

The Mentor

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN'S
MASTER LAWYERS SECTION



"The voice of trust through experience."

Summer 2017

Message from the Chair

Greetings to Our Readers

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This will be my last message from the chair to our section members. We elect a new chair and fill vacancies on the Master Lawyers Section Council at our upcoming September 29 annual meeting at Cobo Center in Detroit. If you are interested in serving on the council, you should attend the annual meeting. A slate of candidates (see below) will be presented by the Nominating Committee at the meeting. However, Article VII Section 2 of the Master Lawyers Section bylaws provides that nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.



Cynthia L. Johnson, Chair

The Nominating Committee is recommending the following nominees to the Section for officers and council persons for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

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Chair-Elect: Kathleen Williams Newell

Secretary: James H. Loree

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2. Vincent A. Romano

Term Expires 9/30/2019

1. Michael H. Dettmer
2. Richard Fellrath
3. Mayra A. Rogriguez

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2016-2017

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Community Living Services Inc
35425 W Michigan Ave Ste 1
Wayne, MI 48184
P: (313) 850-5077

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Roberta M. Gubbins, Mason
(734) 255-9119

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Send correspondence and
material for publication to:

Roberta M. Gubbins
rmgubbins@yahoo.com

Term Expires 9/30/2020

1. Charles Fleck
2. Otto Stockmeyer
3. Paula Cole

I hope to see you at the annual meeting on September 29 at Cobo Center from 9:00 to 9:45 am.

Our educational program, "Protecting Your Clients from Financial Exploitation," immediately follows the annual meeting. Our speaker, Peter A. Lichtenberg, Ph.D., ABPP, director of Gerontology Institute and Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, is well regarded in his field. You can attend the educational program *free of charge*. If you plan to attend the educational program, you will need to register by going to the State Bar website and clicking on the Next Conference link and registering for the Friday Master Lawyers Business Meeting and Program.

The council continues to look for input from section members on educational programs of interest. Please feel free to contact any member of the council with your suggestions.

Thank you.

Cynthia L M Johnson
Mediator & Arbitrator
cjlaw@att.net, 313-850-5077

Notes from the Editor

Summer is here and we are enjoying the warm days and nights. Our current issue is full of sunshine and joy with many interesting articles. Thanks to all for the contributions; they make each and every issue interesting, entertaining and enlightening.

In this issue, you'll find Otto Stockmeyer's tribute to Hon. Charles W. Joiner—legal educator, bar association leader, and federal judge—who died March 10, 2017, at age 101; two visits to Italy—Venice by William J. Giovan and Bologna & Antiqua by Josh Ard; Taking the Plunge into Podcasting by Scott Bassett; and an article by Fred Baker about the Lansing firm Glassen Rhead, which celebrated its first 100 years this year.

As usual, we thank our writers and the staff of the State Bar of Michigan who put the issue together, making our newsletter the wonderful publication it is. Enjoy this edition and we will see you again in the fall.

—Roberta



Roberta M. Gubbins, Editor



NEXT

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EARLY BIRD SAVINGS END
August 23, 2017

In Memory of Judge Charles W. Joiner

By Norman Otto Stockmeyer,
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Western Michigan University Cooley Law School

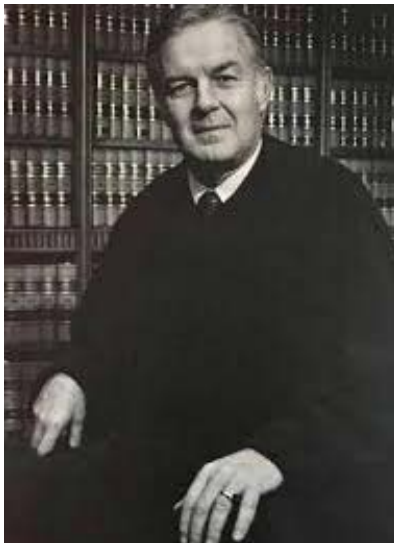
The Hon. Charles W. Joiner—legal educator, bar association leader, and federal judge—died March 10, 2017, at age 101.

Judge Joiner's career spanned the breadth of the legal profession. After practicing as a trial lawyer for several years in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1947 he joined the law faculty at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. There he championed continuing legal education, and served as director of research and drafting for Michigan's 1961-62 Constitutional Convention. He became dean of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit in 1967, serving until his appointment as a U.S. district judge in 1972. He took senior status in 1984 and retired in 1997.

