

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The ADR Section is developing valuable programming for attorneys in many fields of practice. If your members are interested in topics such as choosing a mediator or arbitrator, preparing clients for a mediation or arbitration, planning strategy for a negotiation or mediation, the pros and cons of combining mediation with arbitration, or if you have any other ADR issues on which you would like programming, contact Section-to-Section Committee Chair Don Gasiorek at [dgasiorek@gmgpc.com](mailto:dgasiorek@gmgpc.com) or Section Chair Toni Raheem at [arllaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arllaw@sbcglobal.net).

## Consumer Law Section

The section provided testimony opposing the repealing of the Michigan pre-foreclosure negotiation provisions—the “90-day law.” See Senate Bills 380, 383; and House Bills 4765, 4766. Of significance, SB 383 created an inherent right for the purchaser at a sheriff’s sale to inspect the exterior and interior of the homeowner’s property during the redemption period. On July 3, 2013, the governor signed into law these amendments that will take effect January 10, 2014.

## Criminal Law Section

The 37th Annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference will be held over the President’s Day Weekend (February 15–17, 2014). The program has been revamped to include conference sessions that are closer together in time. Shanty Creek Resort is offering reduced all-inclusive rates, with ski and non-ski packages, and room-only rates for conference participants. More information will be posted in our newsletter and on our website. Questions? Contact Steve Taratuta at [staratut@waynecounty.com](mailto:staratut@waynecounty.com) or (313) 224-5770.

## Environmental Law Section

Presentations from the ELS Joint Conference—“Michigan’s Environment in 2013 and Beyond: Developments and Emerging Issues in the Management and Regulation of Air, Water, Energy, and Waste”—cosponsored with the East and West Michigan chapters of the Air & Waste Management Association, are available on our website. The fall *Michigan Environmental Law Journal* is also available. Visit the ELS website at <http://www.michbar.org/environmental> for the most up-to-date information.

## Family Law Section

The section welcomes the newest council members, elected at the annual meeting. Colleen Markou is actively involved in family law litigation and mediation. She is a volunteer at the free clinic and a member of several local bar associations in Kalamazoo. Matthew Catchick is in private practice in Southfield. He is an active member of the Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb bar associations and has a range of family law, civil, and criminal defense experience.

## Health Care Law Section

The section hosted a teleconference in November covering “Changes to the Hospital IPPS.” Please see the section’s web page at <http://www.michbar.org/health/home.cfm> for a listing of upcoming teleconferences and events, as well as materials and audio downloads from past presentations. Section council members will be working on pro bono initiatives following tabulation of results from a current member survey.

## Insurance and Indemnity Law Section

Our section held a joint event with the Negligence Law Section on November 19, which included a program regarding the new Michigan business courts. We have also implemented our new electronic searchable directory of members. If you are a member, please sign up to add your name to this valuable resource. For more information or to get involved with the section, please contact Elaine Pohl at [epohl@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:epohl@plunkettcooney.com).

## Labor and Employment Law Section

Save the following dates as our section gears up for two major events. First, our holiday party is set for December 12 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Birmingham Country Club. Second, our mid-winter meeting will be held January 24–25, 2014, at the Detroit Athletic Club. As the dates for each event approach, registration information will be mailed to members and will also be available on the section’s web page at <http://www.michbar.org/labor/>.

## Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

We welcomed 2013–2014 council and committee chairs at the September 20 an-

nual meeting. Student scholarships were awarded to Marilyn Feather, Oakland University; Heather Ungarten, Madonna University; and Cierra Griffin, Macomb Community College. Thank you to attorney Margaret Nelson, who presented “A History of Governmental Immunity in Michigan Law.” A paralegal cruise, “Paralegals Navigating Perilous Waters,” is set for January 31–February 3, 2014. Enjoy practical education, networking, and 20+ CLE credit offerings. For cruise details, visit <http://paralegalcruise.com/>. Section information is at <http://www.michbar.org/paralegal/home.cfm>.

## Probate and Estate Planning Section

Tom Sweeney is the new chairperson of the 23-member Probate and Estate Planning Section Council. The section will continue to carry out its mission to “enhance and improve the practice and administration of the law pertaining to probate and estate planning.” Our efforts this year will again focus on legislation and court rules, and providing accurate information to Michigan residents regarding health care decision making for the elderly and infirm.

## Real Property Law Section

Register today and save! The 2014 Annual Winter Conference, “Making a Smart Gamble: Understanding the Current Landscape of Commercial Real Estate Development in Michigan,” will be held March 13–15, 2014, at The Palazzo Resort Casino Hotel in Las Vegas. The program coordinator is Thomas A. Kabel of Butzel Long. Registration and hotel information is available at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/winterconf.cfm>.

## Taxation Section

The Taxation Section wishes to thank its outgoing chairperson, Wayne Roberts, for his many years of dedicated service. Wayne has passed his gavel to Lynn Gandhi, who will serve as chairperson for fiscal year 2014. Upcoming section events include the Business Entities Committee Meeting, “Purchase Price Allocations and Related Issues,” on December 5 at the Honigman offices in Detroit; and the Annual Tax Tribunal Lunch on December 6 at the Honigman offices in Lansing. ■