

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke

State Bar Delegation in Washington for ABA Day



Photo courtesy of ABA

Left to right: SBM Commissioner Jim Erhart, Director of Governmental Relations Elizabeth K. Lyon, Michigan Delegate to the ABA Reginald M. Turner Jr., Rep. John Dingell, SBM President W. Anthony Jenkins, and President-Elect Julie Fershtman.

A State Bar team led by President W. Anthony Jenkins was on Capitol Hill recently for face-to-face meetings with Michigan's U.S. senators and representatives. The occasion was ABA Day, a springtime tradition of the American Bar Association observed by hundreds of bar leaders nationwide. The Michigan delegation visited in support of \$450

million in funding for the 2012 fiscal year for Legal Services Corporation, the nation's largest provider of civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. The need is especially great in Michigan this year; the number of individuals eligible for such aid has increased by 50 percent to more than two million people. The SBM delegation also expressed its

support for the proposed Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act, which would help states intercept federal tax refunds to pay overdue court-ordered financial obligations, including restitution for victims of crime. ■

Cooley Commencement



State Bar President W. Anthony Jenkins was commencement speaker at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School graduation ceremony May 21 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Eight students received master of laws degrees and 437 students earned juris doctor degrees—the largest May graduating class in the law school’s 39-year history. ■



Left to right: Don LeDuc, Thomas M. Cooley Law School president and dean; Edward H. Pappas, former SBM president and a member of Cooley’s board of directors; W. Anthony Jenkins, current SBM president; and Charles R. Toy, SBM immediate past president and Cooley associate dean of career and professional development.

Photos courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Professionalism in Action



Brian Einhorn, SBM Board of Commissioners secretary, spoke to students at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Ann Arbor campus April 29 about the importance of professionalism. The Professionalism in Action program, endorsed by the State Bar of Michigan, allows first-year law students to interact with veteran lawyers and judges and discuss hypothetical scenarios.

Since its launch in 2009, the Professionalism in Action program has been well received by students, educators, and participants from the legal community. This fall, incoming students at Cooley Law School, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, the Michigan State University College of Law, and Wayne State University Law School will participate in the program. ■

Photos courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School



SBM Pro Bono Initiative Holds Third Annual Spring Workshop



The State Bar of Michigan's Pro Bono Initiative presented its third annual free spring workshop—"Nurturing Pro Bono: An Interactive Workshop for Michigan's Pro Bono Coordinators"—May 25 at the State Bar's Michael Franck Building in Lansing.

The luncheon session included a presentation by Jennifer Bentley of Legal Services of South Central Michigan and Linda Rexer, executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, on the link between pro bono services and financial donations to programs like the Access to Justice Fund. Other workshop topics included "Fundraising for Pro Bono Programs," "The Nuts and Bolts of a Successful Pro Bono Program," and "How to Engage Large Firms with Pro Bono." ■



SBM photos

Macomb County Bar Association Celebrates Law Day

In early May, many Michigan local and specialty bar associations celebrated Law Day by working with school children and presenting Liberty Bell awards to nonlawyers who have been outstanding citizens in their local communities. In Macomb County, State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly Clerk Dana Warnez (right) presented the

Macomb County Bar Association and Macomb County Bar Foundation 2011 Liberty Bell Award to Warren Cousino High School government teacher Roxanne Garrish. At the same event, the MCBA and MCBF also presented awards to student winners of a Law Day essay contest. ■



Photo courtesy of the Macomb County Bar Association