A prolific author, Judge Joiner published six books and articles in numerous law reviews and bar journals. He was an active member of the American Law Institute, the American Judicature Society Board of Directors, the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, and the Commission on Uniform State Laws. He was State Bar of Michigan president in 1970-71, the only law school dean to hold that office in the organization's 82-year history.

In 1953 Judge Joiner was one of 38 charter members of Scribes, the American Society of Legal Writers. He served as the society's president in 1963-64. During his term, he initiated the practice of hosting an afternoon reception honoring the recipient of the annual Scribes Book Award. That year it was David Mellinkoff, for *The Language of the Law*. Judge Joiner was the society's last surviving charter member.

Through an accident of timing, Judge Joiner was responsible for my involvement in several bar association activities. Just a few years out of law school, I chaired the Young Lawyers Section about the time he was State



Hon. Charles W. Joiner

Bar president. He had abundant confidence in young lawyers and sought to enlist them in leadership positions. Seemingly, my name frequently came to mind, as he appointed me to an important State Bar committee, to the Institute of Continuing Legal Education Executive Committee, and to the Michigan Bar Foundation's Board of Trustees. In each case I was the youngest member by at least a decade.

Here are some representative responses to the announcement of Judge Joiner's passing:

From a former law student: "His kindness and support were needed and appreciated."

From a legislative staffer: "He was definitely somebody to look up to—smart, practical, fair, and helpful."

From a WSU colleague: "Judge Joiner was a tremendous advocate for our students. The legacy he leaves behind is that of integrity, fairness, and compassion. He is deeply missed by us all."

From a former law clerk: "He treated his staff like family and insisted that we serve the lawyers and their clients who walked through our doors with the utmost respect and courtesy."

From practicing attorneys: "He treated me and my client just like he treated others appearing before him, with fairness, good humor, and scrupulous adherence to the law." "He was an 'attorney's judge.' It was a pleasure appearing in his court. When he left the bench, our profession suffered a loss."

This reminiscence from attorney Martin Reisig, posted on the Master Lawyers Section listserv, is worthy of retelling: "As an assistant federal defender and federal prosecutor, I had quite a few cases in front of Judge

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Joiner. A moment I will never forget is when, after conducting a cross-examination, he sent me a note from the bench: ‘Best cross-examination I have ever seen.’ Feeling great, later in the day I conducted another cross-examination that did not go as well. From the bench came another note: ‘Please return the first note.’ A wonderful smile on his face and a wonderful memory.”

Judge Joiner lived a century-long life of integrity, boundless energy, and imagination. Countless former students and counsel who appeared before him recall with great respect and admiration his command of the classroom and the courtroom.

About the Author

Norman Otto Stockmeyer retired from WMU Cooley Law School in 2014. After Judge Joiner’s initial boost, he went on to hold several offices in the State Bar, the American Bar Association, and Scribes. A version of this memorial tribute will appear in the Summer 2017 issue of The Scrivener, the Scribes newsletter. Information about the Society, including membership availability, is at www.scribes.org.

My Trip to Venice

By William J Giovan

I had been to Venice, Italy before, but in 2014 I had the opportunity to go there with a group that had reservations during Carnevale, the pre-Lenten celebration that originated there in 1162 and which was the precursor for the Mardi Gras celebrations of France and the New World.

While less brash than, let’s say, the events in Rio and New Orleans, Carnevale is outdone nowhere for the sophistication of its masks and costumes, which inspires competition among both the locals and aficionados from all over the world. The event is a treasure trove for photographers, professional and amateur, who find subjects who are eager to pose. I’ve attached some of my efforts.

While the season is sometimes subject to flooding, on this occasion there was only one day when the waters entered St. Mark’s Square, always the center of activity.

About the Author

Hon. William Giovan is a former chief judge of Wayne Circuit Court. His areas of practice include arbitration and mediation.



The Old and the New—a Visit to Bologna and Astana

By Josh Ard



Josh Ard

I recently completed an interesting trip in my role as husband consort. My wife was invited to present papers at conferences in Bologna, Italy and Astana, Kazakhstan and I would have been a fool not to go if at all practicable. Fortunately, it was.

