

The Mentor

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



"The voice of trust through experience."

Winter 2016

Message from the Chair

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Our Master Lawyers Section Council is busy planning exciting programs that should interest many of our 18,000+ section members. Our committees are now organized and ready to go. If you are interested in working on a committee, please contact me at aruhala@sbcglobal.net. We welcome all newcomers.

The Seminar Planning Committee, co-chaired by Jim Loree and Kathleen Newell, are putting together two one-day educational programs for this spring. We are talking about a program to be held in Rochester in the month of April and the other one to be held in Frankenmuth during the month of May. If you are interested in attending either program or even being a guest speaker, just let us know.

This summer we are having our overnight two-day training session in the Traverse City area, primarily for our council and committee members to plan and organize new and challenging programs for our section's members over the coming year. It is not too late for you to join us by volunteering to serve on one of our section committees. Ron Keefe will chair this event.

In September we have an exciting train trip scheduled to tour our Western U.S., with the dates of September 2-16 set for this fun tour. Dave Kerr will chair this committee, so sign up now if you are interested. More information can be found on page 13 of this newsletter.

More information can be obtained on our website over the coming months. We hope many of you are able to join us in these events. Your participation and involvement are appreciated.



Richard J. Ruhala, Chair

Richard (Dick) Ruhala, Section Chair

2015-2016

MASTER LAWYERS SECTION

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Notes from the Editor

Looking out the window, I see snow, ice and squirrels looking for the nuts they buried when the ground was soft and warm. Our winter issue may not help the squirrels find their nuts, but our readers will find a varied assortment of offerings from our members making for a good read.

Judge Giovan writes of “My Two Big Cases,” while Lee Hornberger writes of his return to Indochina and the changes that have taken place (“Back to Indochina”). Margaret O’Donnell describes the many decisions that must be made when going into private practice (“Old Dog, New Tricks”).

The Magna Carta, signed in 1215 by King John, is celebrated, (“Report on Magna Carta 800th Year Celebration”) by Alfred Gade; the dangers of “The Game of Football” are described by James A. Johnson; and the Trusted Traveler Program is described in “The Surprising Advantages of Aging” by Roberta Gubbins.

It is a fun issue with a variety of interesting articles that portray the diverse group of lawyers that make up the Master Lawyers Section. Thanks to all contributors.

—*Roberta*



Roberta M. Gubbins, Editor



My Two Big Cases

By Hon. William J. Giovan

During 40 years as a trial judge I've had many important cases, but few as significant as two over which I presided within two months of each other in 1999.

The Dog Bite Case

In June I had to try a dog bite case because the insurance company offered the minor's mother \$3,000, but she insisted on getting \$6,000.

Mother got on the stand and testified about how her four-year-old son was still having nightmares because of the dog bite on his heel. My first clue that the case was in trouble occurred when the youngster, now a bit older, was called to the stand, and when asked what he recalled about the incident he responded, "Nothing."

My second clue occurred when the scar was exhibited to the jury. When the stocking came off, revealing two teeny-tiny pinprick-sized dots, one of the jurors who had been leaning over in expectation stood up abruptly, folding her arms and looking away with an expression of disgust.

The verdict came back in 10 minutes. Two dollars. (\$2.00).

I e-mailed my colleagues on the bench: "Due to my experience in these matters, I am willing to

take all actions pending in the court where the damages are \$10 or less."

I received no responses.

The Serious Permanent Disfigurement Case

In August I tried a case in which the dispute was whether the scars on the male plaintiff's arm amounted to serious permanent disfigurement under the no-fault law. The whole case, from voir dire to verdict, including everything in between—opening statements, evidence, arguments, and instructions—was completed in one hour.

I e-mailed my colleagues on the bench: "Due to my experience in these matters, I am willing to take all actions pending in the court that are expected to last one hour or less."

I received no responses.

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



Hon. William J. Giovan



Back in Indochina, Things Are a Bit Different

By Lee Hornberger

I am neither a soldier nor a statesman, but 45 years ago I was privileged to serve a year in South Vietnam as a U.S. Army Military Police Corps captain. And for a week recently I went back and talked with individuals in Southeast Asia, including the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

When I arrived in DaNang in 1970, I was filled with youthful enthusiasm and the firm belief that America was fighting to preserve a beleaguered democratic nation against the Communist hordes. By the time I left in 1971, the enthusiasm had waned and the belief had been disproved.

By mid-1971, it was obvious to me that South Vietnam would last only two or three additional years without the continuing permanent support of American might.

That was the past. My recent trip began with an enthusiasm that never left.

