

Administrative & Regulatory Law Section

Please save the date! The section will again host the Michigan Public Service Commission and staff for a luncheon event on Wednesday, May 23 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the University Club of MSU in Lansing. The event will feature dynamic attorney Valerie Brader, the governor's senior strategy advisor and former energy policy officer to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Registration information will be posted shortly at <http://www.michbar.org/adminlaw/>.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The report to SCAO of *The Effectiveness of Case Evaluation and Mediation in Michigan Circuit Courts* has been released (see <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/EffectivenessCaseEvalMediation.pdf>). It is noteworthy that the study found evidence of the effectiveness of both case evaluation and mediation; however, mediation appears to be more effective than case evaluation in disposing of cases more quickly and being less costly. The report recommended changes, by way of improvement, to both ADR processes.

Criminal Law Section

Save the date! It's almost time again for the Criminal Law Section's spring conference, which will be held June 8–9. Please join us for the biennial conference at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth; this year's topic is expert witnesses. The conference is still in the planning stages, but more information will be posted in our newsletter and online at <http://www.michbar.org/criminal/news.cfm>.

For questions, contact Kenneth Malkin at (989) 895-4177 or malkink@baycounty.net.

Elder Law and Disability Rights Section

The ELDRS will hold its fall conference October 3–5 at Crystal Mountain Resort, Thomsonville. This multidisciplinary conference brings together many of the professionals and volunteers who play a role in protecting the rights and ensuring the care of individuals with disabilities, whether because of age or other causes and whether living in a community or another setting. This is an opportunity for attorneys, social workers, volunteer advocates, caregivers, geriatric care managers, and others to share their expertise. For details, visit <http://www.michbar.org/elderlaw/>.

Environmental Law Section

A webinar, "Siting Renewable Energy Projects in Michigan and Identifying the Environmental Permits Required for Your Project," is in the works, with details to be announced soon on the section website. The 2012 Air Committee/Michigan Manufacturers Association Conference is scheduled for May 16. The winter edition of the *Michigan Environmental Law Journal* is now available. Please visit www.michbar.org/environmental for updated information about events, presentation materials, and membership in the Environmental Law Section.

Health Care Law Section

The Health Care Law Section and the Information Technology Law Section jointly sponsored a two-part program in January on "Information Technology Contracting in Health Care." Presenters were Mark Malven, Nicholas Celeski, Janet Knaus, Melissa Markey, and Matthew Keuten. Materials will be posted to the HCLS website. The topic and terms of the section's annual Thomas J. Trenta Memorial Law Student Writing Competition will be posted to the website in April.

Information Technology Law Section

Join us on Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the offices of Rader, Fishman, and

Grauer PLLC, 39533 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Ward Classen, deputy general counsel at Computer Sciences Corporation, will provide an invaluable vendor perspective on responding to typical vendor positions in IT contracts. Please e-mail cab@raderfishman.com if you're interested in attending. And save the date of May 17 for our spring networking event at the Black Finn in Royal Oak!

Probate and Estate Planning Section

The section's Guardianship, Conservatorship, and End of Life Committee is diligently working on issues involving end of life and guardians. The section's listserv server and software are being upgraded; although there have been a few problems, things will get better. The section's efforts along with those of the Michigan Probate Judges Association and others should result in a new unified appeal process to the Michigan Court of Appeals from the probate court. Hearings began in January.

Real Property Law Section

Save the date! The next Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtable, "Unexpected Recourse Liability in a Non-Recourse World," is scheduled for April 19 at the Detroit Athletic Club from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. This program will investigate the risk areas, evolving caselaw, and litigation and non-litigation strategies for mitigating risks. Mark P. Krynsinski of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, P.C. is program chair. Register online at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/roundtables.cfm>.

Taxation Section

We again remind you to register now for the Taxation Section's 25th Annual Tax Conference to be held May 1 at The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth. Visit www.icle.org/tax or call (877) 229-4350 to register. Section members save \$100 on the registration fee. The conference is Michigan's most comprehensive tax conference. Following the conference, please attend a dinner, also at St. John's, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the tax conference. We look forward to seeing you. ■