

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

SBM Representative Assembly

At its April 26 meeting in Lansing, the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly created a special committee to summarize the comments and recommendations made at the meeting and incorporate them into a report in response to Administrative Order 2014-5, which established the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on the Role of the State Bar of Michigan. The report will be submitted to the task force or directly to the Supreme Court as soon as practicable.

The Assembly voted to recommend that the Supreme Court adopt an addition to MCR 2.602 and also to recommend an amendment to MCR 2.305, the adoption of an amendment to MCR 2.003, and the adoption of an amendment to MCR 2.403. To find out more about these proposed court rule changes, visit <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/repassembly.cfm>. ■



SBM Representative Assembly Chair Kathleen Allen addresses the Assembly members.

Photos by Tammy Allen

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SBM Representative Assembly members listen to a presentation during their April 26 meeting in Lansing.

SBM Honors Journalists with McCree Awards at Journalism Hall of Fame

On April 13, the State Bar of Michigan presented Wade H. McCree Jr. Awards for the Advancement of Justice to reporters at the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame banquet in East Lansing. The McCree Awards are given each year to reporters who have

worked to foster greater public understanding of the inherent values of the legal and judicial system.

The first McCree Award went to WXYZ-TV's investigative journalism team including Ross

Jones, Randy Lundquist, Ann Mullen, Ramon Rosario, and Johnny Sartin. Their series of reports called "Guilty and Gone" looked into the serious problem of felons in Wayne County running and hiding for years after being arrested and convicted of violent crimes. Over one 120-day stretch during the WXYZ investigation, judges continued the bond of 77 guilty men and women who skipped their sentencing dates and remained free. The second McCree Award went to *Detroit Free Press* reporter Jim Schaefer for an experimental live blog project that ran during the entire six months of the Kwame Kilpatrick corruption trial. The blog regularly had up to 18,000 unique daily visitors. The third McCree Award went to a team of MLive Media Group journalists including John Agar, John Barnes, Gus Burns, Fritz Klug, and Scott Levin, who put together a series analyzing 10 years of serious crime and police manpower reports and discovered that even as police ranks dwindled across the state, Michigan's citizens had never been safer. The analysis covered more than 500 departments and 2.3 million reported crimes in Michigan. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

From left to right: SBM President Brian Einhorn; MLive Media Group's John Barnes, Scott Levin, and Fritz Klug; WXYZ-TV's Ross Jones; Detroit Free Press's Jim Schaefer; SBM McCree Award Subcommittee Chair Robin Luce-Herrmann; MLive Media Group's Gus Burns; SBM Law and the Media Committee Chair Tom Howlett; and SBM President-Elect Tom Rombach.

SBM Board Conquers Young Lawyers in Annual Bowling Tournament

The State Bar Board of Commissioners eked out a two-pin win over the leaders of the Young Lawyers Section—the fifth straight year they've triumphed in the annual bowling tournament. The groups raised \$230 for the Access to Justice Fund. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

SBM President Discusses Diversity in the Legal Profession at Keith Center



Photo courtesy of Wayne State University Law School

Brian Einhorn, center, president of the State Bar of Michigan, and Jocelyn Benson, interim dean of Wayne State University Law School, speak with Prof. Peter Hammer, director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. Einhorn visited the law school's Keith Center on March 6 for a tour of the facility and discussions about civil rights and diversity in the legal profession. Joining Einhorn during the visit were Janet Welch, executive director of the State Bar; Greg Conyers, the Bar's diversity director; and Savala Nolan, director of the law school's Damon J. Keith Collection of African-American Legal History. Einhorn earned his law degree from Wayne Law in 1967. ■

Elliott-Larsen Milestone Finds a Permanent Home

The State Bar of Michigan's 37th Michigan Legal Milestone, commemorating the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, has found a permanent home in the State Law Library, housed within the Library of Michigan in Lansing. A brief dedication ceremony celebrating the milestone plaque's permanent home was held April 25 in Lansing.

A larger ceremony featuring bill cosponsors Daisy Elliott and Mel Larsen was held in the Michigan Capitol Building in August 2012. The Michigan Legal Milestone program is overseen by the SBM Law Related Education and Public Outreach Committee. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

Ann Arbor Community High School Wins Mock Trial

Ann Arbor Community High School claimed a victory over Grand Blanc High School at the 2014 Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament finals on March 29 in Lansing. The tournament, run by the Michigan Center for Civic Education, consisted of four regional competitions in Macomb County, Pontiac, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids; the top 10 teams moved on to the state championship. The state champion advanced to the national championship on May 10 in Madison, Wisconsin. ■



Photo by Tammy Allen

Ann Arbor Community High School students and their supporters celebrate their state championship win in the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament.

Correction

Amy N. Morrissey's "Probate and Estate Planning Theme Introduction" (May 2014, p 23) referenced proposed statutory changes in anticipation of enactment: "Provisions of EPIC and the Mental Health Code were modified to allow probate judges to schedule certain hearings on guardian and conservator matters for minors younger than 18. See MCL 330.1609, 700.5303, and 700.5306." Senate Bills 0144, 0176, and 0177 relating to these proposed statutory changes have been referred to committee, but have not yet been enacted.