



OBITER DICTUM



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Volume 2, Issue 6: TWO PAGES

July-August 2008

Slice of history: MCBA's 1973 membership photos



R. Aloise Gillard



James Waters



Harry Knudsen



Hon. Richard Pasarela

1973: It was the worst of times, and the best. There was an energy crisis, thanks to unrest in the Middle East. There was domestic political upheaval with that little thing called "Watergate."

Although in some ways similar to today, 1973 was a black and white world as reflected in photographs of the day.

The Muskegon County Bar Association, like the legal profession in general, was dominated by white males. But times, they were a'changin.

Thanks to Joseph Bader, Chief Trial Attorney of the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office, we have a view into the profession as preserved on the MCBA's photo roster from 35 years ago. Men boasted sideburns. The only woman member, R. Aloise Gillard, relied on the trendy bouffant hairstyle.

Your rendezvous with history

The MCBA has almost completed its 2008 membership photo composite. Since Spring, Jay Jurkas of Realistic Photography, Muskegon, has been holding portrait sessions for the membership. The final scheduled shoot took place 23 July 2008 at the Law Library at the Kobza Hall of Justice.

If you missed a scheduled portrait, please contact Mr. Jurkas for a private session at his studio. [231-780-2554]. It's an important thing to do.

Mr. Bader located the abandoned composite photo and preserved it. We're in discussion now with John McGarry, director of the Muskegon County Museum, to determine if that institution not only might store the artifact, but also consider creating a display on the history of courts, law, and lawyers in Muskegon County over the decades.

"It's important to preserve the entire history of Muskegon County and certainly the law profession is an important part of that," Mr. McGarry said.

You can help. If you'd consider chatting for an oral history or have photographs of times gone by involving lawyers, judges, courtrooms, or anything related, please let us know. Also, we'd like to borrow artifacts such as the gavel of an early judge, and venerable texts. Contact mcbaobiter@yahoo.

Can you identify these 1973 MCBA members?



From left, members are:
Vern Kortering, Rick Reider,
Hon. John D. Ruck, Jim Stariha

Colleagues gather for annual summer steakfry



ABOVE: Dan Bonner, I. John Snider II, and Tony Tague talk politics.



Bob Chessman and Rick Tolle compare tonsorial concerns.



Hon. Michael Nolan, center, talks shop with Robert Hedges, left, and Joseph Bader, both of the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office.

BELOW: MCBA member Matt Miller with guest, Jennifer Racine, an attorney with a Cascade firm.



MCBA's summer fun agenda continues

MCBA members enjoyed the traditional summer steak dinner 10 July at the Muskegon Yacht Club. Unlike last year, threatening weather forced the feast inside, but sunshine prevailed. We're hoping that continues for the

Annual golf outing at Stone Gate, Twin Lake, already adjourned once due to inclement weather.

It's Wednesday 30 July. Cost is \$60 per person, \$120 per team. Registration is at noon with dinner following.

HEIR FORCE

Senior Assistant Muskegon County Prosecutor **Paula Baker Mathes** and her husband Brian welcomed their new baby boy, Beckett, into the world on April 19th.



The Class of 1973, continued



Chuck Silky



Jim Kobza



Paul Ladas

Officers for 2008-2009

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Board Members

David Waterstradt, Maria Ladas-Hoopes, Michael G. Walsh, and J. Christopher Wilson.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 30 July—MCBA Golf Outing, rescheduled date, at Stone Gate. Contact David Korterling at 231-728-6411 and LdKorterling@aol.com.

Friday 19 September—MSU College of Law: "Transforming Our Response to Sexual Assault: Civil Remedies for Survivors." Cost: Free but seating limited. See <http://www.mcadsv.org/Trainings/trainings.html>

Friday 5 December – MCBA Christmas Party, Muskegon Country Club, 5 p.m.

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