

JACKSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010

Bar Meeting – Save the Date

Our next Bar Meeting will be Thursday, March 25, 2010, at Bella Nottes, with cocktails starting at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is free to all paid Bar Members, so if you have not yet paid your dues but would like to attend, please pay prior to the meeting. The speaker is State Bar of Michigan President Charles Toy. We will be taking donations for United Way of Jackson County. **Please RSVP to Bar President Marie Matyjaszek, no later than March 19, 2010: (517) 787-0351 or matyjasz@hotmail.com.**

Representative Assembly Activity

Message from Susan Murphy:

Nominations are now open for two State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly awards. The first award, the Michael Franck Award, is given to an attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the legal profession. The second award, the Unsung Hero Award, will be presented to a lawyer who has exhibited the highest standards of professional practice and commitment for the benefit of others. Recipients of both awards must be members in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan. The recipient's contribution may have been made during the past year or by virtue of cumulative effort or service.

Please note that the deadline for nominations for both awards is Friday,

February 19, 2010. Information will be on the State Bar website at www.michbar.org. Click on "SBM General Information," then "Representative Assembly," then "Representative Assembly Awards." If you would like information on the nominations mailed to you, please contact Anne Smith via email: asmith@mail.michbar.org or telephone: (517) 346-6374 or (800) 968-1442, ext. 6374. Nominations should also be sent to Anne Smith at the following address: Anne Smith, Representative Assembly Awards, State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933. The Assembly's Nominating and Awards Committee, chaired by Jeff Nellis, will review the nomination applications and make a recommendation to the Representative Assembly at its March 27, 2010 meeting.

Anyone with questions concerning the Representative Assembly, please contact Susan Murphy at: smurphy@cityofjackson.org, or (517) 788-4050.

Jackson County Friend of the Court

The Jackson County Friend of the Court requests that all practitioners use the **March 2009** version of the SCAO form "**Uniform Child Support Order,**" and to cease using any older versions of this form.

Circuit Court Docket Changes

Judge McBain and Judge Schmucker have agreed to switch part of their dockets. All of Judge Schmucker's criminal docket was transferred to Judge McBain, and all of Judge McBain's civil docket was transferred to Judge Schmucker, effective January 13, 2010. However, this change will not affect any case which is under advisement or any case that is set for trial within 28 days from January 13, 2010. Judge Schmucker has also been assigned ½ of Judge McBain's docket of domestic cases which do not involve children (DO, PH and some DZ and PP cases). With regard to the domestic cases, Judge McBain will handle the even numbered cases and Judge Schmucker will handle the odd numbered cases. Judge McBain will be keeping all of his DM cases that he presently has. All new cases filed after January 13, 2010 will be assigned randomly and of the cases without children, Judge Wilson will receive 1/3 of the new cases, Judge McBain 1/6 and Judge Schmucker ½. For more information on this change, you can review the Administrative Order which is posted on the Court's website.

Holiday Party

Thank you to all who came to the Holiday Party and donated goods! They were delivered to the very grateful staff at the Interfaith Shelter.

Thank You from United Way

Dear Friends,
I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the attorneys for your generous contribution to the United Way of Jackson County's 2009 Community Campaign. Your contribution to this year's campaign already exceeded the total contributed by attorneys last year, and is very close to breaking the goal set by Brendon Beer and Phil Moilanen of \$12,000.

With your help, United Way of Jackson County will continue our mission to improve lives and create lasting change in our community. We are committed to keeping the safety net of basic needs services intact during this economic crisis. Meanwhile, our community solutions teams, which are made up of dozens of community volunteers, are pushing forward. Their job is to evaluate Jackson County's current position, future goals, and possible tactics in the areas of Education, Financial Stability and Health – the building blocks of a good life and a better tomorrow for our community. We have exciting work ahead of us.

On behalf of all those whose lives your gifts will touch, I thank you once again for your ongoing support of United Way. Together, we are creating lasting changes and truly improving lives.

Sincerely,
Ken Toll, Executive Director
United Way of Jackson County

United States District Court Eastern District of Michigan - Public Notice for Reappointment of Incumbent Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen

The current term of office of United States Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen at Detroit, Michigan is due to expire on September 10, 2010. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a Merit Selection Panel to consider the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Whalen to a new 8 year term.

The duties of a magistrate judge position include (1) the conduct of most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) the conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

Comments from members of the bar and public are invited as to whether Magistrate Judge Whalen should be recommended by the Panel for reappointment by the Court.

Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, 2010, and should be directed to: Merit Selection Panel, 814 Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48226.

Mediation Training

The Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan is conducting mediation training for people interested

in becoming mediators. Mediators facilitate resolution in a variety of contested situations, from small claims cases to neighborhood and family conflicts. The goal of mediation is to avoid or minimize litigation and preserve relationships. Mediators help parties reach consensus and then put their agreements in writing. A legal background makes a good foundation for becoming a mediator, and this training fulfills the MCR 2.411 training requirement to be listed on the court roster of approved mediators. However, individuals with other backgrounds and educational achievements are welcome to participate in this training.

The Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan is a non-profit organization and provides mediation services in Clinton, Ionia, Gratiot, Ingham, Eaton and Shiawassee counties. Typically the resolution rate for those electing mediation through the Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan is 80%. We have a roster of 70 mediators who volunteer their services to the community.

Training will be held at the State Bar Building in Lansing from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on February 18th, 19th and 20th, as well as March 4 and 5th, 2010. The trainer will be Anne Backle Fifer, an attorney and an experienced mediator and trainer.

