

# UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

## SBM Dedicates 41st Michigan Legal Milestone: "First to Abolish the Death Penalty"

The State Bar of Michigan, in partnership with the Detroit Bar Association, dedicated the 41st Michigan Legal Milestone on November 6, commemorating Michigan's standing as the first government in the English-speaking world to outlaw capital punishment for murder and lesser crimes in 1847. In 1962, under the leadership of young attorney Eugene Wanger, a bipartisan majority of delegates to the state's constitutional convention voted to add a new constitutional ban stating, "No law shall be enacted providing for the penalty of death." Michigan is the only state whose constitution bans the death penalty.

The ceremony took place at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit and featured SBM President Jennifer Grieco and SBM Executive Director Janet Welch as emcees. Speakers included Brian Summerfield, president of the Detroit Bar Association; David Chardavoyne, law professor and author of *A Hanging in Detroit*; Eugene Wanger, lawyer, author, and delegate of the 1963 Michigan Constitutional Convention; and Robert Sedler, Wayne State University Law School professor.

The milestone plaque is on display in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center lobby. Special thanks to the SBM Public Outreach and Education Committee, the Detroit Bar Association, the Third Circuit Court, and the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority. ■



Left to right: SBM President Jennifer Grieco, Hon. Robert Colombo, Prof. Robert Sedler, David Chardavoyne, Eugene Wanger, and Hon. Milton Mack



SBM Public Outreach and Education Committee Member Helen Haessly, Chair Allen Moizny, and Past Chair Jeffrey Paulsen



Hon. Robert Colombo, Jennifer Grieco, and Brian Summerfield

## Introducing Perma Links

By John O. Juroszek, Michigan Bar Journal Committee



Hon. Milton Mack; SBM Michigan Legal Milestone Program Founder and Past President George Roumell; and Mark Armitage



Nora Hudson and Hon. William Giovan

Photos by Samantha Meinke

It's a new year and the Perma Link is here! Beginning with this issue, many of the endnotes for articles will include a Perma.cc "Perma Link" as part of the citation.

Lawyers cite authority all the time. Citing caselaw, law review articles, treatises, and the like is pretty straightforward. You give a volume number, a page, a year, an edition, etc. Those parameters don't change. Internet materials, however, are a whole different matter.

Websites have what is called a URL, a unique internet address that generally begins with "www." or "http://." The basic citation for a website gives that URL. But websites change all the time, and they disappear with alarming frequency. If a lawyer cites web-based material, a reader who wants to read that material a year later might find something entirely different at that URL or be totally unable to find the web page, seeing only the dreaded 404 Error page. The problem is called "link rot."

The Michigan Bar Journal Committee has concluded that using Perma.cc is the best solution to the link-rot problem. Perma.cc is the brainchild of Harvard Law School's Library Innovation Lab (<https://lil.law.harvard.edu>), and you can find a great deal of fascinating information

about Perma Links and the whole subject of link rot by visiting <https://perma.cc>. Creating a Perma Link effectively takes a snapshot of the existing web page and creates a new link to that snapshot with a new URL that *never* goes away. Anyone who goes to the Perma Link will see the same material that the author cited. Problem solved.

Perma Links were originally designed for use in scholarly articles. The Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals, however, became the first courts to use Perma Links in their opinions, and dozens more courts have followed their lead.

Anyone can create a limited number of Perma Links for free, and Perma.cc offers more extensive services designed for law firms. Using Perma.cc when citing web-based authority in documents filed with a court is a smart idea and is recommended by both *The Bluebook* and *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Doing so ensures that the court will always be able to find what you cited. Visit <https://perma.cc> or contact the Perma team at [info@perma.cc](mailto:info@perma.cc) to find out more.

But in the meantime, check out the Perma Links in this issue. ■