

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The ADR Section's Annual Meeting will be held September 8-9 at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant. The day and a half of activity will include practice enhancement information, skills development, entertainment, recreation, and networking. Topics will focus on effective ADR practices throughout the country and the prospects for some of these practices being incorporated into Michigan courts and practice. Please mark your calendars and watch for the announcement of details and registration information.

Appellate Practice Section

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 17, when the Appellate Practice Section will present an Economics of Appellate Practice seminar. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi, and it is free to section members. Please contact Mike Updike for more information.

Business Law Section

The Business Law Institute is coming! June 3-4 at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mount Pleasant. The Business Law Section Officers and Council are updating the section's strategic plan. Your thoughts or ideas are welcome and should be passed along to any member. Interested in getting involved with the section? Lots of opportunities are available. Pick up the phone or send any officer an e-mail.

International Law Section

According to International Trade Attorney Andrew Doornaert, companies may use a

Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) to avoid Customs duty in the U.S. and other countries. A FTZ is a physical location within the United States designated as "outside of the commerce" of the U.S. for purposes of U.S. Customs.

Labor & Employment Law Section

The section was one of the cosponsors of ICLE's 30th Anniversary Labor & Employment Law Institute held in April. There will be some vacancies on the section council for terms beginning with the September 22 Annual Meeting in Lansing. Nominations are also being solicited for the section's Distinguished Service Award. Interested members should consult the Spring 2005 issue of the section's quarterly journal *Lawnnotes* for details.

Law Student Section

The section hosted the First Annual State Bar of Michigan One L Oral Advocacy Competition on Feb. 19. Forty law students from across the state attended the competition, which was created to give "One Ls" an opportunity to practice oral advocacy before their intra-school competitions. The section also held its annual Comedy for a Cause event April 1. This year's beneficiary is the Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocates Association (<http://www.childcrt.org/casa.html>), which will receive \$200.

Legal Assistants Section

Legal assistants throughout Michigan have plenty to celebrate this May. Two reasons in particular are Governor Granholm's declara-

tion of Legal Assistant/Paralegal Day on May 3 and observance of the 15th anniversary of the Legal Assistants Section. In addition to various events on May 3, a celebration will be held at the section's annual education seminar on May 6. Check out the Summer 2005 issue of *The Michigan Paralegal* for highlights and photos of the celebrations.

Probate & Estate Planning Section

Amendment to Michigan Court Rule 5.784 to broaden the rule to cover proceedings concerning durable powers of attorney for mental health treatment:

1. Amends MCR 5.784 to broaden its scope to include proceedings concerning durable powers of attorney for mental health treatment.
2. Effective: March 8, 2005
3. Adds language to the rule that acknowledges the change in the statute, which allows a patient advocate to make mental health treatment decisions effective January 3, 2005.

Real Property Law Section

The Summer Conference "Real Estate Transactions: From Dirt through Development" will be held July 20-23 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City. Program chairs are Richard Rattner, of Williams, Williams, Ruby & Plunkett, PC, and Ronald E. Reynolds, of Berry, Reynolds & Rogowski, PC. Further information on all section activities can be found on our website at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/> or call Arlene Rubinstein at 248-644-7378.

Taxation Section

The 2005 Annual Tax Conference will be held May 26 at St. John's Golf & Conference Center in Plymouth (off the corner of I-275 and M-14). Stacy Eastland will speak about FLP discount issues and current tax topics. IRS employees will review the "best practice" standards to be imposed upon tax practitioners and U.S. Tax Court Judge David Laro will discuss various practice issues. Visit the calendar of events link at www.michigantax.org for registration information. ♦