

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke



Golden Celebration: Celebrating 50 Years



Photo by Doug Elbinger for the State Bar of Michigan

Congratulations to everyone celebrating 50 years as a member of the Bar:

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 Herbert M. August
 George Baditoi
 Michael J. Basford
 Stanley Bassin
 Karl R. Bennett Jr.
 Albert Best
 Roger W. Boer
 James C. Booth
 William E. Bowser
 Jerry D. Bringard
 John R. Brown
 Lewis C. Brown
 Hon. Harold M. Bulgarelli
 Robert A. Burns
 Hon. Herman C. Campbell
 Dominic R. Carnovale
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 Jack R. Clary
 Charles C. Collison
 Richard E. Cooley
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 Adam J. Dadaou
 Robert W. Dahm
 Herbert Davis
 Charles N. Dewey Jr.

James W. Donegan
 Herbert H. Edwards
 B. Lynn Enderby
 Hon. Louis E. Fairbrother
 August Philip Fichera
 Richard B. Firestone
 Vance A. Fisher
 Hon. Leo Kenneth Foran
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 Hon. Benjamin J. Friedman
 Arnold P. Garber
 Paul K. Gaston
 C. David Goldberg
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 James K. Graham
 Hon. Barry M. Grant

James J. Hall
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 Frederick Wm. Heath
 Austin M. Hirschhorn
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 Robert P. Keil
 Lowell M. Kelly
 William C. Kemper
 Frederic I. Keywell
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Paul M. Ladas
 Kenneth Laing
 Chester C. Lawrence
 Sen. Carl M. Levin
 Michael B. Lewiston
 Robert L. Littman
 Eugene Malanyn
 Richard H. May
 James H. McCormick
 Hon. James R. McCormick
 Max D. McCullough
 Hon. Thomas W. McDonell
 William R. McFadden
 Joseph M. McGlynn
 James P. Meloche
 Cyril Moscow

Charles B. Olds
 James B. Parker
 John C. Parker
 Donald J. Parthum
 Douglas M. Philpott
 Irene M. Piccone
 Rudolf M. Planert
 George E. Potter
 Harold M. Provizer
 Jordan Rossen
 Sydney L. Ruby
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 Hon. Thomas A. Van Tiem Sr.
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE FELLOWS OF THE MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION ON THEIR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS ATTORNEYS:

Roger W. Boer
 William E. Bowser
 Benjamin J. Friedman
 Paul K. Gaston

Clifford H. Hart
 Frederick Wm. Heath
 Robert P. Keil
 Daniel N. King

Richard H. May
 Max D. McCullough
 Cyril Moscow
 Robert L. Segar

W. Richard Smith
 I. John Snider II
 George E. Snyder

The trustees, members, and staff of the Michigan State Bar Foundation express our great appreciation to these Foundation Fellows for their significant contributions to the legal profession and for their generous support for the Foundation's program of public service. ■

LAW DAY 2010

Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges

On May 3, the State Bar of Michigan commemorated Law Day 2010 with a two-hour radio broadcast on the Michigan Talk Network's Michael Patrick Shiels in the Morning show and an essay awards luncheon at the Michigan Hall of Justice.

"Every year the State Bar joins local bar associations, businesses, schools, and other organizations to improve the public's understanding of our judicial system," State Bar President Charles Toy said.

Toy, along with other State Bar officials, including Executive Director Janet Welch, Director of External Development Candace Crowley, Law-Related Education and Public Outreach Chair Jeffrey Paulsen, and Law and the Media Committee Advisor Andrew Doctoroff, reached out to Michigan's general public on the Michigan Talk Network by talking about Law Day and what lawyers do.

