

# UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke

## Intellectual Property Law Section Celebrates Detroit Patent Office

The SBM Intellectual Property Law Section hosted a gala on July 12 at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn in honor of the grand opening of Detroit's Elijah J. McCoy Patent

Office. The patent office, named for the famed inventor for whom the phrase "the real McCoy" was coined, officially opened in Detroit the next morning following a rib-

bon cutting ceremony. It is the country's first satellite of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. ■



Photos by Frank Weir

Representatives of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office gather for a group photo, including (front row, center) USPTO Detroit Regional Director Robin Evans and David Kappos, U.S. Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director.



More than 700 people attended the black-tie gala at the Henry Ford Museum.

To view more photos from the gala, visit [www.facebook.com/sbm.news](http://www.facebook.com/sbm.news).

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## Cooley Summer Institute Growing

Photo courtesy of Detroit Legal News



Former State Bar of Michigan President Reginald M. Turner Jr. (second row, center) was the keynote speaker at the recent closing of a month-long College Pre-Law Summer Institute at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Auburn Hills campus. The goal of the summer institute, which has been in existence for three years, is to help diversify the legal profession by providing more than 100 hours of free law school instruction in torts, logic, critical reasoning, legal writing, and trial advocacy to low-income and disadvantaged students and students of color. So far, the program has served approximately 60 students from around the country; this year, 17 students successfully completed the

sessions. The summer institute is a partnership of the ABA Council of Legal Education Opportunity, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Oakland University, and Kaplan Test Prep Services. Sponsors included the Association of Corporate Counsel of Michigan; Collins Einhorn Farrell and Ulanoff; the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association; Honigman; Jaffe Raitt Heuer and Weiss; Miller Canfield; the Oakland County Bar Association; Plunkett Cooney; the State Bar of Michigan Health Law, Law Practice Management, and Young Lawyers sections; Warner Norcross and Judd; the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Michigan; and the Straker Bar Association. ■

## Attorneys Celebrate Nation's Independence at the State Capitol

Michigan defense attorneys gathered at the state Capitol building on July 3 to read the Declaration of Independence in what they hope will be an annual attorney-led effort to celebrate the historic proclamation declaring the American colonies free of the rule of England's King George III in 1776. Attorneys in 12 other states and the District of Columbia held similar readings in hopes of reminding Americans of our nation's revolution and the sacrifices that have taken place to ensure its continued liberty. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

## EEOC Seminar Examines Disability Rights

Commissioners Victoria Lipnic and Chai Feldblum from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission were in Detroit recently as part of a six-city tour to share knowledge and find solutions to discrimination in the workplace. They focused on equal employment and disability rights to help employers, attorneys, and human resources personnel identify discrimination in the workplace and implement remedies. The EEOC commissioners, both of whom were appointed in 2010 by President Obama, presented the Detroit Special Topics Seminar at the Westin Book Cadillac. The keynote speaker was Richard Bernstein, who spoke about the importance of inclusion by describing his experiences as a blind attorney. ■

*Left to right: Victoria Lipnic; Chai Feldblum; and Gregory Conyers, SBM Director of Diversity.*



Courtesy photo