



# OBITER DICTUM



IT'S A WHOLE NEW YEAR...

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## A time to say 'thank you'

Sure, the food and fellowship were great, the band terrific, and the dancing, um, expected. But the annual "Barristers' Ball" offered far more this year.

MCBA President **Brian Lang** presented gifts and heartfelt thanks to **Anna Urick-Duggins** for her service to the bar in years past and to **Jim Kobza** for his innovative **Law Education Fund** that now has amassed more than \$111,000.



**Honorees Anna Urick-Duggins and Jim Kobza, recognized for service to the association.**

State Bar President **Ronald Keefe**, a North Muskegon native, and his wife, **Marilyn**, joined us. He reminisced about his formative years here and the career tips he'd received from local attorneys of legend. He later sent a note thanking each of us for the

welcome received. The Keefes were "quite moved by the memories the evening evoked." He also noted the State Bar was well aware of the our associa-

tion's progressive programs that propel us to the forefront of local associations.

Contribute to MCBA Law Education Fund: 425 W. Western Ave, Suite 200, Muskegon, 49440.

**Wednesday  
9 January 2008:  
MCBA meeting,  
Noon at Muskegon  
Holiday Inn.  
Speaker: Paul Keep,  
publisher-editor,  
Muskegon  
Chronicle.**

**Friday, May 2, 2008:  
Law Day Celebration,  
the nation's 50th, at  
noon, Muskegon  
Holiday Inn. Theme:  
"The Rule of Law."  
MCBA is increasing  
award amounts this  
year. Urge your local  
schools to participate.**



**Mr. Keefe, center, renews friendships with Paul and Pat Ladas, (l) and Vern Kortering.**



**Mr. Keefe (r) and Brian Lang, MCBA president, congratulate Jim and Sue Kobza.**

# Parmenter O'Toole names Thornhill as partner

Parmenter O'Toole has named Thomas Thornhill as its latest partner.

Mr. Thornhill's practice is concentrated in the areas of business, commercial and real estate law, including real estate and commercial litigation. He has represented a wide variety of large and small public and private sector clients and individuals in complex financing transactions, contract matters and all aspects of real estate law including zoning, planning, land development and leasing. He also has special expertise in tax exempt financing.

Mr. Thornhill graduated from the University of Michigan in 1971 and obtained his law degree from Wayne State University, cum laude, in 1974. He was a Note and Comment Editor for the Wayne Law Re-



**Thomas Thornhill named partner at Parmenter O'Toole.**

view in 1973 and 1974. He is currently a member of the American Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association and the Muskegon County Bar Association.

For the past 28 years, Mr. Thornhill has been active in community affairs in the West Michigan area. He has served as the general counsel to the Economic Development Corporations of the County of Muskegon, the City of Muskegon Heights and the City of Norton Shores. He was a founding director of the Muskegon Economic Growth

Alliance and is currently active with the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce, Muskegon Area First, the Muskegon Lakeshore Development Task Force, and is a member of the advisory board of the Muskegon Salvation Army, and is Chairman of the Board of Child and Family Services of Muskegon.

# Fun at the MCBA's annual 'Barristers' Ball'



**Good food and music were plentiful at the Barristers' Ball. Roy Portenga and his band, Kar-ton Goodman, rocked the rafters.**



**Belinda Barbieri meets colleagues at the annual party.**



**Dan Bonner chats it up with friends as the evening starts.**



**Carolyn Marcus joins Caro and Curt Mabbitt for dinner.**



**Ronald Keefe, (r), greets honoree Jim Kobza after the awards ceremony.**