The State Bar reached out to schools across the state this year by sponsoring an essay contest for sixth- through eighth-grade students featuring questions about the 2010



From left: Seventh-grade winners of the Law Day Essay contest, from left: Silver medalist Margaret Ciolino, gold medalist Aleanna Siacon, and bronze medalist Theresa Riggs. With the winners are, from left: State Bar of Michigan Law-Related Education and Public Outreach Committee Chairperson Jeffrey Paulsen, SBM Law-Related Education and Public Outreach Committee Law Day Chairperson Margaret Krasnoff, and Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly.

Law Day theme, "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges."

The winners of this contest were honored at a May 3 awards luncheon at the Michigan Hall of Justice. This year's winners include Michael Bobzin, L'Anse Cruise Middle School

North, sixth grade; Aleanna Siacon, L'Anse Cruise Middle School East, seventh grade; and Carlee Stanton, L'Anse Cruise Middle School East, eighth grade. The keynote speaker at this year's luncheon was Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. ■

Photo by Tammy Allen for the State Bar of Michigan

State Bar Hosts First Annual Justice Initiatives Summit



State Bar of Michigan photo

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly kicked off the First Annual Justice Initiatives Summit on April 12 at the State Bar's Michael Franck Building in downtown Lansing.

Co-sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan and Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, the First Annual Justice Initiatives Summit called attention to the need for better legal representation for indigent people in Michigan. Judges, legislators, law school deans, legal aid attorneys, pro bono volunteers, and other leaders from around the state gathered April 12 at the State Bar building in downtown Lansing to discuss this growing problem and begin to suggest solutions.

The summit kicked off with an introduction by Chief Justice Kelly and an overview of what's been happening around the state from Michigan State Bar Foundation Director Linda Rexer. Professor Russell Engler and Judge Cynthia Cohen, both from Massachusetts, followed that with a discussion of how they worked to change their system to more effectively handle indigent defense. ■

SBM Study: Lawyers Give Significant Pro Bono Support for Civil Legal Aid to the Poor—More Needed to Meet the Great Demand

The new State Bar of Michigan study entitled “And Justice for All” shows that in 2007, nearly two-thirds of Michigan lawyers provided some volunteer legal service and one-third provided financial donations to assist civil legal aid for low-income persons. The study also notes that the need for legal services for the poor still far outstrips available resources, and even more pro bono hours and dollars are needed from Michigan lawyers. More than three million people in Michigan now qualify for free help from legal aid because they live below 200 percent of the federal poverty limit. Because of a lack of resources, however, legal aid programs must turn away three of every seven people who request help.

The State Bar standard specifies that each year attorneys should provide pro bono services to three low-income clients, 30 hours of free or reduced-fee services, or donate \$300 to a legal-aid organization. The report indicates that additional education is needed to help lawyers apply a uniform understanding of activities that qualify as pro bono under this standard.

Lawyers can contact their local legal aid organization or e-mail the State Bar of Michigan Pro Bono Initiative at pbi@mail.michbar.org to learn how to provide more pro bono help.

The survey, conducted by Michigan State University’s Office for Survey Research at the Institute for Public Policy and Social

Research under the direction of Dr. Larry Hembroff, was initially proposed in conjunction with a Detroit-area Pro Bono Summit held in November 2008 by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and the State Bar of Michigan Pro Bono Initiative of the Justice Initiatives Committee. It was expanded to a statewide project with funds by the Michigan State Bar Foundation in cooperation with the State Bar of Michigan. For more information, read the full survey at www.michbar.org/programs/atj/pdfs/justiceforall.pdf or see Hon. Victoria Roberts’ article about the survey on page 48. ■

SBM Congratulates Winners of 36th Annual McCree Awards for Journalists

State Bar President Charles Toy presented the 36th Annual McCree Awards April 18 at the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

Detroit Free Press reporters Jennifer Dixon and Tina Lam won a McCree Award for their 14-month-long investigation into questionable investment, lavish travel, and lack of ethics policies in Detroit’s two public pension funds. The *Free Press* won a second McCree Award for a series of articles chronicling the legal and financial troubles of some Detroit City Council members. The articles were anchored by M. L. Elrick who was assisted by Jim Schaefer, Rochelle Riley, Naomi Patton, and Gina Damron.

