

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The ADR Section is pleased to have the ADR 2003–2004 Summary of Cases prepared by Gregory T. Gerik, under the supervision of Mary A. Bedikian and George T. Roumell, Jr. The Summary provides reviews of state and federal decisions from throughout the United States that have implications for arbitration and mediation. The Summary is available on the section's website. Special thanks to Greg, Mary, and George for making this important work available to the profession.

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.

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 federal tax law drastically reduces the marginal tax rate concerning foreign earnings reinvested in the United States.

This is accomplished by an 85 percent dividends received deduction for certain dividends received by a U.S. corporation from a controlled foreign corporation. In the case of a corporation earning income at the highest marginal federal tax rate (35 percent), the tax on qualifying reinvested foreign earnings would now be 5.25 percent. This reduction is for a limited time.

Labor & Employment Law Section

The Annual Mid-Winter Meeting will be held at the Ypsilanti Marriott, January 28–29. The featured speaker Friday night will be Jay Carney, Time Magazine's Deputy Washington Bureau Chief. The section's Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Grand Rapids attorney Carl E. Ver Beek. The Saturday morning educational program will include employment law updates, a panel discussion of the ADA, FMLA, and Workers Compensation statutes, and a "View from the Bench" by Hon. Gerald Rosen.

Real Property Law Section

On February 3, Michael Luberto, Chirco Title Company, and Douglas Smith, Land-America Financial Group, will present "What Every Real Estate Practitioner Needs to Know About Title Insurance." This seminar will be held at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy. "Florida Law for Michigan Real Estate Attorneys" will be presented at the March 10–12 Winter Conference, National Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. For more information on all section activities, call Arlene Rubinstein at 248.644.7378 or email LAW1@aol.com.

Senior Lawyers Section

Several members completed a 24-hour training to provide pro bono mediation services to a program initiated by Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. The section is also completing its Young Lawyers Section disk, providing articles from prominent attorneys dealing with the initial practice of law, covering the topics of professionalism, financial planning, separating personal and professional life, avoiding grievances and malpractice claims, and mentoring. The disk will be provided to each new member of the Bar. ♦