

## Administrative & Regulatory Law Section

The section has been formally renamed the “Administrative & Regulatory Law Section.” The council is actively pursuing a number of programs through the coming year. Members will receive notice of particular programs when they materialize. The council is also continuing to implement a program to provide stipends to two students in Michigan law schools who are willing to write an article for the section *Journal* to be selected by a committee of council members.

## Business Law Section

There is still time to sign up for Business Boot Camp, which will be held January 27–28 in Plymouth. Visit <http://www.michbar.org/business/calendar.cfm> for more information. The next council meeting will be held March 11 in Lansing. The section is busy planning many exciting events for 2011. Watch for our monthly e-newsletter, visit our website at <http://www.michbar.org/business/>, or become a friend on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SBMBusinessLawSection> to learn of upcoming section events.

## Criminal Law Section

Please join us February 19–21 for some fun in the snow and a little legal business during the 34th Mid-Winter Ski Conference. Patrick Barone, Timothy Baughman, and Steve Fishman will be our featured speakers. The popular annual conference also offers several long breaks for skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding at Shanty Creek. For more information about the program, including registration, visit <http://michbar.org/criminal/news.cfm>. For questions, contact [smtaratuta@gmail.com](mailto:smtaratuta@gmail.com) or call (313) 224-5770.

## Environmental Law Section

We are proud to have coordinated this energy law theme issue, including articles from our Energy Committee members. Our November 9 Joint Conference with A&WMA in Lansing was an outstanding success, with more than 125 attendees, and we are already planning next year’s conference. We are very

pleased to announce that Mary Anne Parks has officially been retained as our section administrator. To keep current on section matters and to become more involved, visit <http://www.michbar.org/environmental>.

## Information Technology Law Section

All are encouraged to submit articles for possible publication in the June 2011 IT-themed issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. If you are interested, please contact our chair, Mark Malven, at [mmalven@dykema.com](mailto:mmalven@dykema.com). The articles should be 1,000–2,500 words in length; specific article guidelines are available at <http://www.michbar.org/journal/about/artguidelines.pdf>. Completed submissions are due to Mr. Malven by February 1. Articles not published in the *Bar Journal* will be considered for publication in our newsletters.

## Labor and Employment Law Section

Section members enjoyed a fantastic educational program at the annual meeting in Grand Rapids after electing a new slate of officers. The holiday party, featuring a storytelling competition, drew a large group on Thursday, December 9. We will gather again for our Mid-Winter Meeting in January at the Detroit Athletic Club. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Contact Darcie R. Brault at (248) 542-6300 for details.

## Litigation Section

Last November, the section submitted to the State Bar a public policy report opposing a proposed amendment to MRPC 7.3 requiring lawyers to prominently display the words “advertising material” on any written, recorded, or electronic communication seeking professional employment from many prospective clients. The section views the proposed amendment as too broad, covering both sophisticated potential clients and those vulnerable to predatory advertising. For the section’s full report, visit [www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org).

## Negligence Law Section

As a section comprised equally of plaintiff and defense attorneys, one of our func-

tions is to provide balanced “legal education” to legislators. Many legislators have never grappled with statutory language or law before arriving in Lansing. Term limits have led to a record number of new non-attorney legislators. Our legislator education efforts will be expanded as the legislature considers important bills that may significantly affect the constitutional right to trial of Michigan citizens.

## Real Property Law Section

The Annual Winter Conference, “The ABCs of Financial Regulatory Reform: A Big Change,” will be held March 10–12 at the Willard Intercontinental in Washington, D.C. Program chairs are Laura McMahon Lynch of Law Office of Laura McMahon Lynch PLC, Grosse Pointe; and Melissa B. Papke of Varnum Law, Grand Rapids. For more information, visit the section website at [www.michbar.org/realproperty/winterconf.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/winterconf.cfm) or call Arlene Rubinstein at (248) 644-7378.

## Social Security Lawyers Section

At its fall meeting, the section approved revised bylaws to update its governing rules. In October, those amendments were ratified by the State Bar’s Board of Commissioners. Thanks go to former Chair Annette Skinner, who shepherded the amendments through the process of change. The section’s next seminar will be Friday, February 18 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

## Taxation Section

The section is accepting applications for 2011 grants to organizations that provide assistance to low-income taxpayers; application deadline is March 1. Visit <http://www.michigantax.org/grantprogram.cfm> for details. The Employee Benefits Committee will sponsor a meeting with the ASPPA featuring Craig P. Hoffman on January 20 at 8:30 a.m. at the Radisson-Kingsley Hotel, 39475 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. The International Committee hosted an event with Plante & Moran on December 13, discussing recent U.S. federal tax reforms affecting cross-border transactions. ■