

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

On July 31, the ADR Section presented a highly acclaimed teleseminar on the RUA. Please share your ideas for other ADR-related seminars with Bob Wright at bob@thepeacetalks.com or (616) 682-7000. Our section promotes ADR and collaborates with other sections to provide speakers and tailor programs to their subject areas. Please contact Section-to-Section Chair Dick Barron at rmorleybarron@gmail.com or (810) 487-1368 to discuss collaborative programs. Watch for upcoming public service announcements from the section on the “Michigan Meditates!” program.

Appellate Practice Section

In June, the Appellate Practice Section Council voted to recommend a rule change eliminating Michigan Court of Appeals docketing statements and approved its comment in favor of permitting reply briefs to responses to applications for leave to appeal in the circuit court and Court of Appeals. It was noted that MCR 7.203 had been amended (effective September 1, 2013) to clarify that an order assigning a case to a business court may not be appealed.

Business Law Section

Join us on September 26 in Novi for our annual meeting event, which includes an educational seminar, business meetings, presentation of the Schulman Award to Daniel Minkus of Clark Hill, and cocktail reception. Business Boot Camp basic training for business lawyers will take place November 4–5 in Grand Rapids and January 23–24, 2014, in Plymouth. Visit our website, watch for our monthly e-newsletter, or join our LinkedIn groups to learn about section events.

Criminal Law Section

The annual program will be held 9–11 a.m. on Friday, September 20 at the Lansing Center and will consist of two moderated panels. Judges, attorneys, corrections officers, law enforcement, and mental health representatives will discuss lessons learned

from the pilot project on problem-solving courts and concerns that remain when addressing the unique challenges that arise when people with mental health care needs reach the legal system.

Environmental Law Section

Our annual summer program featured water law and climate change updates for 40 attendees and included a keynote address by Lana Pollock, U.S. chair of the International Joint Commission. Attention now turns to the fall conference and election of ELS officers and council on September 19 in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting. The electoral slate offered by the Nominations Committee is online at <http://www.michbar.org/environmental/>. Visit the site often for up-to-date section information.

Family Law Section

The QDRO/Taxation Committee successfully spearheaded passage of HB 4054—the “EDRO bill”—which took effect May 16, 2013. This act filled a gaping hole in the law. Public Act 2013-32 implements a 60-day window after rejection by the state to “fix” problems with EDROs. Tremendous effort was expended by Robert Treat, Bill Kandler, Joe Cunningham, Rebecca Shiemke, and other members of the committee, for which the Family Law Section Council is most appreciative.

Health Care Law Section

The Health Care Law Section has recently updated its website. Past seminars, programs, and hand-out materials are available at <http://www.michbar.org/health/hcseminars.cfm>.

International Law Section

The ILS will hold its annual meeting and program on Thursday, September 12 (note the change of date) at the University of Michigan Law School. The meeting will be held jointly with the law school's International Transactions Clinic to celebrate the ILS's 25-year anniversary and the clinic's 5-year anniversary. The program will consist of three panels of distinguished speak-

ers on international transactions and a keynote speaker. Please save the date. Details to follow.

Master Lawyers Section

Crystal Mountain Resort is the site of the Master Lawyers Section's summer conference, August 16–19, focusing on career transition planning, marketing, and the wise use of tablet technology and social media. For more information and to register, log on to <http://www.michbar.org/mastersection/>. The section encourages its members to become mentors. If you are interested in mentoring a young lawyer, visit the State Bar of Michigan's Mentoring Center at <http://www.michbar.org/programs/mentorcenter.cfm>.

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

The Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section's annual meeting will be held on Friday morning, September 20, in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting at the Lansing Center. Assistant Attorney General Margaret Nelson will speak on the topic of governmental immunity. There is no charge to attend. Please join us!

Real Property Law Section

Mark your calendars! The next Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtable is scheduled for October 24 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m., followed by the roundtables from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. More information will be available at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/roundtables.cfm>.

Taxation Section

The Taxation Section recently launched the Pro Bono Tax Program with its first training held at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. Many thanks to those who made this effort possible, and special thanks to Paul V. McCord for making the program a reality. Also of note, the section filed an amicus brief in *Malpass v Dept of Treasury* and *Wheeler v Dept of Treasury* (consolidated cases) with the Michigan Supreme Court. ■