



OBITER DICTUM



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May-June 2008

Our profession welcomes 4 new attorneys



**Shanta Shanee Anderson-Williams—
Sponsor: Hon.
Gregory C. Pittman**



**Maureen Anne
Gottlieb—Sponsor:
Daniel F. Bonner**



**Vincent E. Carlson—
Sponsor:
Michael G. Walsh**



**Manda Jo Mitteer—
Sponsor;
Chris A. Houghtaling**



**Proud family
members look
on as County
Clerk Karen
Buie swears in
the newest
members of
the bar.**



MCBA membership changes board roster at annual meeting

MCBA membership at its annual meeting on 15 May 2008 voted in new board members and officers. This year's officers are:

Jenny L. McNeill, President;
John Schrier, Vice President;
David L. Bossenbroek, Treasurer;
Joseph Bader, Secretary

Those newly elected to the board are: **David Waterstradt**, **Maria Ladas-Hoopes**, **Michael G. Walsh**, and **J. Christopher Wilson**.



MCBA members (l-r) Chris Houghtaling, Jennifer Hyl-land, Nancy Hornacek, Melissa Drake, and Paul Ladas dine at Muskegon Country Club for annual meeting.

Upcoming Events
Thursday 5 June - Golf outing @ Stonegate. Contact: Dave Korterger.
Thursday 10 July – Steak Fry, Muskegon Yacht Club; 5:30 p.m. RSVP Sally 231-744-6218, williamssal@comcast.net.
Friday 5 December – MCBA Christmas Party, Muskegon Country Club, 5 p.m.

Annual Law Day gala celebrates 50 years



ABOVE: Jenny McNeill presents the 2008 Liberty Bell Award to philanthropist Robert Skolnik.

BELOW: James Lewis, winner of the 2008 Frank D. Scott Award for probation officers, poses with Mr. Scott, his mentor and former Liberty Bell Award winner for whom the award is named.



Hon. Maria Ladas-Hoopes presents the 2008 Golden Apple Award to educator Zeke Ohan, a teacher at Muskegon Heights High School. Mr. Ohan performed a mock trial for students and made learning about equal protection under law memorable and fun. Jenny McNeill: "Impressive innovation."



Hon. John C. Ruck, Chief Judge, 14th Circuit, poses with 60th District Judges Hon. Maria Ladas-Hoopes and Michael Nolan and 14th Circuit Judge Gregory C. Pittman with Hon. Jane M. Beckering, Michigan Court of Appeals, this year's keynote speaker. "Our courts are the great levelers" in our society, Judge Beckering said.



Lawyers' giving provides community scholarships

Not only do MCBA members contribute to the Law Education Fund used for annual scholarships, they also give of their time to judge speeches, essays, and art work created for the annual Law Day celebration. Judging

the high school speeches: **Hon. Michael Nolan, John McKendry, Shon Cook, Belinda Barbier, Bill Ashley.** Middle school essays: **Cara Fisher, Anna Urick Duggins, Michelle Heckman, Rachel Terpstra.**

Unique graduation day courts sobriety

By Hon. Andrew Wierengo III, Chief Judge, 60th DC

On May 9, 2008, the Muskegon County Sobriety Court conducted its second annual graduation in Judge Hicks' courtroom. Eleven participants received graduation diplomas from the Chief of Police of the jurisdictions in which they were arrested.

The sobriety court program lasted 18 months during which the participants engaged in extensive outpa-

tient therapy, attended AA classes, and underwent continuing alcohol testing and monitoring. The participants were also required to meet with the judge and sobriety court staff semi-weekly for evaluation and assessment.

During that period, the court bestowed upon the participants incentives for their continued sobriety and meted out sanctions when they failed to live up to expectations and requirements of the program.

The courtroom was packed for the 90-minute event. Several of the participants and staff gave testimonials as to how sobriety court had changed their lives. Many in the audience were moved by these testimonials as participants outlined their experiences, hopes, and dreams for a better tomorrow.

Attorneys who wish to join the sobriety court staff as a defense attorney are urged to call Chief Judge Andrew Wierengo at 231-724-6305 for further information.

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. All are doing well.

Melissa Drake is the proud mom of Sophia Christine Drake, dob 1/26/08 18 and ½ inches, 7.3 pounds.

Reversible Error

We misidentified a new member: **William J. Greene**, 801 W. Norton Ave., #462, Muskegon, MI 49441. Our apology.