

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke



Photos by Tammy Allen

A Gathering of the Representative Assembly

The 150-member Representative Assembly recently adopted resolutions concerning official state personal identification cards and the collateral consequences of conviction. The RA will meet again at the State Bar Annual Meeting in mid-September.



State Bar Representative Assembly leaders at the April 9 meeting in Lansing, from left to right: Dana Warnez, clerk; Stephen Gobbo, vice chair; and Victoria Radke, chairperson.

INTERESTED IN BEING UpFront?

The news, people, and events featured on this page attract notice. If you'd like to share news of an interesting event or law-related news, send us a few lines (not to exceed 150 words) and include a photograph or high-quality digital image. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, and the right to decline to publish. Please submit your news to:

Naseem Stecker, State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933-2012
e-mail: nstecker@mail.michbar.org
phone: (517) 367-6428

Journalists Recognized for Advancing Justice



Photo by Tammy Allen

Winners of the State Bar of Michigan's 37th Annual Wade H. McCree Jr. Awards for the Advancement of Justice celebrate their winning journalism with SBM officials. ■

Front row (L-R): The Detroit News reporter Mike Martindale, Detroit Free Press computer-assisted reporting specialist Kristi Tanner-White, Detroit Free Press investigative reporter Jennifer Dixon, WEIY NBC 25 reporter Jessica Harthorn, and SBM Law and the Media Committee Chair Jesse

Green. Back row (L-R): The Saginaw News reporter Andy Hoag, the Hon. Wade H. McCree III, SBM President W. Anthony Jenkins, Detroit Free Press photographer and videographer Eric Seals, Detroit Free Press investigative reporter Jim Schaefer, and SBM Treasurer Tom Rombach.

Engaging Justice Initiatives Leaders



SBM photo

Lawyers from across the state gathered at the SBM Michael Franck Building in Lansing April 11 to take part in the second annual Justice Initiatives Summit. This year's discussion topic was "Engaging the Next Generation of Justice Initiatives Leaders."

Ever Heard of Michigan Court Form 70?

Results of a recent survey of disabled lawyers or those who serve disabled clients show that 8 of 10 respondents were not aware of Michigan Court Form 70, which is used to request accommodations for those with special needs. This finding is contained in "Persons with Disabilities and Access to the Michigan Legal System: A Status Report, 2010," issued by the Equal Access Initiative Disabilities Workgroup. The survey, which was sent to more than 300 lawyers, emphasizes the importance of information sharing to facilitate access to the legal system for those who face physical or mental challenges and disabilities. For more information, see <http://www.michbar.org/programs/EAI/pdfs/disabilitiesreport.pdf>. ■

State Mock Trial Champions



Photo by Tammy Allen

The Ann Arbor Community High School team celebrates winning the 2011 Michigan High School Mock Trial state championship with the tournament's judges on March 26.

Cooley Duo Wins National Honors



Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School

La Toya Palmer (left) and Erin Moss, students at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus, have reason to smile confidently. Recently, the duo beat teams from 95 law schools from the United States and Canada to take first place in the American Bar Association's Law Student Division Client Counseling Competition. The competition simulates a law office consultation in which law students, acting as attorneys, are presented with a "client" seeking legal expertise. The students are given very little information about the consultation before the client's arrival.

Each year, the competition focuses on a specific area of practice for client counseling. This year's was the professional responsibility of lawyers and judges; students were presented with issues such as attorney malpractice, conflict of interest, substance abuse, sexual harassment, client confidence, and client grievances. Students were judged on their abilities to establish an appropriate working atmosphere and listen and understand the client's perspective, as well as their analytical and problem-solving skills. ■

Talkin' Bowling Strategy



SBM photos

Left to right: SBM Representative Assembly Chair Victoria Radke, Board of Commissioners President-Elect Julie Fershtman, Commissioner Larry Nolan, and Director of Finance & Administration Jim Horsch talk strategy before taking their next turn on the lanes.



SBM commissioners, staff, and members of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Council pause during their fifth annual bowling tournament for a group photo. The Board beat the YLS for the second year in a row. This year's event raised \$350 for the Access to Justice Fund.