



OBITER DICTUM

Obiter News:
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MCBA agrees to host 'PIP-2' next August

MCBA board members have approved hosting its second Party in the Park to raise funds for the Law Education Fund. Board members this week agreed to host the **Friday 17 August** Hackley Park gathering.

"If the weather is with us, we can repeat our outstanding premier performance," said **Mike Walsh, MCBA president.** "Our members and other volunteers worked hard to produce a memorable – and profitable – event."

Walsh credited members Jenny McNeill and Nancy Hornacek as the force behind the success of PIP-1. "As long as Jenny and Nancy remain on board, we'll have another success," Walsh said.

'PIP-1' dawned cloudy, but by "showtime" — late afternoon. — skies were sunny and the weather warm. Thanks to good weather, a good turnout, and a \$1,000 donation from Huntington National Bank, the association was able to raise \$4,000 for the Law Education Fund. The Fund provides money for annual Law Day scholarships to area youth.



Huntington National Bank officers present a graphic demonstration of their gift to the MCBA's Law Education Fund to Jenny McNeill and Nancy Hornacek who led the association's PIP-1.



Tough times create demand for drug therapy

The year 2011 was a good one for West Michigan Therapy, a multi-faceted social services agency in Muskegon. Our business "is lousily good," Rev. Louis Churchwell told MCBA members at the 9 November general membership luncheon meeting at Lake House.

Rev. Churchwell said when



times get bad, people "want to escape reality quick." Drugs and alcohol are the escape tools, but each results in further loss. "Alcohol is a 'remover,'" he said. "It removes clothing, cars, your roof, and looks from a beauty queen." He and his staff see the devastation on the people of Muskegon County.

Joining MCBA members for the lunch presentation were Thomas Cooley law students Christina Kinsley and Karl Boersma, new attorneys Debra Walters, Alana Wyaduck, Josh Reece, and Jonathan Hoekstra.

Warner Norcross' Muskegon office on the move

In February, the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd will be relocating its Muskegon office to newly renovated space on the third floor of Terrace Point, the former headquarters of SPX.

Warner is committed to maintaining a strong presence in Muskegon," said Brain Lang, executive partner of the office. "We are excited about being a part of the redevelopment of the downtown waterfront and pleased to have secured space in a premier location."

Warner established its Muskegon office in 1984 with three attorneys. Today, the office comprises 23 legal and support professionals whose expertise includes employee benefits and labor law, trusts and estates, tax law, corporate law, environmental law, litigation and real estate. Warner is a corporate law firm with 220 attorneys and six offices across Michigan.



Lake House great site for September social

Muskegon's Lake House Restaurant on Muskegon Lake provided a perfect setting for the 21 September MCBA membership gathering. Although windy at times, the night was mild, the drinks cold, and the camaraderie hot. MCBA's February social night will be announced via email in the next week.



Muskegon attorney relocates practice to Whitehall
Shon Cook has relocated to Shon Cook Law, PC, 219 E. Colby St., Whitehall, MI 49461. Phone: 231-894-0909, Shon@Shoncooklaw.com.

Muskegon County Bar Association is a 401 (c)(3) organization dedicated to its members and those they serve.

Lawyers make Christmas merrier for Child Haven kids

Thank you to all those who donated to the Annual Child Haven Christmas Fund. We raised over \$1800! This means that we were able to provide a nice Christmas for children who have been removed from their families. The Women lawyers provided their usual Christmas lunch topped with sundaes, gifts and some playtime in the Child Haven gym.

The children really appreciated us taking an interest in them and spending our time playing and listening. A special thank you to those who participated/donated:

Holly Baker, Paula Baker, Rick Catalino, Bob Chessman, Bob Engel, Judge Graves, Jennifer Hylland, Charles Justian, Harry Knudsen, Judge Link, Max McKee, James McCall, John McKendry, Jenny McNeill, Jordan Mundt,

Gerald Nehra, Judge Nolan, Chuck Silky, Bill Sininger, Al Vanderploeg, Mike Walsh, Houghtaling, Waisura & Catalino; Ladas & Hoopes, Parmenter O'Toole, and Williams Hughes and Cook.
—*Jenny McNeill*

FLS speaker explains the intricacies of retirement planning

It all once seemed so simple: Reach retirement age, collect Social Security, tab your investments, live long and prosper. For those reaching retirement age today, the devil is in the details. First, when is retirement age — 62, 65, 66, later?

Jill VanTine, a Merrill Lynch representative, addressed these and related questions for the 19 October meeting of the MCBA Family Law Section.

The decision for some is to retire at 62, and take a 25% discount or wait until full retirement at 66 to achieve maximum benefit. There are other wrinkles, too: Wait until 67-70 and accrue an increase to your maximum benefit at 8% over the cost of living. What about taxes? Medicare and supplemental health insurance?

Attorneys practicing family law and estate planning must consider retirement assets for their clients. We, however, must also do our own planning by consulting professionals knowledgeable about financial planning—including Social Security and Medicare.

Solo-Small Practice Section kicks off

Muskegon's first—and short-lived—snowfall of the season became the backdrop for MCBA's inaugural meeting of its Solo-Small Practice Section.

About 15 MCBA members from a variety of solo and small-group practices met for lunch at Golden Corral Restaurant, Sternberg Road, to set objectives for the group and brainstorm topics for upcoming meetings. The group intends to meet quarterly.

The initial speaker was Jason Boes, head information technologist for the City of Muskegon. Mr. Boes discussed a variety of technology—hardware, software, computers, tablets, and “smart phones.” He offered practical advice on pricing, economical purchasing sites, and—in some cases—the limitations of the device.

The section's next meeting will be in February. Watch your email for date and location.

John Schrier honored for years of MCBA service



MCBA President **Mike Walsh** presents former president, **John Schrier**, with a gift from association members for his years of service to the MCBA. The gift was presented at the 2011 Barristers' Ball at the Muskegon Country Club.

Photos available online and in print

All pictures appearing in the Obiter or on the Obiter's Facebook site are for sale—\$10. Funds go to the association's general fund.

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MCBA news needed

We need your news—awards received, babies born, trips taken.
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