We flew from Detroit to Milan's Malpensa Airport. Malpensa can be roughly translated from Italian as "bad idea." In this instance, there is truth in naming. The facilities are rather nice, especially if one is interested in buying fashion at an airport. Milan, along with Paris, New York, and maybe Tokyo, are the fashion centers of the world. The problem in the airport is passport processing. The United States and some other countries such as The Netherlands allow a traveller to scan her passport and pass through easily. Not so in Milan. The lines were incredibly long and slow.

If the airports are problematic, the Italian train system is wonderful. We sped from Milan, after resting overnight, to Bologna on a train whose speed reached 295 kilometers per hour. Of course, the trains go from downtown to downtown and there are none of the security delays one has to go through with airplanes.

Bologna is the home of the oldest university in Europe: the University of Bologna, founded in 1088. It's not the oldest university in the world, however. That honor goes to Karueein [many different transliterations from Arabic] University in Morocco. I've also seen al-Qarawiyyin, al-Quaraouiyine, and others. Interestingly, that university was founded by an endowment from a woman. Most of its famous alumni are Muslim, of course, but the great Jewish philosopher Maimonides is also a graduate. Pope Sylvester II also attended (before becoming pope) at a time when there was no equivalent place of study in Europe. Later he played a strong role in encouraging Europeans to adopt Arabic numerals for commercial purposes.

Bologna might not be the oldest university but it claims to have the oldest law school. That might be hard to prove because some sort of Islamic jurisprudence

had to have been taught in Morocco. One of the major reasons the university in Bologna was founded was to improve the study of Roman law. There is no doubt that legal education was considered the most important in early days in Bologna. In the main building there was one stairwell for law and another for everything else—medicine, the humanities, etc. Bologna has a pretty impressive list of alumni also, including Thomas Becket, Dante, Boccaccio, Erasmus, Petrarch, Albrecht Dürer, Nicolaus Copernicus, and many popes.

On a city tour, we learned a bit more about legal and financial history. The word bank is derived from the word *banca* meaning "bench." The idea is that people did their money dealings on benches. If someone lost his wealth, that was referred to as having a broken bench. In modern Italian the phrase is *banca rotta*. In an earlier version it was *banca rupta*. That is the origin of the term bankruptcy.

Bologna has a long history of popular political action. The populace built a large church that they wanted to be the biggest in the world. Active opposition from various popes and church officials prevented that from happening. Somewhat unusually for Italian cities, the official cathedral, a different church, is not in the main public square, where that church, now called San Petronio Basilica, stands. The church was not officially transferred from city control to the diocese until 1929 and wasn't consecrated until 1954. The church is famous for a meridian line, constructed by an astronomer at the university in 1655. Light comes in from an opening in the ceiling and displays the day of the year.

Bologna did what it could to support trade. At a time when measurements were not standard, indentations were placed on a major civic building in the main square so that one could place items next to them to see what the true measurements were.

Until fairly recently Bologna, along with many parts of central Italy, was led by a communist government. This is reflected in many street names. Our hotel was a block away from Via Stalingrado.

Continued on the next page

Bologna is famous for its many porticos, which run for almost 40 miles in the city center. Supposedly the reason for them is that wealthy students wanted more rooms. The only way to build them in the center was to build out from upper floors and support them from below, resulting in porticos. This makes it very pleasant to walk in the city when it is raining or very hot.

Bologna is widely considered to be the best city for food in Italy. One of the most popular types of sauces is Bolognese, a meat sauce. There are many types of meat, so please don't judge the city by what we know as bologna sausage.

Bologna is a fairly old city, much more glorious in its past than its present. Astana, Kazakhstan is an almost exact opposite. Almost everything in Astana is new, built after the country became independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Astana resembles a combination of Singapore and Dubai, set in a vastly different climate and landscape. Bologna is somewhat dirty and decaying; Astana is sparkling new with no signs of litter at all. Bologna is crowded; Astana has many open spaces. The



Susan Gass, University Distinguished Professor, MSU
near the University in Bologna

food in Bologna is great; the food we had in Astana was not, although to be fair we were treated by the host of the conference at a restaurant that supported the conference and did not go to restaurants of our choice. I make a habit of visiting supermarkets in cities abroad. The ones I saw in Astana were quite full of fresh food, very different from reports of what life was like in Soviet days. I did not try a famous local food, fermented mare's milk, so I can't comment on what taste sensations I missed.

