

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Since 2006, the ADR Section has been working on passage of the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act in Michigan. On December 14, 2012, those efforts culminated in the governor's signature on PA 371. While many assisted in this effort, the leaders for the ADR Section were William Louis Weber and Martin C. Weisman. They were assisted by lobbyist William Kandler and the invaluable legislative support of Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, who sponsored the bill. Kudos to all involved.

Appellate Practice Section

The 2013 Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference will be held April 24–26 at the St. John's Inn and Conference Center in Plymouth. This year's theme is "Appellate Advocacy in the 21st Century—Bench and Bar Working Together to Advance Justice Under Law." At a dinner banquet on April 25, the Appellate Practice Section will honor former Court of Appeals Clerk Sandra Schultz Mengel with its 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Criminal Law Section

On February 16–18, the Criminal Law Section will offer its 36th Annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference. This year's topic is electronic evidence. Learn about the production, privilege, admissibility, motion practice, and ethical considerations surrounding social media. The popular event offers several long breaks for skiing, sleigh rides, and snowboarding at Shanty Creek Resort. More information about the program, including

registration, is available at <http://michbar.org/criminal/news.cfm>. Questions? Contact Steve Taratuta at staratut@co.wayne.mi.us or (313) 224-5770.

Environmental Law Section

Mark your calendar for the annual Joint Conference with the Michigan Manufacturer's Association. The event takes place in Lansing and is planned for April. Information will be available on our website soon. Visit the ELS website at <http://www.michbar.org/environmental> for the most up-to-date information, including the ELS *Journal*, membership information, webinars, and events.

Family Law Section

Section member and travel specialist Judith O'Donnell has arranged for a "four star" Family Law Section Mid-Winter Seminar February 2–9 in the Caribbean. Section members will be "learning and living" for a week at the Bitter End Yacht Club, Virgin Gorda. The trip is sold out, but keep it in mind for next winter.

General Practice—Solo and Small Firm Section

The General Practice—Solo & Small Firm Section has opened its monthly business meetings to all members. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Attendance allows members to have input in the section and interact with experts and judges. Materials from the first two meetings, "Bankruptcy Basics" and "Handling Difficult Divorce Cases," are available on the section website at <http://www.michbar.org/>

general. January's speaker will be Thomas Howlett, Law and the Media Committee chairperson, on dealing with the media.

International Law Section

The section will hold its January council meeting and dinner program on Wednesday, January 23 at 4:30 p.m. at Butzel Long, Suite 100, 150 W. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. FBI Special Agent Adam Maddock will speak on international cybercrime and espionage. Please mark your calendar and save the date. Watch for announcements of programs for the section's March 20 and May 15 meetings.

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

Kelly LaGrave, ACP, of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith (Lansing), was named the section's Shining Star for November. Read about Kelly's many accomplishments in the upcoming section newsletter. Also, our Facebook page is up and running. Please be sure to "like" us so you will receive information about section news and events.

Real Property Law Section

Register today! The Annual Winter Conference, "Jazz, Jambalaya, and Jeopardy—New Orleans, Katrina, and Lesser Casualties," will be held March 14–16 at the JW Marriott, New Orleans. The program coordinator is Nicholas P. Scavone Jr. of Bodman PLC in Detroit. For registration form and hotel information, visit the section website at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/winterconf.cfm>.

Taxation Section

Offers in Compromise are not available for state tax delinquencies in Michigan, but that may be changing. Based on the Taxation Section's recommendation and bill, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Tax Committee voted on November 27, 2012, to support Offer in Compromise legislation. The Michigan Chamber also supports OIC and will specifically reference the need for OIC in its priority page. Mark your calendar for the section's 26th Annual Tax Conference on May 23. ■