

environmental



THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR is pleased to sponsor this environmental law issue of the *Bar Journal*. The section celebrated its 20th year during the State Bar's Annual Meeting in September, noting that it is the oldest environmental law section of any state bar in the nation.

The cover of this issue is a painting prepared by noted Michigan artist Russell Cobane and commissioned by the section to commemorate its 20th anniversary. The painting depicts many environmental cases, controversies, and events in Michigan during the past 30 years.

Articles in this theme issue discuss topics that show the growth and breadth of environmental law. Richard Barr and John Byl discuss how redevelopment of contaminated sites occurs through brownfields initiatives. Charles Toy and Mike Leffler outline the ever-important criminal aspects of environmental law. Tom Stephens and Alma Lowry update us on emerging environmental justice issues. Chris Dunskey describes landowners' duties with respect to contamination existing on or under their property, and Jim

Olson discusses precedent for preventing diversion of Great Lakes water.

Some articles may be controversial, but all will enlighten the reader. Although the articles illustrate several differing viewpoints of the section's members, the section does not endorse positions taken by the authors.

We encourage readers who wish to learn more to join the section and receive the *Michigan Environmental Law Journal*. Published quarterly by the section, the *Journal* contains informative articles on current environmental law topics similar to those contained in this issue of the *Bar Journal*.

An important mission of the Environmental Law Section is education of members of the Bar. In 1992, the section prepared the *Michigan Environmental Law Deskbook*, published by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. The *Deskbook*, used by practitioners, courts, agencies, consultants, and nonlawyers, has proved to be a valuable practical treatise. The section is preparing a second edition of the *Deskbook* to bring it up to date in the new decade. Readers should look for the second edition in 2003.

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