Both ways we stopped in the Istanbul airport. Turkish Airlines flies to more countries than any other airline in the world and we flew in and out of Astana with them. The food in Istanbul, including the airport, is very good. The airport is very interesting to visit, with many sorts of stores. One sees a wide range of travellers, including what seemed to be many pilgrims going to or from Mecca. Based on the timing, it seems I picked up a virus from somebody there.

We arrived in Astana just before the start of Expo 2017, a huge international exposition concentrating on energy. There have been a lot of improvements made to accommodate the expected visitors. Astana has been described by CNN as the world's weirdest capital city and by the *Guardian* as one of the strangest capital cities.

Kazakhstan found itself independent with no major action on its part to cause that when the Soviet Union disbanded. It is one of the *stans* in central Asia. Stan comes from a Persian word for land, although all of them except for Tajikistan contain primarily speakers of Turkish languages. The Soviets pursued a definite policy of downplaying any attempts at a common non-Russian identity. They chose standard varieties of the languages as far apart as possible and chose Cyrillic orthographies that made it challenging for a speaker of one language to read another. The Soviets added letters to reflect sounds that are not found in Russian, but chose different symbols for the same sound in different languages and different vowel symbols. Kazakh is still written in Cyrillic, but there are plans to convert to a Roman alphabet over the next decade. Before the Russian conquest, Kazakh was rarely written but when it was it was in an Arabic script, derived from Persian. Many Kazakhs participated in the Golden Horde, led by neighboring Mongolians.

The Soviets were also somewhat arbitrary in drawing boundaries for their constituent republics, because there was really little local control. In part, this explains some

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of the conflicts in Ukraine. Crimea was never historically considered part of Ukraine, but Khrushchev gave it Ukraine in the 1950s as a sort of going-away present after he left the job as local party boss to take a major role in the central government.

Kazakhstan is a huge country, the ninth largest in the world (about the size of western Europe) and the largest that is land-locked. Although it is close to the center of Asia, it is often considered part of eastern Europe, reflecting its status as a former Soviet republic. Much of the landscape is flat steppes, although there are also deserts and mountains in other parts of the country. Historically, most of the Kazakh population lived in the South, where the largest city, Almaty, originally Alma-ata is. Kazakhstan is the original home of apples and Alma-ata means father of apples. Around the time of the fall of the Soviet Union, most of the population of northern Kazakhstan was ethnically Russian. Khrushchev settled many Russians in the so-called virgin lands in the North, where large-scale farming was introduced. The former local party leader found himself the leader of an independent country and led to many transformations. He moved the capital from Almaty, close to foreign borders, to Astana in a much more open area in the North. Astana was primarily Russian speaking at the time (it was founded by Siberian Cossacks) and with great growth is now primarily Kazakh.

Astana is at a similar latitude to Winnipeg and has a similar climate. Winter temperatures commonly plunge to 30 below. It is the second-coldest national capital in the world, displacing Ottawa from that honor. Not surprisingly, ice hockey is a very popular sport. There are many attractions that are suited for winter activities. Our hotel was in easy walking distance of a shopping center built in the world's largest tent, with five floors of shopping, restaurants, and other activities. There is a quasi-tropical resort with plastic dinosaurs on the top, perhaps somewhat attractive in the cold winter. Somehow or other, the northernmost nesting grounds for flamingos are found near Astana.

There is no doubt that the government is autocratic. The same person who became leader after the fall of the Soviet Union still holds the job. Corruption is allegedly quite high. Nevertheless, there is sufficient money to go around to allow a massive building spree, primarily based on the enormous energy resources found in the country. The president has made it plain that he built many struc-



tures, even naming a university after himself. Still, much of the money went into those things instead of the pockets of himself and his cronies, which I doubt are empty. Astana is certainly a very impressive place to visit. There are many beautiful parks and modern buildings. We especially enjoyed a visit to the national historical museum, which had very interesting displays about national history and ethnography. We were impressed by a very impressive yurt, well equipped for a leader. It is much like one would expect to house a Dothraki leader on the Game of Thrones.

