

UpFront

By Mike Eidelbes

50-Year Honoree Golden Celebration Sets Record

Photos by Bryan Esler



SBM President Dennis Barnes presents a commemorative pin to one of the more than 120 attorneys honored at the 50-Year Honoree Golden Celebration on September 27 in Novi.

More than 120 attorneys from the class of 1969 convened in Novi on September 27 to commemorate a half-century in the profession as part of the State Bar of Michigan's annual 50-Year Honoree Golden Celebration. More than 350 people in all attended

the luncheon at the Suburban Collection Showplace, held in conjunction with the SBM Annual Meeting. The 128 attorneys who registered for the celebration comprised the largest class in the event's history. ■



SBM President Dennis Barnes speaks to a full house at the 50-Year Honoree Golden Celebration.

Goetz Named Head of Attorney Grievance Commission



Courtesy photo

In September, the Michigan Supreme Court appointed Michael Goetz as grievance administrator for the state Attorney Grievance Commission.

Goetz comes to the AGC from the state Attorney General's Office, where he worked for six years as senior assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division's Drug Interdiction Unit. A 1983

graduate of Michigan State University who received his law degree from the Detroit College of Law in 1988, Goetz has more than 30 years of experience as a prosecutor at the state and county levels.

"Mr. Goetz has both the management skills and professional experience to make sure the AGC continues to protect the public and hold the legal profession accountable," Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack said. "Just as important, [he] has a deep commitment to public service and great ideas on how to engage the public and the bar in the commission's critical mission."

The Attorney Grievance Commission is the investigative and prosecutorial arm of the Michigan Supreme Court for allegations of attorney misconduct and has jurisdiction over all attorneys licensed to practice law by the State Bar of Michigan and attorneys otherwise permitted to practice in the state. ■

SBM Board of Tellers Certifies 2019 Election Results

The members of the State Bar of Michigan Board of Tellers met in Lansing in July to certify the results of the 2019 SBM elections. Among this year's races were three contested seats for the Board of Commissioners, five contested seats for the Representative Assembly, three contested seats for the SBM Young Lawyers Section Executive Council, and one contested seat for the Judicial Tenure Commission. ■



Left to right: State Bar of Michigan Board of Tellers members Ernschie Austin, Jeffrey Barker, and Nicole Evans.

Courtesy photo

Dykema Hosts Detroit Urban Debate League Tournament

On September 18, the Detroit office of Dykema Gossett welcomed local high school students participating in the Detroit Urban Debate League for the first debate of the 2019–2020 school year.

The topic for the debate was “Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce direct commercial sales and/or foreign military sales of arms from

the United States.” In addition to participating in the debate league’s season-opening tournament, students heard presentations from Dykema attorneys Lew Loss, who also serves as general counsel for the Commission on Presidential Debates; and Boyd White, a Detroit Public Schools alumnus.

The Detroit Urban Debate League is a non-profit organization that gives area high

school students the opportunity to prepare for and compete in policy debate tournaments. Participants spend up to 20 hours a week researching debate topics and studying argumentation, critical thinking, and oratory skills. The league, which started in 2009 with 44 debaters, now boasts more than 180 debaters representing 15 schools. ■

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