

## Not Leaving Las Vegas

### To the Editor:

I felt it necessary to respond to the letter written by my friend and fellow MAJ, David Haron. In the February *Bar Journal*, he criticized the Negligence Law Section for sponsoring its spring seminar in Las Vegas this year to the detriment of the Michigan economy. I have been asked by section officers to run this seminar for more than 10 years now. In that regard, I must say that the location has nothing to do with bashing Michigan, but with promoting attendance to get together the largest group of attorneys possible to learn and understand that both sides have a stake in acting civilly with each other in handling matters. We emphasize that the practice of negligence law is one in which stress is reduced, and thus one's life is lengthened, by working together toward resolution rather than fighting to the same conclusion.

To get this point across to the masses, a location that is exciting is required. I am not saying that our state is devoid of such; in fact, the opposite is true. However, our state's attorneys and families tend to go to our state's finest on their own and not through local seminars. Several years ago, we held a seminar at the beautiful Bay Harbor resort. A national speaker was on the agenda, and notices were sent to thousands of attorneys. Only 15 showed up, or a half

dozen if I don't count section council members. This year in Las Vegas, close to 100 will attend. The section will profit, as usual, and not cost our members anything from their dues, unlike the in-state experience. Incidentally, the section has hosted a golf outing/meeting in Traverse City for the last three years, giving the golf course and hotel (and surrounding environs) a boost to their economic well-being.

We in the Negligence Law Section hope David will join us this year. In the meantime, the section will continue to maximize

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its message by giving its members what they want, not what those who do not attend dictate. Better lawyers will come from our decision. And if anyone reading this letter is interested in joining us at either event I have mentioned, give me a call. You will come away a more learned attorney from the excellent educational seminar that will take place and you will have networked with many opposing counsel you see regularly.

**Barry J. Goodman**  
Southfield

## Garner-ing Thanks

### To the Editor:

Kudos to Bryan A. Garner for his incisive and inspiring article entitled "Cultivate the Right Demeanor for Effective Legal Writing" (February 2010 *Michigan Bar Journal*). I encourage all State Bar members to distribute copies of this article to law students and fellow attorneys.

The suggestions apply not only to legal writing, but also to conversations and e-mails with opposing counsel. Cultivating

a polite demeanor, refraining from accusations, and avoiding "righteous indignation" should be common goals for all lawyers. Thank you, Mr. Garner, for your article, and thank you to the *Michigan Bar Journal* for publishing it.

**Michael H. R. Buckles**  
Birmingham

## Letter of the Law

### To the Editor:

Hooray for R. Bruce Laidlaw and his letter to the editor in the March *Bar Journal*. I, as well as many of my contemporaries, feel that the time has come to publish all opinions of the courts and make them precedentially binding. Just imagine how much time and money could be saved if we could tell our clients what the law really says. I think lawyers used to be able to do just that!

**James L. Juhnke**  
Battle Creek

## Bull's Eye

### To the Editor:

Just a note to compliment Ronald D. Richards Jr. on his article, "An Attorney Serving as a Juror: 10 Lessons from Jury Duty" (March 2010 *Michigan Bar Journal*). Very well done! Although I've never been called to jury duty, after 44 years on the bench—state and federal, trial and appellate—I *know* his assessments are dead center on the bull's eye. And he saved the best for last: civility! Thank you, counselor, for a fine piece. God-speed from Mr. Lincoln's prairie.

**Hon. Richard Mills**  
Springfield, Illinois

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