

# Up Front

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke

## Leaders Developing Leadership

### Upper Michigan Legal Institute and Bar Leadership Forum

June 10 and 11  
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island



Leaders Developing Leadership panel presentation, foreground: Dewnya Bakri Bazzi, Jennifer Grieco, E. Christopher Johnson, Miles Gerberding, Anne Vrooman (not in view), and facilitator Hon. Cynthia Stephens (standing).



The Board of Commissioners in session. The Board provides oversight to the operations of the State Bar.



The weather was not always cooperative, but the mood inside the Grand Hotel was most definitely upbeat. A total of 208 registrants came ready to listen, learn, share their knowledge and experiences, network, and enjoy the beauty of Mackinac Island.



Tom Rombach presents a report at the BOC meeting on June 10.







Law-related education panel, left to right: Elizabeth Johnson, John Nussbaumer, Jeffrey Paulsen, and Timothy Gardner Jr.



Nell Kuhnmuench (left) and Elizabeth Lyon updated attendees on legislative matters.



Melissa Pope shares her thoughts during an interactive workshop with section peer leaders.



Learning something new at the Upper Michigan Legal Institute.





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## Legal Community Rallies to Save College Prelaw Summer Institute

Photos by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC



This group of students representing 16 undergraduate institutions across the nation attended the second annual Prelaw Summer Institute at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Auburn Hills campus in June, thanks in part to generous help from various State Bar sections. The Young Lawyers, Business Law, Law Practice Management, and Health Law sections made financial contributions to offset congressional funding cuts to the Thurgood Marshall Scholars Program, which supports such opportunities. The month-long program provides college sophomores and juniors interested in law careers with more than 90 hours of free law school and LSAT preparation instruction plus \$750 stipends to help defray expenses.

Substantial funding was also provided by the Cooley Dean's Annual Fund; the Michigan Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel; Oakland University; the law firms of Clark Hill, Jaffe Raitt, Miller Canfield, Plunkett Cooney, and Warner Norcross & Judd; the Arab American Bar Association; Association of Black Judges of Michigan; Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association; Eastern

District Federal Bar Association; Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan; Oakland County Bar Association; Oakland County Chapter of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan; and the Straker Bar Association.



State Bar President Tony Jenkins, keynote speaker at the June 1 program launch, encouraged students to work hard, play by the rules, give back to society, and not let others define how far they can go in pursuing their career aspirations. Left to right: John Nussbaumer, dean, Cooley Law School; Jennifer Grieco, Oakland County Bar Association; Tony Jenkins, SBM president; and Chris Johnson, Cooley Law School. ■

## The Michigan Supreme Court in 2011



Photo by Doug Elbinger, Elbinger Studios

Front row, left to right: Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr., and Justice Marilyn Kelly. Back row, left to right: Justice Mary Beth Kelly, Justice Stephen J. Markman, Justice Diane M. Hathaway, and Justice Brian K. Zahra.

## Portrait Presentation at the Hall of Justice

Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society



Left to right: Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Young, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, and Charles Rutherford, vice president of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, pause for the cameras during a June 7 ceremony at the Hall of Justice in Lansing where a reproduction portrait of Justice Isaac P. Christiancy was presented to Sen. Richardville. Both Richardville and Christiancy

have strong connections to Monroe, Michigan. Christiancy, one of the Michigan Supreme Court's "Big Four," was elected to the Court in 1857. He and James Campbell were eventually joined by Benjamin Graves and Thomas Cooley. The group was recognized nationally for its role in sharpening judicial procedures and resolving constitutional issues during Michigan's formative years. ■

## Kimble Receives Coveted National Legal-Writing Award for the Second Time



He's the only professor in Michigan to receive the coveted Burton Award for Legal Achievement, and he's done it not once, but twice. Thomas M. Cooley Law School Professor Joseph Kimble received the most prestigious national award in legal writing for his drafting work on the completely restyled Federal Rules of Evidence. The award was presented to him June 13 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Kimble, who has served as the drafting consultant on all federal court rules since 1999, earned his first Burton Award in 2007 for his work in redrafting the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Kimble's work caught the attention of the legal world in 2000, when he was named a "Plain English Champion" by the Plain English Campaign in England. He won the first Plain Language Association International Award in 2007 and in 2010, he won a lifetime-achievement award from the Association of American Law School's Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research.

Kimble teaches research and writing at Cooley and has chaired the school's Research and Writing department for 15 years. He has published many articles and given more than 100 presentations on plain language worldwide. Kimble is the editor in chief of *The Scribes Journal of Legal Writing*, the longtime editor of the "Plain Language" column in the *Michigan Bar Journal*, and a past president of the international organization Clarity.

For more information about the Burton Award, visit <http://www.burtonawards.com>. ■



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**For information, contact:** Casey M. Mobley, Chairperson, (517) 374-0436