

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke and Mike Eidelbes

SBM LEADERS SPEAK AT CDAM SPRING CONFERENCE



Photo by Tammy Allen

SBM leaders (from left) President Bruce Courtade, Executive Director Janet Welch, Practice Management Advisor JoAnn Hathaway, Director of Governmental Relations Peter Cunningham, Director of Professional Standards Dawn Evans, and Program Development and Communications Manager Lynn Ingram at the CDAM Spring Conference.

SBM leaders delivered a presentation on the benefits of State Bar membership to the attendees of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan Spring Conference March 15 at the Troy Marriott. These benefits include public policy advocacy and awareness, free access to numerous publications and online networking forums, member discount programs, an online job center, a mentoring board, and practice management resources. ■

Clarkston High School Wins Michigan Mock Trial Tournament

The 2013 Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament culminated in victory for the Clarkston High School A team at the state finals competition March 23 in Lansing. The tournament, run by the Michigan Center for Civic Education and sponsored in part by the State Bar of Michigan, consists of regional competitions in Pontiac, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids; the top eight teams advance to the state championship. The state champion advances to the national tournament May 10–11 in Indianapolis. Clarkston is unable to attend the national championship, so runner-up Kalamazoo Central High School will represent Michigan. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

Clarkston High School A team members celebrate their victory at the 2013 Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament.

SBM Law and the Media Committee Hosts Newsroom Seminar

Photo by Samantha Meinke



SBM Law and the Media Committee members Jienelle Raye Alvarado, Andrew S. Doctoroff, Kenneth V. Zichi, and Elizabeth M. Madigan conduct a newsroom seminar in Saginaw.

Four members of the State Bar of Michigan Law and the Media Committee conducted a newsroom seminar at WNEM-TV and WNEM-AM in Saginaw on March 15. The free, hour-long seminars address some of the common practical and substantive difficulties journalists encounter in covering the legal system in Michigan. The format for each seminar is a discussion centered on hypothetical fact patterns. The committee also offers seminars for attorneys on dealing with the media. These free programs last approximately an hour and provide practical advice about handling inquiries from media representatives and review the ethical contours of extrajudicial statements by attorneys. ■

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child is Basis of MSU College of Law Symposium

Leading human-rights activists from around the world gathered in East Lansing April 4–5 for a symposium on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The focus of the event, hosted by the Michigan State University College of Law Lori E. Talsky Center for Human Rights of Women and Children, was whether the United States should become a party to the convention.

Highlighting the symposium was the keynote address from Howard Davidson, director of the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. The second day consisted of panel discussions featuring human-rights experts from the U.S., Canada, Europe,

and the Middle East. Topics included child soldiers, rights enhancing the child's quality of life, and experiences from nations abiding by the U.N. convention.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards expressing minimum entitlements and freedoms founded on respect for the dignity and worth of individuals regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, opinions, origins, wealth, birth status, or ability. The U.S. and Somalia are the only two nations not parties to the convention. ■



Photo by Jeffrey Zenner of MSU College of Law

James P. Kelly III, director of international affairs for the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies based in Washington, D.C., speaks at the MSU Law Symposium.

Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School



Spencer Abraham speaks to students during the March 21 National Conference of Law Reviews.

Law Review Editors Convene in Lansing for National Conference

More than 250 students representing 62 different law schools met at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing March 21 for the 59th annual National Conference of Law Reviews. Featured speaker Spencer Abraham, the former U.S. Secretary of Energy

and U.S. senator who launched Cooley's law review in 1981, spoke about his experiences as a politician and improving law reviews through strategic writing skills.

The National Conference of Law Reviews gives law review editors the opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues related to student-edited legal publications, and includes panel discussions with editors, academic authors, and faculty advisors. ■