Ironically, the trip was in the period immediately before Tet, Vietnam's lunar New Year celebrations. Tet is a wonderful combination of Christmas, Thanksgiving and everyone's birthday.



Lee Hornberger

Continued on the next page



Throughout Vietnam and Southeast Asia, people were busy preparing for Tet. It is estimated that people spend a third of their annual income during Tet on gift buying, celebrating and traveling to be with family.

My trip was to see how much things had changed and an attempt to revisit the past. In both regards, it was successful.

I observed that in cities such as Singapore and Guangzhou (Canton), other nations and cultures can successfully build and maintain cosmopolitan cities that are larger than Chicago or Los Angeles.

Cambodia, which was part of French Indochina, is still mired in poverty. This is partially because of the 1970s Pol Pot regime, which exterminated millions of innocent Cambodians. I talked with Cambodians who had lost family members under that regime.

Ultimately the regime became so oppressive that Vietnam had to invade and overthrow it. Cambodians told me how in the early 1970s people in eastern Cambodia did not eat cooked food for years because the smoke from cooking fires would result in bombing of the jungle by B-52s.

Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, is a gem. It retains the architectural and urban planning of the French occupation and is in stark contrast to the numbing poverty of rural Cambodia.

Saigon, DaNang and southern Vietnam have changed. The South Vietnam government of 45 years ago was corrupt and incompetent. To a degree, it was the enemy of its own people.

That area today may or may not have corruption, but it appears to have a government that is anything but incompetent. Forty years ago I traveled armed with a pistol and carbine. The pistols and carbines are now gone. They can only be seen in the Vietnamese museums with the other weaponry from the war such as napalm and Agent Orange canisters. There are signs everywhere honoring Ho Chi Minh.

Today, in Vietnam, the larger cities thrive and have huge infrastructure improvements such as hospitals, bridges, railroads, tunnels and highways. One has the option now of either driving over the Hai Van “ocean clouds” Pass, north of DaNang, or driving under the Pass in a four-mile tunnel.

An *esprit de corps* permeates the North, especially Hanoi. Large parts of the North were bombed to rubble. The nation has been rebuilt and improved. The entire nation, but especially the North, is proud of having defeated the French and the Americans. Ho Chi Minh’s embalmed body can be seen at the impressive Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi. It appears that Ho is worshipped in the North and admired in the South.

As I traveled through Vietnam, I kept asking myself: How could this nation have prevailed in wars against, first, the French, and second, the United States? On reflection, the answers become obvious. First, the southern government was corrupt and incompetent. The North was respected by its people and not corruptible.

Second, as I saw during the trip, the president of South Vietnam had lived in a presidential palace with four-foot-thick walls to protect him from his own people.

Ho Chi Minh, the northern leader, had lived in a wood hut on stilts that protected him from no one.

Through the entire trip, I saw the preparations for Tet being made by the Vietnamese.

Vietnam is united and at peace. Other than tourists, the Americans and the French are gone. Vietnam has recovered from the war and is on a path toward a vibrant future.

Lee Hornberger is an arbitrator and mediator in Traverse City, Michigan. He is a recipient of the George N. Bashara, Jr. Award from the State Bar’s ADR Section in recognition of exemplary service. He is a member of the State Bar’s Representative Assembly and ADR Section Council, editor of The ADR Quarterly, chair of the ADR Committee of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association, former president of the GTLA Bar Association, and former chair of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission. While serving with the U. S. Army Military Police Corps in the Republic of Vietnam from 1970 to 1971, he was executive officer, Second Security Company, and commander, Vietnamese Guard Force, DaNang. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal. The unit he was in was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm.

Old Dog, New Tricks

By Margaret O'Donnell

As I rolled into my 30th year of law practice this past May, that old cliché movie graphic symbolizing the passing of the ages flashed through my mind—you know, the one where calendar pages are being ripped off by rapid gusts of wind while chaotic orchestra music crescendos to the next scene in time . . .

The anniversary was marked not only by the sudden appearance of emails from the Master Lawyers Section, but also by my decision to leave the law firm in which I'd acquired nearly all of my 30 years of legal experience, and in which I had been fully prepared to comfortably and complacently sail into the sunset of my career. Except I chose instead to strike out on my own, hang my shingle over a new door. After all, I had tons of legal experience by now; what could go wrong?

Turns out that legal genius does not equate to business savvy. Whole different skill set, starting with understanding the order to the things that must be done before you can open your doors. Some of it is intuitive, some, not so much.

