

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Responding to recent State Bar bylaw changes, the section extended affiliate opportunities to non-lawyers. Recognizing that non-lawyers often serve as mediators and arbitrators, ADR Section members opened an avenue to provide those professionals with a voice in the section's deliberations. With the approval of the section council, non-attorneys are now welcome to join the ADR Section as non-voting affiliates.

## Appellate Practice Section

Effective January 1, expedited summary disposition docket in the court of appeals. Appeals of summary disposition orders will generally be briefed, argued, and disposed of within six months of filing. Highlights: 28 days to file appellant's brief; 21 days to file appellee's brief; 35-page limit for briefs. Cases can be removed from the expedited docket by motion of the parties or the court. Read the Order at <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Resources/Administrative/AO-2005-4.pdf>. Contact John Bursch (616.752.2474) for more information.

## Arts, Communications, Entertainment & Sports Section

ACES has officially adopted as policy a proposed Right of Publicity statute for the State of Michigan. A sample of this draft is available on the ACES Section on the State Bar website or from the ACES chair, Richard Hasley at 248.543.2880. This proposed statute will be discussed at the next ACES meeting December 1, at Union Street Restaurant, Detroit, 313.831.3965. Our speaker will be State Representative Randy Richardville.

## Business Law Section

On November 10, the Commercial Litigation Committee sponsored a panel discussion among in-house counsel about their businesses' approach to and experience with mediation and arbitration... The Eastern District Bankruptcy Court is expected to adopt new local rules dealing with Chapter 11 to be effective December 1. A seminar is scheduled on the new rules for the afternoon

of December 17, 2004 at WSU Law School. A sponsor is the Debtor/Creditor Committee.

## Elder Law and Advocacy Section

The section council continues to closely monitor developments on Medicaid funded services for long-term care. This includes ongoing efforts to prevent the introduction of an "estate recovery" law. As of the date this column was prepared, no such legislation has been introduced. The section's annual fall conference was very successful, with over 100 participants and several nationally recognized speakers. Lisa Lepine of Macomb County was sworn in as the chairperson for 2004-2005.

## International Law Section

The new officers of the International Law Section are: Chairperson, Randolph M. Wright; Chairperson-Elect, Bruce D. Birgbauer; Secretary, Lois E. Bingham; and Treasurer, Scott T. Fenstermaker. The new elected Executive Council members are Frederick J. Frank, Sheryl L. Adle, William H. Dance, and Carla S. Machnik. The next council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 18th at 4:00 p.m., at Berry Moorman, PC, in The Buhl Building, 535 Griswold, Suite 1900, Detroit, MI 48226.

## Labor & Employment Law Section

The section's annual business meeting and educational program held on September 30, in conjunction with the State Bar, was well-attended and a great success. Members are now looking forward to the section's premier event, the annual mid-winter meeting on January 28-29, 2005 at the Ypsilanti Marriott. The highlight of the Friday night dinner will be presentation of the section's Distinguished Service Award to Carl E. Ver Beek of Grand Rapids.

## Law Practice Management Section

Officers for 2004/2005: Joan P. Vestrand, Chair; Vincent Romano, Chair-Elect; Michael Fraleigh, Vice-Chair; Ernest Gifford, Treasurer; Gary Bauer, Secretary. The coun-

cil has an aggressive slate of initiatives for the year. The section will be working with the State Bar to bring meaningful education to members in the area of law practice management. We will work on similar initiatives with ICLE and serve on their planning committee for the next Solo/Small Firm Institute in October 2005.

## Legal Assistants Section

Announcing Listserv: All members have been subscribed to an announcement list, which will be used for information on upcoming events and other important issues. A discussion list is also available. If you haven't received an email announcement, we don't have your email address. Please contact us or go to <http://groups.michbar.org/> and click on "LegalAssistants." Save the date! Our annual education seminar will be in Lansing on May 6, 2005. More details to follow.

## Real Property Law Section

On January 13, Lisa Gretchko, Howard & Howard Attorneys PC and Paula Osborne, Butzel Long, PC will present "What Every Real Estate Practitioner Needs to Know About Bankruptcy Law." This seminar will be held at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy. During the Jimmy Carter Build for Habitat for Humanity, June 19-24, the section will sponsor a house. Donations and workers needed. For more information, contact Arlene Rubinstein at 248.644.7378 or LAWAI@aol.com. ♦