

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke and Mike Eidelbes

SBM Representative Assembly Calls for End to Age Discrimination for Judges

At its April 27 meeting in Lansing, the SBM Representative Assembly approved a resolution calling for an end to Michigan's constitutional prohibition of appointment or election of lawyers over the age of 70 to judicial office. The resolution was passed after former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly presented the report and recommendations of the Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force that she co-chaired with former United States Court of Appeals Judge James Ryan.

The Assembly also considered the potential development of an inventory attorney rule for Michigan. This proposal was originally suggested by the SBM Master Lawyers Section to ensure that a reporting member (a member representing a client other than that member's employer) identify to the State Bar of Michigan an active member to serve as an inventory attorney in the event of the reporting attorney's death, disability, or disappearance. The proposal was not approved. ■



Photos by Tammy Allen

Left to right: SBM Representative Assembly Clerk Vanessa Peterson Williams, Chair Dana M. Warnez, and Vice Chair Kathleen M. Allen.



SBM Representative Assembly members listen to a presentation during their April 27 meeting in Lansing.

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Samantha Meinke, State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933-2012
e-mail: smeinke@mail.michbar.org
phone: (517) 346-6332

Board of Commissioners Wins Bowling Tournament for Fourth Straight Year



Photos by Tammy Allen

SBM President Bruce Courtade taunts members of the Young Lawyers Section while bowling.

The SBM Board of Commissioners was triumphant for the fourth year running in the annual Board of Commissioners vs. Young Lawyers Section bowling tournament. The event raised \$270 for the Access to Justice Fund. ■



Members of the SBM Young Lawyers Section gathered for the annual bowling tournament.

Michigan Journalists Recognized for Advancing Justice

The State Bar of Michigan presented the 39th annual Wade H. McCree Jr. Awards for the Advancement of Justice to eight journalists at the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on April 21 at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Winning journalists reported stories that led to changes in the way the Michigan Department of Corrections oversees parolees and probationers, changes in the state's crime labs, and the resignation of former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway.

The McCree Awards are presented annually to journalists whose reports lead to improvements in Michigan's justice system. The awards are named for the late Wade H. McCree Jr., who served as a University of Michigan law professor, the first African-American federal appeals court judge, and solicitor general of the United States. McCree was dedicated to advancing a greater understanding of the role of a free press in a free society and was a great champion of journalists and First Amendment rights. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

McCree Award winners and SBM leaders. Front row, left to right: WXYZ-TV Investigative Unit Executive Producer Ann Mullen, Detroit Free Press Public Safety Reporter Gina Damron, SBM Law and the Media McCree Award Subcommittee Chair Robin Luce-Herrmann, Detroit News Reporter Mike Martindale; second row, left to right: WXYZ-TV Investigative Reporter Ross Jones, SBM Law and the Media Committee Chair Tom Howlett, WXYZ-TV Franchise Editor Randy Lundquist; back row, left to right: SBM President Bruce Courtade and SBM Vice President Tom Rombach.



Photo by Samantha Meinke

The 1839 Berrien County Courthouse in Berrien Springs will be the 38th Michigan Legal Milestone.

SBM to Dedicate Next Michigan Legal Milestone June 26

The State Bar of Michigan will dedicate the 38th Michigan Legal Milestone at noon on June 26 in Berrien Springs. The milestone will honor the 1839 Berrien County Courthouse—the oldest standing county courthouse in Michigan—and commemorate the important role played by county courthouses in the history of the state's justice system and communities (see related article on page 20). The milestone program is overseen by the SBM Law Related Education & Public Outreach Committee. ■

Flint High-Schooler Named Judge Marable Student of the Year

Flint high-school student Chenelle Harkless was named District Judge Herman Marable Student of the Year for 2013. Harkless, a junior at Northwestern High School, was honored with a \$500 savings bond, a trophy, and a certificate, and her name will be added to a plaque on display at the 68th District Courthouse.

Harkless was one of ten monthly winners chosen by Marable and his Citizens Advisory Committee on the basis of essays on their career goals. Monthly honorees receive a \$75 prize, a trophy, and a certificate. Marable established the program in 2004 to encourage Genesee County high-school students to focus on academic achievement and career goals. Tenth-grade students who reside in Flint or Genesee County or attend one of the county's public, charter, or private schools are eligible for the award.

Harkless would like to pursue a career as an attorney or judge. Her extracurricular activities include serving as drum major for the Northwestern marching band and playing on the school's basketball, softball, cross-country, and track-and-field teams. ■

SBM International Law Section Hosts Luncheon for British Baroness

The SBM International Law Section and officials from Bloomfield Township paid tribute to the works of Baroness Caroline Cox during an April 29 luncheon in Bloomfield Hills. Baroness Cox is a member of the British House of Lords and the founder and CEO of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, an organization that provides aid and advocacy for oppressed and persecuted people around the world. She was deputy speaker of the House of Lords for 20 years, serves on the World Committee on Disability, and chairs the Executive Board of the International Islamic Christian Organisation for Reconciliation and Reconstruction, a group that aims to promote stronger relations between Muslims and Christians. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

Attending the luncheon were (from left) SBM International Law Section Chair Jeffrey Paulsen, Armenian American Bar Association President Diane Margosian Paulsen, Baroness Caroline Cox, Bloomfield Township Clerk Jan Roncelli, and Bloomfield Township Trustee Corinne Khederian.



Courtesy photo

Former Vice President Cheney and Newsman Schieffer Among Those Celebrating 100th Anniversary of President Ford's Birth

A panel discussion featuring former Vice President Dick Cheney and longtime CBS journalist Bob Schieffer highlighted two days of events in Grand Rapids commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Gerald Ford.

Also participating in the May 6 Centennial Birthday Celebration tribute dinner hosted by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel were Ford's son, Steve; and Ben Stein, a former Ford speechwriter-turned-actor. Among other topics, the quartet discussed Ford's role in healing a nation reeling from the Watergate scandal, the war in Vietnam, and an energy crisis. That same night, former national security advisor Brent Scowcroft, who was Ford's deputy assistant for national security affairs, received the 2013 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Earlier in the day, Steve Ford and Henry Kissinger, Ford's secretary of state, joined in a discussion at a Grand Rapids Economic Club luncheon.



Panelists at the May 6 tribute dinner were Steve Ford, former Vice President Dick Cheney, Bob Schieffer, and Ben Stein.

The Ford family also took part in a May 7 ceremony celebrating the opening of a new exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The exhibit, called "Growing Up

Grand," focuses on Ford's upbringing in Grand Rapids. Ford was born June 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska, and moved with his mother to Grand Rapids as an infant. ■