

Agricultural Law Section

Thanks to all who attended and participated in our annual meeting. The meeting's speakers were excellent. Congratulations to our new officers and council members. February 12, 2016 is the 2nd Annual Student Ag Law Symposium at MSU Law. The call for papers is posted on LinkedIn, so please share. We plan to hold informal section meetings in 2016. Please submit your ideas for potential topics and speakers. Questions? Contact Jeff Haarer at haarerj@michigan.gov or (517) 284-5642.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

On November 12, the ADR Section co-sponsored with the Business Law Section a workshop on the business courts. Eight business court judges from counties in southeastern Michigan participated in the program, held in Troy. The section held another in its series of "lunch and learn" tele-seminars on November 16 with a presentation on elder care mediation. The section also conducted a one-day training session on arbitration in Lansing on November 18.

Appellate Practice Section

The Appellate Practice Section's mission is to promote the skillful, efficient, and effective practice of appellate law and to advance the administration of justice in the appellate courts. Your thoughts and ideas for accomplishing that mission are welcome. Please share any suggestions for action or improvement that you may have with the council by contacting Gaëtan Gerville-Réache, chair-elect, at greache@wnj.com or (616) 752-2207.

Criminal Law Section

The 39th annual Mid-Winter Ski Conference will be held over the President's Day Weekend, February 13–15, 2016. The revamped program is being presented again, with conference sessions timed closer on Sunday. Shanty Creek Resort is offering conference participants reduced all-inclusive rates with ski and non-ski packages in addition to room-only rates. More information will be posted in our newsletter and on our website. Questions? Contact Steve Taratuta at staratut@waynecounty.com or (313) 224-5770.

Environmental Law Section

The ELS "Fourth Wednesday" webinars continue bringing relevant environmental

topics to a wide audience. Let us know what *you'd* like addressed in 2016. To obtain timely notice of upcoming events and access to the *Environmental Law Journal* and materials distributed at events, please visit <http://connect.michbar.org/environmental/home> and be sure to join the section when you renew your State Bar membership!

Information Technology Law Section

Edward F. Langs Writing Awards provide up to \$3,000 for distribution among up to six law student essays that contribute to the knowledge and understanding of information technology law. Winning essays are published in the *Michigan IT Lawyer*. For consideration, essays must be submitted by June 30, 2016. For more information, visit <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw/newsletter/news>. Please share this opportunity with law school faculty, staff, and students who may be interested.

Insurance and Indemnity Law Section

The Insurance and Indemnity Law Section is pleased to announce the creation of the Hal O. Carroll Leadership Award. The section presented the award to Carroll at its business meeting during the 2015 State Bar Annual Meeting in recognition of his outstanding leadership and many contributions to the section.

Latin American Bar Activities Section

The Latin American Bar Activities Section thanks the members who came to the annual meeting and welcomes its new officers: Mayra Rodriguez, chair; Lawrence Garcia, chair-elect; and Frank Ortiz, treasurer. On November 10, the section partnered with the Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan for an event at Vicente's. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Cesar Chavez Academy Scholarship Fund. The council looks forward to a wonderful and productive year. More information on events and programming will be provided.

Litigation Section

At its November 12 council meeting, the section discussed the meetings schedule for the 2015–2016 term and the annual Litigation Section summer conference. We encourage all members to become involved in the section and to consider a council position. Please visit our website at <http://connect.michbar.org/litigation/home> for more information.

Marijuana Law Section

The Marijuana Law Section will host its annual meeting on Friday, January 8, 2016, from 10 a.m. to noon at the State Bar building, 306 Townsend Street, Lansing. The agenda will include adopting the section's bylaws, electing officers and council members, and strategic planning in light of recent cases and legislation. Current chairperson Bernard Jocuns will host the meeting. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Mary Chartier, section secretary/treasurer, at mary@alanechartier.com.

Probate and Estate Planning Section

Please join us at our next section meeting on December 19 at The University Club of MSU in Lansing. Our topics and discussions are almost always lively and informative. We continue to encourage all section members to attend and participate, especially those looking to do something impactful within our practice areas. For instance, we often work on several legislative initiatives and amicus requests at a time, so extra help on substantive committees is always welcomed.

Real Property Law Section

Register today and save! The Annual Winter Conference, "Development in the Desert," will be held March 3–5, 2016, at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona. Glen M. Zatz of Bodman PLC is the program coordinator. Register information is available at <http://connect.michbar.org/realproperty/home/winterconf>. To reserve your room, call (800) 354-5892 and ask for the Real Property Law Section 2016 Winter Conference rate or reserve online at Westin Kierland.

Workers' Compensation Law Section

The Workers' Compensation Law Section is holding its annual meeting and hall of fame reception June 16–18, 2016, at Boyne Mountain Resort. The hall of fame committee is now seeking nominations for 2016 inductees. If you wish to make a nomination, please contact a member of the hall of fame committee: Chris Rabideau, Ella Parker, Bill Housefield, and Chuck Palmer. All nominees must be attorneys and retired or semi-retired. ■