Ryan Loew, Louise Knott Ahern, Cody Hinze, and Jamee Urrea of the *Lansing State Journal* won for a multimedia series called “Unmasking the Violence: The Case That Awakened a Nation.” The 1977 case involved a Dansville woman named Francine Hughes, who gained national attention by killing her ex-husband by setting him on fire. This was later immortalized by the made-for-TV movie *The Burning Bed* starring Farrah Fawcett. In the broadcast category,



Photo by Tommy Allen for the State Bar of Michigan

Front row: *Detroit Free Press* reporter Naomi Patton, State Bar of Michigan Executive Director Janet Welch, freelance writer Louise Knott Ahern, Lansing State Journal reporter Ryan Loew, Lansing State Journal design and *Sunday Life* editor Jamee Tanner, and *Detroit Free Press* reporter Jennifer Dixon. Back row: State Bar of Michigan Law and the Media Committee Chair Cameron Evans, *Detroit Free Press* reporter M. L. Elrick, *Detroit Free Press* columnist Rochelle Riley, WJRT ABC-12 photojournalist Christopher Carr, WJRT ABC-12 anchor Angie Hendershot, Lansing State Journal multimedia coordinator Cody Hinze, State Bar of Michigan President Charles Toy, Hon. Wade H. McCree (son of Wade H. McCree Jr.), and State Bar of Michigan Commissioner Tom Rombach.

the McCree Award went to anchor Angie Hendershot and photojournalist Christopher Carr of WJRT-TV 12 of Flint for a series called *Baby Court*. Hendershot and Carr followed a few young families’ years-long journeys to regain custody of their children with the help of a new, innovative court championed

by the late Hon. Robert Weiss, chief probate judge in Genesee County.

Visit the SBM News Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sbm.news to see a full photo album from the event. ■

Russian Delegation Visits State Bar

State Bar of Michigan photo



Front row, l-r: attorney Zoya Malykhina, State Bar Executive Director Janet Welch, attorney Yelena Yegorova, attorney Vladimir Zyablitsev, and State Bar Professional Standards Director Dawn Evans. Back row, l-r: State Bar President Charles Toy, attorney Yelena Rylova, attorney Sergey Kosenko, State Bar General Counsel Cliff Flood, and translator Irina Jesionowski.

A delegation of five attorneys from Russia came to Michigan the week of April 14 to take a look at the American judicial system. As part of this visit, they stopped by the State Bar of Michigan to speak with Bar leaders about what bar associations do in

this country. They were surprised to learn that American bar associations don't assign cases to attorneys, as they do in Russia, and intrigued by how the State Bar works to protect the public. ■

Matthew Classens Wins Sixth Annual L.E.A.P. Pro Bono Service Award

Matthew L. Classens, an attorney with Bishop & Heintz of Traverse City, received the sixth annual Grand Traverse Area Pro Bono Service Award on May 6 at the Grand Traverse Leelanau Antrim County Bar Association's annual spring dinner. The award recognizes the tremendous amount of work Mr. Classens has done at the Free Legal Aid Clinic and was presented by Law-Enhanced Access Partnership of Traverse City. L.E.A.P. is a blend of legal and human services providers who organized to address the unmet legal needs of the Grand Traverse region's working poor. ■

Cooley and Oakland U. Aim to Expand Diversity in the Legal Profession

Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Oakland University are partnering with the American Bar Association's Council on Legal Education Opportunity to bring CLEO's pre-law program to underserved Michigan college students this summer in an effort to expand diversity in the legal profession. This 22-day summer program will provide intense academic coursework to 25 Michigan undergraduates at Cooley's Auburn Hills campus this month. Eighteen of the State Bar's former presidents have written a letter in support of the program. ■

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Please submit your news to:
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