

JACKSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011



Holiday Party

The Bar Association's 2010 Holiday Party was a great success, with a large turnout and many donations to the Interfaith Shelter. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped the area homeless.

Jackson Area Estate Planning Counsel Meeting will feature Judge Rappleye as Speaker

Chief Probate Judge Diane Rappleye will be the guest speaker for the Jackson Area Estate Planning Council's luncheon on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 from 12:00-1:30 pm at Bella Notte Restaurant. The Judge will be discussing her perspective on what is imperative in presenting to the probate court and recent or proposed changes in probate law. All members of the Bar are welcome to attend. The cost for the luncheon is \$15 per person, but is complimentary for members of the Estate Planning Council. Contact Cheryl Wykoff Pezon at (517) 787-9481 or cheryl@curtiscurtislaw.com for a reservation by February 8, 2011.

NALS Meeting

NALS of Jackson County will be having a meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 12 p.m., held in Judge Rappleye's courtroom on the 4th floor of the courthouse. The featured

speaker will be the new Family Court Referee, Susan Murphy.

Upcoming Meeting Information

The Bar's next meeting will be held in March 2011. Exact date, time and speaker to be announced soon via e-mail.

2011 Law Day

This year's Law Day will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Country Club of Jackson, 3135 Horton Road, Jackson. Law Day begins at 7:30 a.m. with a complimentary breakfast for attendees, courtesy of the Jackson County Bar Association and Comerica Bank. The speaker will be Bill Ballenger of Inside Michigan Politics. Please RSVP to Mary Sue Thome at Acro Legal Support Services, (517) 787-4472, by April 29, 2011.

Website Update

The Bar's website construction is underway and we hope to be up and running by the summer of 2011. The website will include basic information about the Jackson County Bar Association, current and previously published Newsletters, links to other legal websites, a member's directory, and a searchable feature that will allow visitors to locate a Jackson attorney that practices a particular area of law. The goal with this feature is to increase

the public's awareness of what Jackson attorneys have to offer.

Liberty Bell Award Nominees

The Liberty Bell Award recognizes outstanding service performed by a non-lawyer who has given of his time and energy to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of freedom under law. Such service may include activities that promote a better understanding of our form of government, especially the Bill of Rights, encourage greater respect for the law in the courts, educate people in the contrast between totalitarianism and freedom under law, or stimulate the deeper sense of individual responsibility to the end that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights. Please send any nominations to President Brad Breliniski at P.O. Box 766, Jackson, MI 49204, or brad@curtiscurtislaw.com, no later than March 1, 2011.

Representative Assembly News

The Representative Assembly's Nominating and Awards Committee, chaired by Jeff Nellis, is receiving nomination applications for State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly awards:

1. The Michael Franck Award -- presented to an attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the legal profession.
2. The Unsung Hero Award -- presented to an attorney 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.

Nominations are due Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Information is on the State Bar website at www.michbar.org. Click on "SBM General Information", then "Representative Assembly", then "Representative Assembly Awards".

Nominations should be sent to: Anne M. Smith, Representative Assembly Awards, State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933. For further information call the State Bar at (517) 346-6374 or (800) 968-1442 ext. 6374. The Committee will review the nomination applications and make a recommendation to the Representative Assembly at its April 9, 2011 meeting.

New Crisis Center for Area Teens

House of New Beginnings, Inc. has opened in Jackson, located at 729 W. Michigan Ave. in Jackson, with the mailing address of P.O. Box 1877, Jackson, Michigan 49204. This non-profit organization is designed to raise awareness, prevent and assist those affected by teen dating violence, sexual assault, and bullying. House of New Beginnings provides 24/7 advocacy

and crisis intervention to those affected by these issues. Please visit their website at www.houseofnewbeginnings.net, or call them at (517) 962-5081.

Robert Wiggins

Many of you may remember long-time Jackson County Circuit Court reporter Robert Wiggins. Mr. Wiggins passed away on January 13, 2011 at the age of 88. Bob and his wife Ann, who preceded him in death, often came to Bar functions and activities.

United Way Announcement from Attorney Division Chair Brendon Beer

Thank you to those who have responded with a pledge to the letter I sent in October asking for your support of United Way's annual community campaign. In the past, attorneys have been very generous with their gifts which have helped United Way of Jackson County create a better life for everyone in our community. If you have not pledged yet, the great news is that there is still time! The campaign is at 98% of its \$2 million goal and will wrap up in the next 4 weeks.

In the coming years, as our community works together to build a bright new future, United Way will continue to focus on Education, Financial Stability and Health as the building blocks to a good life. They need your help to continue funding over 40 programs

that will further the important work being done in those three areas.

I'm proud of what United Way has accomplished and excited to see our role in that success continue and grow. Again, thank you to those who pledged their support in 2010. If you have not had a chance to pledge yet, you can easily donate online at uwjackson.org, or call (517) 796-5119 to have a pledge form sent to you.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Welcome Back!

Attorney Andrew Kirkpatrick will be rejoining the law firm of Dungan, Lady and Dungan in March 2011. Andy will be taking new clients and focusing his practice on bankruptcy. He can be reached at (517) 783-3500, 503 S. Jackson Street, Floor 2, Jackson.

Free Fraternal Order of Police Country Tickets

The Bar Association has continued its sponsorship of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #70, and has received 6 tickets for the annual country show at JCC's Potter Center. The concert is on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 5 p.m. and the performers are "The Daryle Singletary Show." 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 Brad Brelinski at (517) 787-9481, or brad@curtiscurtislaw.com.

The Advertisement Section of the Newsletter is 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 Secretary 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.



Jackson County Bar Executive Committee

Brad A. Brelinski – President
Peter Langley – 1st Vice President
Rebecca Livingston – 2nd Vice President
Chadwick Perrine – Treasurer
Marie E. Matyjaszek – Secretary
Marie E. Matyjaszek – Immediate Past President

Bar Association Dues

Any attorneys interested in joining the Bar should contact Bar Treasurer Chadwick Perrine at (517) 592-2166. If you need another Dues Notice form, please contact Bar Secretary Marie E. Matyjaszek at (517) 787-0351. For Regular Members, the yearly cost is \$75; Young Members (those who have been practicing for less than 3 years) \$45; Lifetime Members are free.

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