Additional information and registration forms can be obtained by calling (517)

485-2274 or visiting the website: www.rscdm.org. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertisement Section of the Newsletter is new and free of charge to all Jackson County Bar Association Members. Non-members are given 1 free advertisement per year, with additional advertisements available for \$5 per ad. If you are interested in advertising, please contact President Marie Matyjaszek at (517) 787-0351 or matyjasz@hotmail.com. Ads may be edited for content, size and spacing as necessary. Drafts will be sent to the advertiser prior to publication.

Corey McCord opens new office

Corey McCord has opened a new office as a solo practitioner and is now located at 134 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 206. His new telephone number is (517) 784-2121, and he is currently taking new clients.

Office space for rent in Hurst Building

The Hurst Building located at 503 S. Jackson Street has space available for a professional practice. Lawyers, investment counselors, psychiatrists or insurance businesses are welcome to contact us at (517) 783-3300.

The space consists of two individual private offices and an open spacious reception/secretary area on the 2nd floor with lots of windows.

The space and rental fee could also include utilities, parking, etc. The building is fully wired with Category 5 wiring for high speed internet and online services.

The building is spacious, warm and quiet. It is tastefully decorated and, of course, located downtown at the corner of South Jackson Street and West Franklin Street. Please contact Dennis Hurst at (517) 783-3300 with any questions.

Fraternal Order of Police Country Tickets

The Bar Association has continued its sponsorship of the FOP and has received 6 tickets for the annual country show at JCC's Potter Center. The concert is Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., with the performers being T. Graham Brown and special guest The Van Lears. The Bar Association is giving these away for free to any Bar member that would like to have some or all of the tickets. If anyone is interested, please contact Bar President Marie Matyjaszek: (517) 787-0351 or matyjasz@hotmail.com.

Community Foreclosure Coalition

Please see the attached fliers regarding assistance to Jackson residents who may be facing foreclosure.

NALS Meeting

Please see the attached flier regarding NALS of Jackson County's upcoming meeting which will feature attorney Robert K. Gaecke, Jr. as speaker

regarding medical marijuana. The meeting will take place Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 12 p.m. in Judge Rappleye's Jury Room, located on the 4th floor of the Courthouse. The cost is \$5.00, which includes lunch of pepperoni pizza, Hawaiian pizza, salad and soft drinks.

Paralegal Summer Intern – Baker College

Baker College of Jackson is looking for lawyers and law firms that would be interested in hosting a paralegal student intern during our spring quarter. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Tracy A. Nothnagel, JD at (517) 841-4531 or Tracy.Nothnagel@Baker.edu.

Bar Association Dues

Any attorneys interested in joining the Bar should contact Bar Treasurer Corey McCord at (517) 784-2121. If you need another Dues Notice form, please contact Bar Secretary Peter Langley at (517) 788-4283. For Regular Members, the yearly cost is \$75; Young Members (those who have been practicing for less than 3 years) \$45; Lifetime and Honorary Members are free.

To have anything included in future Bar Newsletters, please contact Bar President Marie Matyjaszek at (517) 787-0351 or e-mail: matyjasz@hotmail.com.



Jackson County Bar Executive Committee

Marie F. Matyjaszek – President
Jessica J. Schirmacher – 1st Vice President
Brad A. Brelinski – 2nd Vice President
Corey McCord – Treasurer
Peter Langley - Secretary
Brec Vincent (now Thurlby)– Immediate Past President

INALS OF JACKSON COUNTY

MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010
12 NOON

MENU: Pepperoni Pizza, Hawaiian Pizza,
Salad, and Soft Drinks

LOCATION: Judge Rappleye's Jury Room
4th Floor, Jackson County Courthouse

COST: \$5 a person

PROGRAM:
Attorney Robert K. Gaecke, Jr.
- Medical Marijuana -



FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:
CHRIS REBESCHER
788-4050/990-6283

Attention Homeowners:

Trouble paying your mortgage? **Don't wait, Act NOW!**

1. Don't stick your head in the sand!
2. Open all your mail!
3. Contact your lender - let them know your situation.
4. Find out what you need to know and do to save your home - www.jlhcf.org
5. If you need help, Call a FREE Legitimate foreclosure counselor and not a con-Artist!

IN JACKSON COUNTY

CALL

Community Action Agency at (517) 784-4800 or (800) 491-0004

Or Jackson Affordable Housing at (517) 788-4626

BEWARE of Scams!

- 1) Don't pay anyone money to help you save your home! The legitimate help is free!
- 2) Don't trust anyone who guarantees they can save your home!
- 3) Don't sign anything you don't understand.



FOUNDING PARTNER



COMMUNITY
FORECLOSURE COALITION

JACKSON, LENAWEE & HILLSDALE

www.jlhcf.org

Attention Renters: Is Your Landlord Facing Foreclosure?

Protect Yourself from Eviction!

A new federal law creates new rights for tenants in foreclosed properties.

If you need help understanding your rights or feel you've been wronged,

FREE Help is Available!

IN JACKSON COUNTY

CALL (517) 787-6111 or (800) 676-9488

Legal Services of South Central Michigan
540 N. Jackson
Jackson, MI 49201

Protect Yourself from Scams!

NEVER pay money for help avoiding eviction from your landlord's foreclosed property.
ALWAYS contact your local legal services office for **FREE** legitimate legal aid.



FOUNDING PARTNER



COMMUNITY
FORECLOSURE COALITION

JACKSON, LENAWEE & HILLSDALE