

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.



Learning something new at the Upper Michigan Legal Institute.



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



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 presti-

gious 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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