

**ANNUAL REPORT, 2008-2009**  
**PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

In addition to our usual work of producing 11 monthly volumes of articles, columns, features, notices, and letters, the Committee and our staff turned our hands to some signal achievements this year.

First, in response to heightened concerns about global warming (and inexorably rising postal rates that tracked the equally inexorable growth of the directory), we did a survey to find out if members still want to receive a print directory issue (the “twelfth book” we publish annually), and, if so, what directory features they actually use. Using the survey results, we retained the print directory (members were overwhelmingly in favor of continuing it), but deleted several features deemed non-essential by survey respondents. *Every feature removed, we hasten to add, is instantly available on the State Bar website at the click of a mouse!* We also selected a lighter weight, groundwood paper, which requires less water and energy to produce than the stock we had been using. The result is a greener, lighter, and easier to use directory that, though it may not look very different to the casual observer, reflects many hours of thought and effort by the Committee and staff.

Meanwhile, we continued to refine and upgrade the State Bar’s website (<http://www.michbar.org/> - put it in your browser if you have not already!), which has been completely redesigned over the past two years. If you have not visited it recently, you should explore it. Use the Google search function to locate what you are looking for, check out the (soon to be added) national legal publications search portal we obtained as part of our new licensing arrangement with HeinOnline, or rove among the decade’s worth of *Bar Journal* articles now available in electronic form at the touch of a key.

With the *generous* assistance of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, to which we take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks, we partnered with the Supreme Court Historical Society to publish essays about the 20 “top cases” decided by the Michigan Supreme Court in the over 150 years of its illustrious history. In a four-part series entitled “The Verdict of History,” we included in the December 2008 through March 2009 issues of the *Journal* perforated inserts containing the essays of Hillsdale College history professor Paul Moreno analyzing the impact of these pivotal decisions. This project represented the culmination of over six years of hard work and planning by Historical Society President Wallace Riley and the (modestly anonymous) six-member committee that selected the cases for inclusion out of the nearly 500 volumes of the Michigan Reports. We hope that this feature proved to be interesting and enlightening for our members. It will serve as a suitable memorial for the late Dorothy Comstock Riley, who conceived and founded the Society in 1988, when she was Chief Justice of the Court.

Last year’s short story competition was received so favorably that we reprised it this year. Though the judging is incomplete at this writing, it appears from the almost 30 entries we received that interest still runs strong, and we have several worthy submissions. Though we probably will not do this annually, now that we have tapped our members’ pent-up creativity, we will surely do it again periodically, after giving those of our members with a literary bent an interval to restock the collective oeuvre.

Finally, we boast of the national recognition we received this year: the National Association of Bar Executives’ Communications Section’s “Luminary Award,” given in recognition of communications excellence. The credit – and there is more than enough to go around – goes to our editor, Linda Novak; her assistant, Joyce Nordeen; Media and Public Relations Manager Naseem Stecker; Michael

Eidelbes, our Media Coordinator; our Advertising Director, Stacy Sage; Research Assistant Lisa Barwick; Member Services & Communications Director Nancy Brown; our design house, CiesaDesign; and to all of the members of what James Brown surely would have called “the hardest working committee in the State Bar business,” the Publications and Website Advisory Committee. To them all, and to you, our readers and authors, we say, thank you for a year of great accomplishments.

Frederick Baker, Jr., Chair  
Publications and Website Advisory Committee