA adopted a recommendation to amend the Rules of Professional Conduct or court rules to prohibit solicitation of clients: "In any matter involving a family law case in a Michigan trial court, a lawyer may not initiate contact or solicit a party for purposes of establishing a client-

lawyer relationship, where the party and lawyer had no pre-existing family or client-lawyer relationship, until the first to occur of the following: service of process upon the party or fourteen (14) days has elapsed from the date of filing of the particular case."

In addition to its official agenda, the RA hosted a food drive to benefit the Greater Lansing Area Food Bank and a fundraiser for the Access to Justice Fund, which supports civil legal aid for low-income people. ■

Photos by Tammy Allen for the State Bar of Michigan



Thirty-Seventh District Court Judge John Chmura, RA Chair Elizabeth Johnson, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, RA Vice Chair Victoria Radke, and RA Clerk Stephen Gobbo at the March 2010 meeting.



RA Clerk Steve Gobbo, SBM Executive Coordinator Marge Bossenbery, 6th Circuit Rep. Ed Haroutunian, 56th Circuit Rep. Tracie McCarn-Dinehart, SBM Executive Administrative Assistant Anne Smith, 6th Circuit Rep. Krista Haroutunian, 3rd Circuit Rep. Rodrick Green, and 3rd Circuit Rep. Terrence Haugabook encourage others to participate in the food drive and fundraiser.

Board of Commissioners Bowls Over Young Lawyers Section

In a shocking upset, the Board of Commissioners defeated the Young Lawyers Section in their annual bowling match on March 26 at Royal Scot Bowling Lanes in Lansing. The BOC averaged a score of 111 to the YLS's average of 106. The match's MVC (Most Valuable Commissioner) was BOC Secretary Bruce Courtade, who had the high game and the high total among commissioners. The fun was for a good cause; the losing team, as well as many of the winners, made contributions to the Access to Justice Fund. ■



SBM courtesy photos

Commissioners Lawrence Nolan, Victoria Radke, Bruce Courtade, and Julie Fershtman cheer teammate Laurin' Roberts Thomas on as Young Lawyers Chairperson-Elect Maureen McGinnis and another young lawyer look on in the background.



BOC Secretary Bruce Courtade prepares to school some young lawyers on the lanes. He had the high game and high total among the commissioners.

Visit SBM's Facebook page to view the full photo album: <http://www.facebook.com/sbm.news>

Applications for SBM Committee Service Due May 15

State Bar President-Elect W. Anthony Jenkins invites Michigan lawyers to apply now for appointment to committees for the 2010–2011 bar year. Service on the committees is voluntary and occurs through an appointment process that begins with an application that must be filed by May 15.

Nearly 30 standing and special committees work to improve the administration of justice in Michigan by following the State Bar of Michigan's strategic plan. Appointments for the 2010–2011 bar year are expected to be finalized by September 1.

Applications can be submitted electronically at <http://www.michbar.org/sections/nomination.cfm>. More information about the committees can be found at <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/committees.cfm>. Questions about committees or the application process can be directed to Candace Crowley, SBM director of external development, at ccrowley@mail.michbar.org or (517) 346-6319. ■

Community High School Wins SBM-Sponsored Mock Trial Tournament



Photo by Tammy Allen for the State Bar of Michigan

State Bar President Charles Toy (far right) stands with fellow judges Don Fulkerson, president, Board of Directors for Michigan Center for Civic Education, and Hon. Michelle Rick, of the 29th Circuit Court, and students from the Kalamazoo team at the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament 2010 State Finals at Veterans Memorial Courthouse in Lansing.

The 2010 Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament culminated with the state finals competition in Lansing on March 27. Organized and conducted by the Michigan Center for Civic Education, the program is designed to teach high school students about trial courts by allowing them to take on the role of attorneys and witnesses as they compete against other schools in real courtrooms in front of real judges and lawyers. There are two regional rounds, followed

by the state finals. This year's winner was Community High School from Ann Arbor coached by Cheryl Grace, a teacher, and attorney Griffith Dick. Kalamazoo Central High School placed second. The tournament is supported by the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Michigan, the Oakland County Bar Foundation, the State Bar of Michigan, and members of the Michigan Center for Civic Education. ■

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SBM Partner in Access to Justice Campaign Wins Prestigious National Hunger Award

The Michigan-based Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) recently received the prestigious Wellstone-Wheeler Anti-Hunger Advocacy Leadership Award at the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

CCJ, a nonprofit law firm with offices in Flint and Saginaw, was honored for its hunger relief efforts, including the operation of a statewide food and nutrition helpline designed to assist low-income families and individuals with questions or problems con-

cerning food stamp eligibility or benefits. CCJ is a partner in the statewide Access to Justice Campaign along with the State Bar of Michigan, the Michigan State Bar Foundation, and other civil legal service providers. The goal of the Access to Justice Campaign is to raise funds to improve access to justice for low-income people with civil legal needs in Michigan.

"The State Bar congratulates Terri Stangl and her staff and board of directors at the Center for Civil Justice," said State Bar

President Charles Toy. "By providing great legal services and working with community organizations to improve the quality of life for low-income people, CCJ demonstrates the value of the Access to Justice programs in Michigan."

For more information on CCJ, visit www.ccj-mi.org. For more information about the Access to Justice Campaign or to donate to the cause, visit <https://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/home.cfm>. ■