We had a very pleasant visit in Astana, an experience quite different from those had by many people during Stalinism. Northern Kazakhstan was a favorite spot for Stalin to send peoples he wanted to move out of more western areas. Many of the Crimean Tatars, the original dominant ethnic group in Crimea, were exiled to the area. They were not greeted with a modern metropolis, but rather with camp-like accommodations in the bitter cold of the steppes. In our hotel there was a picture of one Crimean Tatar who died there provided by his family who became wealthy hoteliers. The plaque clearly condemned the Stalinist terror, a rarity in many former Soviet states.

Steppes extend for miles and miles. There is an effort to plant many thousands of trees in and around Astana, but once one gets out of the city there is a lot of flat, monotonous landscape. We took a tour several hundred miles north. One problem with transportation is that there are not many facilities. We took a break at one of the rest stops. There was a building for a bathroom break that consisted of two rooms, one for men and one for women. There was no door and only a hole in the concrete. Local farmers set up stands selling honey and

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pickled mushrooms. There were very few gas stations anywhere, although Kazakhstan is a major oil producer. That is why few people would even consider making the twelve-hour or so drive from Astana to Almaty. Our tour included a stop at a national park where we had lunch and a visit to a resort on a lake, both quite beautiful areas out of the steppes.

Our host who organized the conference now is a professor in Almaty, but he was born in Uzbekistan, another former Soviet republic. We got a very different perspective on the fall of the Soviet Union from his personal history. His father had a good job, actually employed by the KGB locally, and thought he had saved up a considerable nest egg for his family, deposited in a Moscow bank. Overnight he lost his job, the currency was severely devalued, and he couldn't make withdrawals from a Moscow bank anyway. This was just about the time our host was set to enter a university. The father got a job as a local policeman and somehow the family made do. Our host has made a success in academia. His Ph.D. is from South Korea and he has taught in

several countries, including Bosnia, where we met him at an earlier version of this conference in Sarajevo. His children are now about to attend college. One hopes to become a doctor and will attend medical school in Europe, probably in Prague or Bucharest.

One rumor about Astana is that it is intended as the capital of the Illuminati, the New World Order, or some other favorite conspiracy organization. Supposedly, the layout of many buildings reflects the layout of a Masonic Temple. It is presumably the most modern capital city now, but I have to admit that I don't understand the secret symbolism that the conspiracy theorists find in various monuments. Also, I'd imagine that these secret powerful people would prefer to live in a more pleasant climate rather than a place with severely cold winters.

About the Author

Josh Ard concentrates on elder law, probate, estate planning, life planning, and consumer law. His office is in Williamston, Michigan.

Taking the Plunge into Podcasting

By Scott Bassett



Scott Bassett

I enjoyed Roberta Gubbins' Clear & Convincing article about podcasting. I took the plunge in late 2016 along with my podcasting partner, John Ceci, also a SBM member. Although John and I both do family law appeals, we come at issues from different places politically and philosophically. I think our "left v right" perspective adds an interesting dimension to our discussions. We never let it become impolite—so far.

Our podcast is called *Guys with Mics*. It can be found at guyswithmics.libsyn.com. It is also available on iTunes, Google Play Music, Stitcher, SoundCloud, and almost every podcast app.

Our tagline is "Lawyers with microphones . . . what could go wrong?" Of course, as we have learned in our craft, plenty has gone wrong, including forgetting to hit the record button, forgetting to turn on a microphone,

and various software glitches that caused the audio to drop out every few seconds. Live and learn.

Our standard episode format always has a segment on a legal topic. Usually it is related to family law or appellate litigation. Both are central to each of our respective law practices. John does the editing and has compiled multiple legal segments into special editions of the podcast on, for example, following a divorce case through the trial court system.

John and I also share interests in sports and tech. In the beginning, we had three segments in each episode: law, sports, and tech. Having three segments to each episode added additional prep work (we both have busy solo practices) and also made the episodes run too long. Not long ago, we reduced each weekly episode to two topics. We do a law topic each week and alternate between sports and tech.

Continued on the next page

We also occasionally revisit topics. For example, John has become a “cord cutter” by dropping his cable television subscription and going with a streaming service to provide content. We have come back to cord cutting as a topic on several episodes.

Mixed in with our regular episodes are special episodes. The first several special episodes were edited versions of my interviews with innovative lawyers that the February 2017 TBDLaw conference sponsored by Lawyerist.com. A recent special episode, sort of our “summer vacation,” was a review of the movie “Dunkirk” and a discussion of the historical event it depicts. John and I are both history buffs.

