



Tidbits

It is time for a rapid-fire brief summary about numerous things going on at your State Bar. If you want additional information on any of these topics, please e-mail me at the address below.

- The ABA Special Commission charged with modifying the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility has finished its work and the amended rules were passed at the ABA meeting in February 2002 in Philadelphia. The State Bar of Michigan's Ethics Committee is revising those rules.

- Plans are proceeding for a celebration of the state's new Hall of Justice on October 12. This fall, for the first time in our state's history, Michigan's judicial branch of government will have its own home in our seat of government.

In honor of this occasion, the State Bar of Michigan and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society are hosting "Foundations of Justice," an evening celebration in the impressive building itself. The event is a benefit for the Learning Center, an innovative, interactive learning environment in the Hall of Justice, designed to teach schoolchildren and the visiting public about the fundamentals of the judicial branch of government. Reservations are \$250 per person.

- In the works is a cooperative effort of the Attorney Grievance Commission, the State Bar of Michigan, and law schools to develop a mass disaster response plan to be used in the event of a mass disaster such as a plane crash. Such a plan would coordinate efforts of the legal profession to aid victim's relatives and protect them from the few lawyers who would violate our ethics rules by engaging in improper solicitations.

- Look for a dramatically changed and hopefully much improved Annual Meeting this year. (Only you can tell us if it is an improvement or not.) For the first time, the planning is actively involving judges, and judicial training and joint activities will be integrated into the program. In the works are many other changes, including an address by Chief Justice Maura Corrigan.

- Our expenses will remain on target to allow for a balanced budget.

- The Bar is implementing our Strategic Plan's directive to increase the publication and dissemination of information on legislative developments important to the

profession. We are making greater use of our website and e-mail resources, including links on our website (www.michbar.org) to text and to information needed on an expedited basis.

The first use of this technology in the legislative context was the provision of information on House Bill 5112, a bill of potential significance to the judicial system that was moving too rapidly to allow the Bar to take a position. Many of you let us know that you appreciated the timely information.

- Efforts continue as previously reported on developing the Bar's future role in e-commerce (including e-filing).
- The Bar's work on cyber-court rules is reflected in the proposed rules recently published for comment by the Michigan Supreme Court. Members are encouraged to review these rules and add their thoughts to this groundbreaking project.
- Much staff work has gone into creating an April directory issue of the *Bar Journal* that is as accurate and useful as is humanly possible.

As I am only beginning to understand first-hand, the first day of spring has arrived only to tease us into believing that we are through with snow and cold weather. Good weather or bad, however (and we all may even define that differently), I remain grateful to live in a free nation and a beautiful state. ♦

Share your thoughts/concerns

Please forward comments to voice@mail.michbar.org