For example, I did not anticipate the need to keep a record of all my login identities. (Logins are for your

“security,” yet they evoke the opposite feeling in me—like handing over all your keys to an Internet troll, who can then use them to destroy you. But I digress.) The challenge is not in having to record the hundreds (literally hundreds) of login IDs acquired in developing all your new business tentacles. The real challenge is keeping them in a place that is easily remembered by and accessible to yourself, but that is also completely inaccessible to anyone else, and impossible to lose or destroy. That, and the ongoing resetting of your passwords as you, nonetheless, lose, forget or can't access the ones you originally recorded.

In any event, I was able to make my way through most of the preparatory steps with little trouble. I decided on a name for the business (literally, with no imagination whatsoever, just my name), worked out a budget, opened a bank account, gave notice at the firm, found an office, and attempted to acquire and connect my new contact information—phone/fax numbers and an email address.

I say attempted, because things got held up at this point by the Evil Empire—Comcast. My doctor says it is not good for my PTSD to relive the horrific details of that experience, so I'll just say here that I recommend any new business owner set aside LOTS and LOTS of time for dealing with that utility's “Customer Care.”

I decided to next send out notices to my clients, the State Bar, the courts and agencies, and . . . oh wait, those steps were still on hold pending resolution of some contact information snafus with . . . yeah. So instead, I set about purchasing the supplies, equipment, basic furniture and other physical paraphernalia needed to get started.

It was right around that time when I realized that a “budget” is nothing more than a hilarious sort of template of doom. It is constantly under (re)construction, because the original version serves only to mock me for all the things I failed to anticipate. Like, how everything and everyone in my life is now a “payee.” And



Margaret O'Donnell



how, sometime during my 30 years in the sheltering arms of my prior firm, our economy became almost entirely service-based. Computer services, payroll services, accounting services (not to be confused with bookkeeping services), banking services, maintenance and repair services, postal services, record copy services, shredding services, marketing services . . .

By the way, readers who already own their own businesses have probably noticed that “marketing strategy” did not appear on my list of preparatory steps. Wasn’t in that budget either, as it continued to snarkily remind me. I didn’t even begin to realize this could be a mistake until people kept asking me if I had a website.

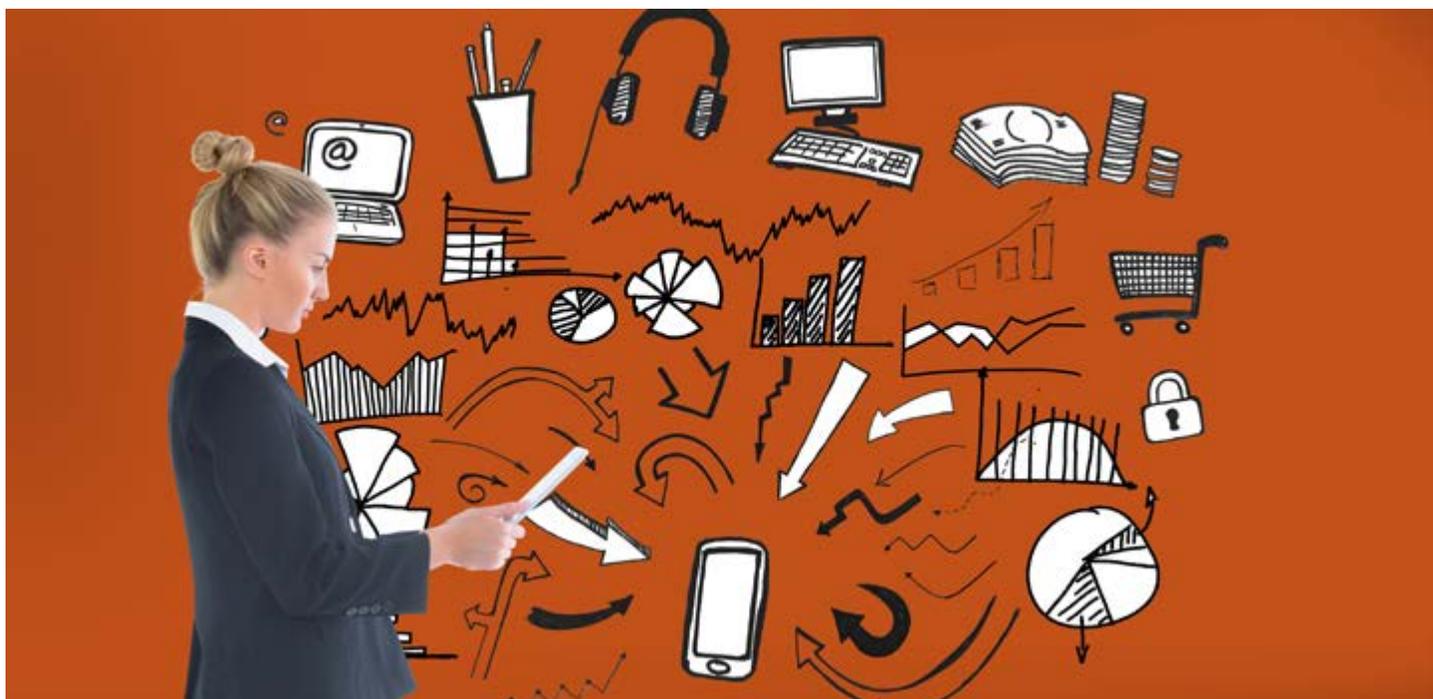
Apparently, in this century, “marketing strategy” belongs at the very top of the to-do list—way before you even choose a name for your business! Possibly even before you know what business you’ll be in! Because all the smart money now rides on the fact a stack of business cards and your own good name are not enough to compete for clients in this profession.