We usually record each Friday afternoon, but that can shift to early Saturday morning if we have schedule conflicts on Friday. If we know we are going to be unavailable the following week, we have occasionally recorded two episodes at once. In terms of tech, John and I maintain

a Skype video call that is separate from the actual audio recording. We do the audio recording in high-resolution .WAV format using the Audacity software on each of our computers. That means that our respective audio tracks are separate files. When we finish a recording, we both upload our respective .WAV files to a shared Microsoft OneDrive folder. From there, John does the editing over the weekend and adds our theme music. He posts a new episode each Tuesday morning. We aim for about a half hour of content.

John and I welcome everyone to listen to a few episodes and let us know where you think we could improve.

About the Author

Scott Bassett operates a virtual Michigan appellate practice focusing on family law cases. He is a 1978 graduate of Wayne State University and earned his JD from the University of Michigan Law School in 1981.

Glassen Rhead Celebrates Its Centennial

By Frederick Baker, Jr.



Fred Baker

The law firm of Glassen Rhead McLean Campbell Schumacher & Hintz celebrates its centennial this year, making it one of the oldest firms founded and still practicing in the Lansing area.

Glassen Rhead, as the firm is commonly known, traces its roots to J. Earle Brown, who, after practicing in St. Johns for several years, moved his practice to Lansing in 1913, where Dean W. Kelley joined him a year later. They practiced together until 1930, and Brown retired in 1937. Their 1917 move, with William S. Seelye, to Suite 608 in the Lansing State Savings Building (now the Michigan Credit Union Building) is regarded as the Glassen Rhead firm’s beginning.

In 1962, the firm moved to the 8th floor of the then-new Davenport Building, where it remained until 1998, when the building was demolished to make way for the Michigan House of Representatives office build-

ing, and the firm moved to its present location. It is now “housed” in an 1878 Victorian Italianate mansion, at 533 S. Grand Ave., which Kevin Schumacher and his family have lovingly restored and decorated with an eclectic collection of period art and furnishings. The building was in a sorry state before the firm chose it as its new home and Schumacher poured what he describes as “copious amounts of money” into restoring it to its former glory.¹

In a touching aside, Schumacher noted that, after the move to its current location, the firm hosted an open house during Silver Bells in the City, to which George Campbell brought his mother. She commented, “Georgie, it looks just as I remember it.” Surprised, Schumacher inquired, “You’ve been here before, Mrs. Campbell?” to which she replied, “Of course! When Clay and I brought Georgie home from the hospital, this house was four apartments, and we had one of the upstairs units.” George Campbell knew this, of course,

Continued on the next page

but hadn't seen any reason to bring it up. He simply chose for his office the same upper room he had as a child, which he has happily occupied since 1998.

Over the years, many Lansing lawyers, including Fred Abood, worked for the firm as collection department assistants while they attended law school, or as a first job after graduating. But after experimenting briefly in the mid-twentieth century with the growth model then being pursued by other Lansing firms, the firm chose to remain relatively small. In its

100-year history it has included only 10 partners: Louis J. Gregg, Ross Thompson, Harold W. Glassen, Lloyd D. Parr, Roland F. Rhead, Neil A. McLean, George P. Campbell, Jaye M. Bergamini, Kevin V. B. Schumacher, and John P. Hintz. The firm members simply made a collective decision that they enjoyed the practice of law in the small firm setting and eschewed a growth strategy in favor of longer weekends spent at cottages sprinkled across Northern Michigan. Firm governance has for a century been based on a rule of unanimity: a lone dissent defeats any proposal. Indeed, perfect consensus is the firm's core principle, and explains the long and harmonious relationships of its partners. Partnership at Glassen Rhead has proved to be what Schumacher describes as an "until death do us part" type arrangement. Indeed, most of the firm's late partners practiced actively until their deaths, with Messrs. Glassen, Rhead, McLean, and Campbell (who is very much alive), each achieving a half-century or more of practice.

