

Appellate Practice Section

At its December meeting, the Appellate Practice Section Council discussed the findings by the Ad Hoc Committee on Probate Appeals and voted to support legislation. The council also discussed passage of PA 661 involving campaign financing, which has been presented to the governor but has not yet been signed. The council considered whether to draft a letter to the governor requesting that he veto the legislation, but decided without motion not to take any action in this regard.

Criminal Law Section

It's not too late to register for the 37th Annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference, held February 15–17 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire. The conference includes a review of high-impact court decisions and a discussion on eyewitness identification with members of the Eyewitness ID Task Force. For Criminal Law Section members, advance registration is only \$25 at <http://e.michbar.org> (until February 11). Onsite and nonmember registration is \$30. Questions? Contact Steve Taratuta at staratut@waynecounty.com or (313) 224-5770.

Family Law Section

On February 1–8, more than 40 section members, spouses, and companions enjoyed “CLE in the Sand” at Peter Island in the British Virgin Islands. Three mornings of seminar presentations by Judges Jan Cunningham, David Hoort, Karen MacDonald, and Jay Quist and section members Natalie Alane, Brent Bowyer, Jim Harrington, Ric Roane, and Meri Anne Stowe highlighted the CLE presentations. Many thanks to the presenters and Mid-Winter Chair Judy O'Donnell.

Health Care Law Section

The section will offer a teleconference on February 26 (“Anatomy of a HIPAA Breach”), is working on future teleconferences covering internal investigations and pharmacy hot topics, and is collaborating on programs with other State Bar sections.

In conjunction with ICLE, the section will host its 20th Annual Health Care Law Institute in March 2014. Please see <http://www.michbar.org/health/> for more information. The section's Publications Committee has issued its call for authors on selected topics for the year.

Master Lawyers Section

Believe it or not, there will be a summer, and the Master Lawyers Section is making plans for its annual summer conference to be held August 8–10 at the Doherty Hotel in Clare. Stay tuned for conference details and golfing opportunities. Mark your calendars now.

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

The State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section awarded the January 2014 Shining Star Award to Vanessa A. Lozzi. Congratulations, Vanessa! Submit nominations for the Shining Star Award at <http://www.michbar.org/paralegal/shiningstaraward.cfm>. The *Michigan Paralegal* seeks submissions. Contact editor Doreen Defauw at drae328129@yahoo.com. Mark your calendar for the next section Meet & Greet on March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Black Finn in Royal Oak. Stay tuned via the section's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/State-Bar-of-Michigan-ParalegalLegal-Assistant-Section/421047361287823>.

Prisons and Corrections Section

The Prisons and Corrections Section has scheduled two spring conferences: “Juvenile Offenders: Preparing for the Next Step,” will be held March 7, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., at MSU College of Law in East Lansing. The section's annual training conference will be held June 21, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., at the State Bar of Michigan in Lansing. Watch for registration information soon.

Public Corporation Law Section

The PCLS thanks Prof. Daniel Ray for his presentation on legislative prayer practice and the Establishment Clause by live

webcast from Cooley Law School campuses and the Law Student Section for cosponsoring the event. The Winter Seminar will be held February 7 at The Baronette Renaissance, Novi. Registration was mailed to members and is available at <http://www.michbar.org/publiccorp/>. The 2014 PCLS/MAMA Summer Educational Conference is scheduled for June 20–21 at Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs. Watch the section's web page for registration information.

Real Property Law Section

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

Social Security Lawyers Section

Throughout 2013, multiple attacks were made against the Social Security Disability program. Congressional hearings were held, and possible “reforms” to program policies loom. Fortunately, the acting commissioner repealed the unpopular policy of claimants being prevented from learning the identity of the administrative law judges assigned to hear their cases. The Social Security Lawyers Section dedicates its time not only to formally opposing potentially adverse administration policies but also to organizing three seminars annually.

Taxation Section

The Taxation Section Estates and Trusts Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, January 22 at the Skyline Club in Southfield. The meeting featured a technical discussion led by George Gregory on the net investment income tax application to trusts and estates, including the newly released final regulations. ■