You need a catchy “domain” name (best if assigned at birth). You need SEO and an online “footprint” linked to social media. You need a website with robot “chats” or interactive screening forms, so that your potential clients don’t ever have to actually see you or talk to you. You need to give yourself “awards” in the media outlets designed for such self-anointments. You have

to have a logo and a snappy sound bite to sum up your legal brilliance in 10 words or fewer. You need promotional pens and refrigerator magnets and other party favors to woo the clients. If you are sharp, and not merely legally brilliant, you should also consider a billboard, to convince them of your high quality representation in a tri-color photo spread that includes lots of dollar signs!

What’s an old fogey to do? Nearly six months into this venture, I would say I’ve learned a few new tricks, and decided I can get by without some others. My original budget is now a dartboard for the conference room, and my assistant is becoming skilled at handling many of the “services” demanding our attention. The Evil Empire is temporarily appeased by my monthly payments, so everyone can now find me, even without a billboard (and of course, I don’t really have PTSD). There are very few hours when the phone doesn’t ring, despite my lack of any marketing flair, and there is no shortage of work, or of youthful energy in this new venture.

Margaret O’Donnell is a solo practitioner specializing in the representation of disabled individuals in Social Security claims and appeals, at all levels of litigation, including federal court. She is a longstanding member of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR), and currently serves as vice chair of the Social Security Section of the State Bar.



Report on Magna Carta 800th Year Celebration

By Alfred Gade

Last summer I traveled to England to visit the Magna Carta June 15, 2015 celebration. It was held at Runnymede (the site of King John's acceptance of the original Magna Carta) on its 800th Anniversary. Queen Elizabeth attended a presentation by English and American lawyers befitting the occasion. The new U.S. attorney general, Loretta Lynch, then gave a nice speech on Magna Carta (some say Charta) as the foundation piece for American law and liberty.

On June 17, 2015, I attended the British Library presentation on Magna Carta in London. It was an excellent exhibit, partially sponsored by the American Bar Association, focusing on English common law as

The Magna Carta was a first agreement between King John and his barons recognizing the rights of freemen entitling them to a jury trial by their peers and due process of law concerning taxation and property rights.

an outgrowth from the Magna Carta—its history and interpretation under English law over the centuries. American colonial adoption of English common law as it then existed at time of adoption was covered in full,



Signing of the Magna Carta

as was the history of the Declaration of Independence and the American Bill of Rights. The exhibit featured *originals* of the Magna Carta, the American Declaration of Independence, the American Constitution and Bill of Rights, as well as many other original documents on the history of English common law. I found this exhibit fascinating as it gave a great synopsis of our first year law studies.

The Magna Carta was a first agreement between King John and his barons recognizing the rights of free-men entitling them to a jury trial by their peers and due process of law concerning taxation and property rights. It stated that the king was not above the law and could not act arbitrarily against his barons. In fact, certain barons were appointed to enforce the document, even against the king. The original Magna Carta lasted only a few weeks, when King John (after he had set his seal on the document) appealed to the pope, who declared the agreement null and void.

Two years later, King John, while on his deathbed, appointed several excellent advisors (including Thomas Langston, the archbishop of Canterbury) to save the English crown for his nine-year-old son, Henry III. By renewing the old agreement with the barons and adding the freedom of the church from the crown, Langston succeeded in saving the throne. The barons then went out and saved England from the invading French. When he reached majority age, King Henry III voluntarily accepted the Magna Carta and agreed to a system of kings courts of common law and church courts of equity. Magna Carta principles of due process and basic fairness as inalienable rights of Englishmen (pursuant to natural law principles) were later honed by great English lawyers Thomas More, Edward Cook, and William Blackstone.