The firm's partners have included some colorful and distinguished characters. Harold Glassen, a nationally known sportsman, was a skilled trial lawyer and a president of the National Rifle Association. He testified before Congress against gun control measures proposed after Bobby Kennedy's assassination, and was featured



Left to right: Kevin V.B. Schumacher, George P. Campbell, John P. Hintz and Ronald J. Bock
photo courtesy of C. Babcock

in a 1968 *Life* magazine article, when the NRA could still say that it was not a lobbying organization, because it spent no money directly to influence legislation, relying instead on direct communications by its one million members to sway legislators. He was a member of the Michigan Conservation Commission for 12 years, including two as its chairman; a vice president of the Michigan United Conservation Club; and president of the Ingham County Kennel Club. He and his wife, Jean, established the Hal and Jean Glassen Foundation, to encourage firearm use, skills and competition; fund game bird and animal conservation research; and promote animal welfare.

Roland Rhead, long regarded as a dean of the local bankruptcy bar, was a member of the board of Lansing General Hospital (later Ingham Regional Hospital), the Lansing Board of Water and Light, and the Lansing Power Squadron. His practice embodied his (and the firm's) motto that lawyers should know "how to disagree without being disagreeable." His Victorian cottage on Burt Lake, whose waters he plied in a wooden Richardson boat, was his weekend retreat from 1957 into his later years. After he headed north at noon on Friday, he was unavailable until 9 am on Monday; his habitual

Continued on the next page



Akam billiard table, with pool cue gift from Judge Stephen J. Catel (deceased, former 96th District Court Judge, Ishpeming, MI). Pool table is cast iron with legs in the shape of elephant heads, complete with cast iron tusks. Zebra hide rug was payment from client for services rendered.

weekend retreat was so well known that local courts scheduled no hearings that would conflict with it.

As the anecdote about his mother's revelation that he had lived as a child at the firm's current location suggests, George Campbell is a reticent sort, a habit perhaps born of nearly a half-century of client confidences kept. So it was an equally great surprise to learn, quite by chance, of his distinguished Michigan pedigree. One day Campbell announced that he must leave early to attend a "dinner" in Detroit. Only by happenstance did Schumacher tune in to see his partner throw the final pitch from the mound after the Tigers' last game at Tiger Stadium. The announcer explained that Campbell was the last living descendant of Charlie Bennett, for whom Bennett Field (later Navin Field, Briggs Field, and finally Tiger Stadium) was named. Campbell stood at the end of the game, flanked by Al Kaline, as the flag was lowered for the final time at Tiger Stadium and passed to him.

Though too modest to say so, it soon becomes obvious from his enthusiasm and his detailed knowledge of the firm's history, that Schumacher has been both the firm's salvor and its conservator. A Yooper from Calumet, Schumacher settled in Lansing after completing his legal education. When Schumacher learned

that the firm had dwindled to one full-time partner (Mr. Campbell), who was already close to retirement age, he approached him to discuss the possibility of acquiring and preserving the firm's name and rich tradition. The two hit it off, and the rest, as they say, is now history. Schumacher's over quarter-century of devoted efforts have revived the partnership in its "new," historic location, and seen the addition of a new partner, John Hintz, and, more recently, an associate, Ronald J. Bock, while Mr. Campbell still comes in to the office regularly. Schumacher and Hintz maintain a broad collection and commercial practice with Schumacher also practicing in bankruptcy and oil and gas.

For the last 100 years, the partnership's agreement has consisted of a single-page instrument, which concludes: "Included in the assets of the partnership [is] a small collection of jewels of unknown, but legal, origin that belong to the firm members. Since a unanimous vote was not obtained as to the distribution of said jewels, they will remain in the firm safe until such time as a unanimous vote is achieved." Schumacher notes that "We haven't had a vote on the firm jewels since George Campbell joined the firm in the 1960s." And none is scheduled. There is time enough to decide what to do about those jewels; for now it is sufficient that the firm's crowning jewel, the century-old Glassen Rhead partnership itself, is intact. Rich in history, steadied by its guiding principle of unanimity, the firm remains vital and prosperous as it begins its second century.

About the Author

Frederick M. Baker, Jr., is counsel to Schiff Hardin, LLP, in the firm's Lansing office, at 200 Washington Square North, Ste. 400, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 220-2372.

Endnote

- 1 Myrtelisa, Schumacher's wife of 36 years, tells it this way: "The Victorian was his baby. When he first showed it to me it was just a Pepto-Bismol pink cube on a gravel lot. He had the vision to make it what it once was. The kids and I are happy for him. He brought his vision to fruition."