



Nancy J. Diehl

Cruising

I am cruising into the end of my year. One of the best parts of being Bar president is traveling to events all over the state and meeting lawyers. It is great to know that local bar associations and SBM sections are active and committed to the legal profession.

I shared with you the pride I have in being a lawyer and the fun I am having as president. I also talked to you about programs the

Bar provides, and am pleased that almost all of you take advantage of the daily *e-Journal*. I learned that about a third of you are using Michigan Law Online. And I was surprised that almost none of you were aware of our

Public Policy Resource Center or had recently visited the SBM website at www.michbar.org!

You shared with me your joys and frustrations in your law practice. I learned that the Bar needs to do a better job in making

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members aware of all the programs it provides. You gave me suggestions for improving programs at the Bar, some of which I am pleased to say have already been acted on. I was glad to hear that many of you have perused the SBM website since I visited you, and you have put the directory shortcut on your desktop.

But most of all I learned what kind of lawyers we have in Michigan. You are actively involved in sections, committees, and local and affinity bar associations. You are networking and taking advantage of educational opportunities. You are working diligently on behalf of your clients and giving back to your communities. And you appreciate having fun and laughing as much as I do!

I thank you for the privilege of representing the more than 37,000 lawyers in our state. It has been a great ride. In looking at the Michigan map, it appears that I have missed the northeast part of the state. Not purposely—I have traveled where invited. However, my year is not over yet. I am visiting two more bar associations in September, and I still have plenty of gas left to cruise to those events! ♦