

**2006-2007 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT  
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

**Section Name:** Children's Law Section

***Mission Statement***

The Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, this site, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan. Statements made on behalf of the Section do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar of Michigan.

***Officers and Membership:***

**Chair:** Evelyn C. Tombers, Lansing

**Chair-Elect:** Mary C. Pino, Saint Johns

**Secretary:** Katrina Dawn Martin, Charlevoix

**Treasurer:** John H. McKaig, II, Mancelona

***Council Members***

**Term Expiring 2007:**

Karen Gullberg Cook, Beverly Hills

Alicia M. Fabiano, Grand Rapids

William E. Ladd, Detroit

Robbie L. Powelson, Ishpeming

R. William Schooley, Ypsilanti

Carol A. Siemon, Lansing

**Term Expiring 2008:**

Sean A. Blume, Detroit

Suzanne Culliton Stephan, Ann Arbor

Jennifer D. Wood, Ithaca

**Term Expiring 2009:**

Mayssa Attia, Eastpointe

John Forczak, Ypsilanti

Musette A. Michael, Lansing

Jenifer Lyn Pettibone, Lansing

Jennifer A. Pilette, Detroit

Amanda L. Roggenbuck, Cass City

**Representatives from other Sections:**

**Criminal Law Section** Neil O'Brien, Charlotte

**Commissioner Liaison:**

Kiffi Y. Ford, Lansing

***2006-07 Council Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

1. October 11, 2006; November 11, 2006; December 6, 2006; January 10, 2007; February 7, 2007; March 7, 2007; April 11, 2007; May 9, 2007; June 6, 2007; July 11, 2007; August 8, 2007; all at the State Bar of Michigan building, Townsend St. Lansing.

Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday after the first Saturday of the month.

***Events/Seminars:***

The Section held its annual training on February 19, 2007, at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, in Lansing, Michigan. Topics included Trauma & Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure on Child Functioning Legal Implications to child welfare and juvenile justice; Using Minor Guardianships in Child Protective Proceedings; a Case Law Update; Involving Children in Court Proceedings – Hearing Their Voices; and Lost and Alone on Some Forgotten Highway, ASFA, Binsfeld and the Law of Unintended Consequences.

The Section also co-sponsored, with Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, training for legislators on May 8, 2007, entitled “Stop the Cycle: Cost-effective Interventions to Reduce the Criminalization of Youth with Disabilities.”

In addition, in March 2007, two Section Members, Frank Vandervort and Evelyn Tombers, trained children’s lawyers on behalf of the State Court Administrative Office in Appellate Issues in Child Protective Proceedings.

**Article VIII, § 1**

***Every Section and State Bar entity so directed by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year which shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before May 31. Annual reports may not exceed five 8 1/2" x 11" pages unless a waiver of this limitation is approved by the Executive Director.***

Please submit your report via e-mail to [smcmann@mail.michbar.org](mailto:smcmann@mail.michbar.org)

***Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan***

The State Bar of Michigan has provided meeting space and food for each Section Council meeting. In addition, the State Bar has provided copy services and registration services for the Section’s annual training. The Section has reimbursed the Bar for the food and copy services.

***Future Goals and Activities:***

The Section will continue to fulfill its mission by providing training to Michigan lawyers and recommendations and input to State Legislators considering legislation that affects Michigan’s children and its child welfare system. In addition, the Section will continue to further access to justice for those underserved populations – children and their families.

***Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:***

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Sections and Committees Administrator*