

## Celebrate Diversity

### To the Editor:

As the State Bar of Michigan embraces a new diversity initiative, I find it troubling that the covers of the April Directory for the past two years have seriously lacked diversity. Rather than white-haired men in robes and past *Bar Journal* covers, let's celebrate the diversity of our profession. There are countless diverse role models in the history of the Michigan Bar from which we can all draw inspiration and strength. I sincerely hope the diversity initiative impacts all levels of the Bar and brings greater awareness to what can be achieved when we value diversity. Let's start with the directory. So how about some photos celebrating diversity for next year's cover?

**Megan E. Smith**  
Grand Rapids

## Damage Has Been Done

### To the Editor:

As someone with a deep appreciation for the Great Lakes and a strong concern for their future, I take issue with Margaret Vroman's introduction to her article on Asian carp ("The Asian Carp: An Imminent Threat to the Great Lakes?") published in the May issue of the *Bar Journal*.

Ms. Vroman begins her discussion by noting that alarms have been sounded in the

past about the threat of a number of invasive species. She then asserts that so far, "none of these predictions of impending doom has materialized." While our current situation may not constitute "doom," damage caused by invasive species certainly *has* materialized. The changes in lake ecology brought on by zebra and quagga mussels and other invasive organisms, including diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia (believed to have been introduced to the Great Lakes via ballast water), continue to be of concern.

While our current situation may not constitute "doom," damage caused by invasive species certainly *has* materialized.

More information on Great Lakes ecosystems and the dangers posed by invasive species is readily available from a number of reputable sources. One example: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, operating out of Petoskey for more than 40 years, has an excellent website at <http://www.watershedcouncil.org>.

**Nancy Squires**  
Rochester Hills

## Response from the Author

My statement that "none of these predictions of impending doom has materialized" was not intended to convey that no damage has been done to the Great Lakes by previous invasive species. There is ample evidence that zebra and quagga mussels and other non-indigenous species have resulted in extensive ecological and economic damage to the lakes. The point I was making, which I believe Ms. Squires acknowledges, is that predictions that earlier invasive species would result in the complete destruction of the Great Lakes ecosystem did not materialize. Therefore, it is argued by some

that the threat posed by Asian carp is also unlikely to be as devastating as predicted. I am not advocating this viewpoint but merely pointing out that it exists.

**Margaret E. Vroman**  
Marquette

## Legal System Letting Carp Off the Hook?

### To the Editor:

I read Margaret E. Vroman's article on the Asian carp with the usual trepidation concerning invasive species and their deadly and costly effect. While we live surrounded by the world's largest collection of fresh water, the courts' reluctance to check the carp's threat given the danger the fish presents is in the tradition of guidance by the light of Mammon.

It appears that in such cases, the courts and the law are unable or unwilling to deal with potential threats to the country's environmental health and biologic vigor. Will Blozan's article, "The Last of the Giants," in the spring 2011 issue of *American Forests* on the deaths of America's trophy eastern hemlock trees is one more example of inadequate and negligent vigilance to add to the chestnut, elm, ash, and other invasive and climatic blights, the result of which is environmental degradation.

These exemplary failures are attributable to lax government and the reigning economic mythologies upon which courts and jurists batten. Legal precedent and juristic involvement failing and scientific prophecy useless in a dystopian and dystrophic world, technocracy may be the inevitable recourse.

**E. G. Nassar**  
Detroit

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