

**2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

Section Name:

Criminal Law Section

Mission Statement:

The Criminal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, the State Bar's Website, public service programs, a listserv, and publication of a newsletter. The purposes of the Criminal Law Section are to study criminal law and procedure in Michigan, make recommendations to the State Bar, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the general public concerning improvements to the Criminal Justice System, to promote justice and the efficient administration of justice, and to protect the public and individual rights.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: Daniel P. Levy
Chair Elect: Matthew P. Smith
Secretary: Opolla Brown
Treasurer: Kenneth M. Malkin

Council

Members: Michael J. Brady
David E. Gilbert
James Shonkwiler
Stephen J. Gobbo
Charles H. Marr
Patrick M. O'Connell
M. Jon Posner
Hon. John T. Hammond
Erika S. Julien
Barbara R. Levine
Ralph C. Simpson
Stephen M. Taratuta
Mary C. Pino
Martin P. Krohner
Enid Livingston
Ronald J. Schafer

Ex Officio: Graham L. Teall, Past Chair
Bruce Timmons, Legislative Counsel
Elaine M. Spiliopoulos, Newsletter Editor

Council Meeting Schedule (date and location)

The Criminal Law Section met the second Tuesday of each month at:
Lansing Sheraton Hotel
925 South Creyts Road
Lansing, Michigan.

Events and Seminars

2007-2008 was another productive year for the Criminal Law Section. The year began at the State Bar's Annual Meeting where the Section sponsored a well attended, and perhaps a little bit prescient, program examining the issue of how "Sentencing and Parole Practices Collide with our State Budget."

Our annual President's Day Weekend Ski Conference at Shanty Creek Resort saw attendees hearing presentations focusing on the use of confidential informants and the unique issues they present for prosecutors, defense counsel and the courts. Also included was instruction on the use of PowerPoint presentations in the courtroom. As it is every year, the highlight of the conference was our traditional review of recent high-impact court decisions by Timothy Baughman, Chief of Research Training & Appeals for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

During the course of the year, Council meetings included discussions with members of the state legislature involved with issues important to the Criminal Law Section. Counsel representatives are actively involved in ongoing discussions on possible reform of the preliminary examination process, the criminal defense system, and custodial interrogation rules. On the latter issue the Council continues to support efforts to document the costs and benefits of mandating the video taping all such interrogations.

While the low point of the Criminal Law Section's year was undoubtedly the need to pass our resolution upon the passing of a founding member and former Section Chair, the Honorable Terrance K. Boyle (<http://www.michbar.org/criminal/pdfs/boyle.pdf>); the high point is just as certainly the announcement that a long serving Council member, also a former Section Chair, Bruce Timmons is to receive a Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Servant Award at this year's Annual Meeting.

The Section's Annual Meeting program this year will be "The Future of Michigan's Public Defense System: Free Fall, Free-for-All, or Fixed -- Once and for All?"

Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan:

The State Bar provides accounting, mailing and listserv services to the Section. Of note, the section continues to increasingly rely on, and appreciate, the support of the State Bar's Public Policy resources and personnel.

Future Goals and Activities:

The Section intends on maintaining its current level of programming – offering seminars to its membership, which will enhance their practice skills. Critically, the Section will continue to seek consensus amongst its membership with respect to policy issues affecting the practice of criminal law in Michigan, and to promote these positions in discussions with policy makers. The Section plans to continue to offer, and to improve, a substantive newsletter and to expand on its use of the Section listserve. The Section's financial health is quite good as the Section seeks to provide value to its membership for what remains one of the lowest Section dues in the State Bar.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.M.L.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel M. Levy, Chair of the Criminal Law Section