

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Register today for the 5th Annual Advanced Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Institute on March 16, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth. Keynote speaker and presenter Nina Meierding is a nationally recognized leader in the field of conflict resolution and mediation. Twenty-four breakout sessions, moderated by leading practitioners and judges, will cover negotiation, mediation, arbitration, marketing, and the judiciary, with ample time for networking. Don't miss this important, informative event!

## Elder Law and Advocacy Section

The section held its annual Fall Conference in Gaylord last October. The theme was housing issues, with an emphasis on long-term care, and we were joined by many of Michigan's long-term care ombudsman. State Representatives Alma Wheeler-Smith and Tom Pearce were panelists on public policy issues. Feedback from conference attendees was extremely positive. Mark your calendars for the Spring Conference in Troy on April 7 and the Fall Conference on Mackinac Island, September 13–15.

## International Law Section

Attorneys with experience advising clients on the protection of intellectual property rights in China are needed to serve as volunteer lawyers for the Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) China IPR Advisory Program, cosponsored by the ABA-International Law Section, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the American Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Manufacturers. The China IPR Program will provide SMEs with free one-hour consultations with an experienced volunteer lawyer. Interested? Go to [http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/china\\_program.html](http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/china_program.html).

## Law Student Section

The section will sponsor the 2nd Annual Oral Advocacy Competition for 1Ls on Saturday, February 11 at the Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. The event was very successful last year, attracting more than

60 law students from across the state. Lawyers and law professors are needed to serve as judges; prior judging experience is not required. Volunteer judges and first-year law students interested in competing may contact Christopher Topa, section chair, at [cjtopa@avemariaweb.com](mailto:cjtopa@avemariaweb.com).

## Legal Assistants Section

The Legal Assistants Section is pleased to announce that Cheryl J. Nodarse, CLA was appointed council member for 2005–2006 to fill the vacancy created by the election of Heather A. Hill, CLAS as chair-elect. The term runs through September 2006. Ms. Nodarse has been a legal assistant for over 15 years and currently works at Hubbard, Fox, Thomas, White & Bengtson in Lansing.

## Probate & Estate Planning Section

Probate Court Rule changes were adopted by the Supreme Court effective November 15, 2005. Modifications were made in the

following areas: administrative closing of conservatorships and follow-up procedures; sale of real estate (SEV required); commencing decedent estates (death certificate or other proof of death required); inventory fee calculation (secured loan deduction allowed); optional social history form for minor guardianships; and conservatorship accountings, including proof of restricted accounts.

## Real Property Law Section

The January 12 Homeward Bound seminar, "Real Estate Due Diligence Part 2: Drafting Traps in the Purchase Agreement, Understanding Due Diligence Reports, and Deadlines for Economic Development Incentives" will be held 3:30–6:30 p.m. at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy. Speakers are Brian P. Henry, Jason Horton, Nicholas G. Maloof, and Steven D. Sallen. For more information on all section activities, visit our website at <http://www.michbar.org/realproperty/> or call Arlene Rubinstein at (248) 644-7378. ♦