

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Not long ago, courses in negotiation theory and practice, trial advocacy and advocacy before alternative forums, or in alternate processes of dispute resolution were absent from law school curriculum. You might be amazed at what's offered today in these topics that help you serve your clients. Take a look at your alma mater's website, and at courses offered by ICLE and ADR Section programs. What could you be learning now that you didn't learn then?

Animal Law Section

U.S. Senator Carl Levin will receive the section's Brandi Award for his support of animal-friendly legislation, in particular his sponsorship in 2003 of S. Res. 269 urging Canada to end commercial seal hunting. Detroit Zoo Director Ron Kagan receives the Sadie Award in recognition of his decision to send Wanda and Winky, two Asian elephants, to a sanctuary in a warmer climate based upon consideration of what is best for them. More information: Contact Bee Friedlander, beefriedlander@yahoo.com.

Appellate Practice Section

Set aside the afternoon of Thursday, September 30, 2004. At 2:00 p.m., the Appellate Practice Section's annual meeting program will take place, followed by a short business meeting. This year's program will focus on amicus curiae practice in Michigan's appellate courts, and our panel will include some of Michigan's most prominent appellate judges and practitioners. The meeting will be in Lansing, at the Lansing Center, room 103. Contact John J. Bursch (616.752.2474) for more information.

Arts, Communications, Entertainment & Sports Section

Please join Former Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan and ACES members at our annual meeting on October 1st at 2 p.m. Former Chief Justice Brennan is the founder of the American Golf League, www.agl.us. The American Golf League was established to organize and operate major league, professional,

golfball in America. It is envisioned that the AGL will take its place among other leagues as a viable, popular, respected vehicle for providing sports entertainment to the public.

Children's Law Section

Concerns were raised by Lawyer-Guardian Ad Litem (L-GAL) in child neglect cases, regarding compliance with statutory duties under MCL 712A.17d. Chief Justice Corrigan discussed the L-GAL issues on March 16. The meeting resulted in a legislative work group and proposed legislation.

The CLS Annual Training Conference covered such topics as: Indian Child Welfare Act, Internet Research, Juvenile Competency, Muchausen Syndrome, MRE 703 Expert Opinion Evidence, and Case Law Update, and L-GAL training for 90 attorneys.

International Law Section

As a result of the recent tightening of economic sanctions with respect to Cuba, the International Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan has made a decision to defer its planned trip to Cuba. At such time as circumstances permit the trip, members of the State Bar will be notified.

Judicial Conference Section

The Michigan Judicial Conference is sponsoring a Supreme Court Candidates Forum, Friday, October 1, 2004 at the Lansing Center, in conjunction with the State Bar of Michigan's Annual Meeting. Vice Chairperson Judge Kathryn J. Root, Chief Judge of the Oscoda County Probate Court is in charge of the program. All are welcome to attend.

Legal Assistants

Is your firm utilizing legal assistants to maximize efficiency and profitability? Friday, October 1, 10:00 a.m., Lansing Center, Room 204, Daniel Ray, Esq. of Eastern Michigan University will present an overview of legal assistants, a model to compare the cost-efficiency of associates and legal assistants and legal assistant utilization guidelines. All State Bar members are welcome. Attorneys: Join us and learn how legal assis-

tants can improve your practice and your bottom line!

Negligence Law Section

The *Trial Practice Book* provides an excellent overview of practice tips and case law for all phases of the civil litigation process.

Send orders to: 12690 Grand Willow Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. Member \$25.20, Non-Member \$35.80, please include 6% sales tax and \$4.00 for S&H. Make checks payable to: State Bar of Michigan. Orders will be shipped in October or purchase a copy during the Section's annual meeting, October 1, 2:00–3:00 p.m., Lansing.

Prisons & Corrections Section

The day and time of the Prisons & Corrections annual meeting has been changed to Friday, October 1, Business Meeting, 9:00–10:00 a.m., Lansing Center Room 103, Program (in conjunction with the Criminal Law Section), 10:00–noon, Room 202.

Probate and Estate Planning Section

On Saturday, September 11, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., all members are invited to attend the Section Annual Meeting and Forum on Legislation and Specialization at the University Club in Lansing. The agenda includes:

- votes to amend the section's bylaws to increase the number of Council members from 15 to 18 and to elect Council members and officers
- open forum on legislation and lobbying and on possible State Bar sponsored specialization.

Young Lawyers Section

The YLS will host its *Financial Planning for Young Lawyers* seminar on September 23 at the Troy Marriott. For more information, contact Christopher Cobb at christophercobb@hotmail.com or (586) 693-4486. The YLS will host a *Writing Seminar*, featuring Nancy Harbour, in October. Exact time and location TBD. For more information, contact Elias Xenos at EXenos@HSMlawoffices.com. ◆