The American colonies, especially Pennsylvania under William Penn, adopted the English common law as it existed in England at the time. Thomas Jefferson was greatly influenced by the understood principles of the Magna Carta. He enshrined them in the Declaration of Independence, along with his understanding of freedom of religion via separation of church and state. Also, the American Constitutional writers used these principles in the Bill of Rights as a method of getting the Constitution passed by the states.

I asked the young ticket taker (obviously a law student) what to expect when I went into the exhibit. He said, "There are a lot of original documents on old medieval law that are not too important today." I replied, "Don't be so sure about that. I am a retired American auto company lawyer and we were shocked when the plaintiffs' bar started adding a punitive damage count to American product liability lawsuits in the 1960s. It seems their research of American colonial law permitted it under the English common law system as then adopted and carried over to some states' law. Various American courts accepted it, even though punitive damages in civil litigation in England were no longer permitted for the last 100 years. The outcome was that millions of dollars have now been paid to clever plaintiffs' lawyers."

Alfred Gade is a retired corporate lawyer who did product liability and complex litigation work for 10 years at Chrysler Corporation and 26 years at Ford Motor Company. He has been a member of the Master Lawyers Council since its inception and presently is of counsel with the Detroit firm of Cothorn & Mackley PC, where he does mediation work.



Runnymede, England commemorating the signing of the Magna Carta

The Game of Football

By James A. Johnson

This article is dedicated posthumously to Alex Karras, former NFL Detroit Lion, who passed into Super Bowl Heaven in October 2012. One of his ailments was dementia.

The purpose of this article is to inform parents, coaches, players, athletic directors, and general counsel of the seriousness of the risks of concussions to young people whose brains have not yet fully developed. Every concussion is a brain injury. The effects of this damage range from behavioral and emotional disorders to full body paralysis.

Every evening we seat ourselves in front of the television, glance at the headlines in the newspaper, and then turn quickly to the sports page. After that, we grab the remote and click on *ESPN*, *Fox Sports Live*, *ESPN Classics* or *ESPN Sports Center*. If it is a Sunday, Monday, or Thursday night in September or October there is a game of controlled violence, called football. We read, discuss, view and even vociferously argue sport in America. Most of us perform our jobs in a perfunctory manner, but when it comes time for sports our enthusiasm reaches a fervor level. Every February comes the Super Bowl, the most watched sporting event of the year worldwide. Today the question is whether the competition and games are safe and authentic.

Winning

To begin to answer this question we have to start with the root cause, which is money. It appears that money is the root of all evil. Winning is the credo. So much so that in the words of the iconic National Football League Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi, *“Winning isn’t everything—it is the only thing.”* This credo is taken to heart by thousands from grade school, high school, college and in the professional ranks. Winning at all costs has produced cheating, significant infractions and scandals in college, past and present—Penn State, Ohio State, UConn, Baylor, Oklahoma, Syracuse and the New England Patriots, to name a few. The NFL rakes in \$9 billion per year from TV,

licensing, NFL Properties, tickets, and other sources. Make no mistake about it—sport is big business.

Football

“Are you ready for some football?” This is the rhetorical question every September. Well, *yes* and *no*. This controlled violence is still violence, engendering results like NFL retired players who can’t get out of bed without help, migraine headaches, quarterbacks and linemen who can’t raise their arms or tie their shoes. This game has caused suicides, namely Jovan Belcher, Junior Seau, O.J. Murdock, Kurt Crain, Mike Current, Dave Duerson and Ray Easterling. There is an avalanche of litigation against the NFL, NFL Properties, Riddell Sports Group, and others. Approximately 2,500 former players and surviving family members are suing the NFL for allegedly distorting and hiding data about concussions. If this case goes to trial or there is a substantial money settlement, maybe this will engender significant changes in game rules and equipment, including high schools and colleges.

In 2010 the NFL gave Boston University’s Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy one million dollars to study the brains of 60 deceased football players. Although all the test results are not in, many showed signs of (CTE) chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Do we need to have all of the tested results when we know that the symptoms of CTE are slurred speech, headaches, psychosis and depression? On December 3, 2012, an additional study from Boston University detailed 33 causes of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in deceased ex-NFL players. Something needs to be done—*now!* I hope this article will direct the moral compass of the NFL, NFLPA, owners, high school coaches, athletic directors, and the players to action.

Continued on the next page

On April 15, 2013 a Denver, Colorado jury found Riddell, Inc. liable for failing to warn about concussion dangers. The jury awarded \$11.5 million to a Rhett Ridolfi, a high school student, and found Riddell 27 percent at fault. Ridolfi, a former Colorado high school football player, suffered serious brain injuries and partial paralysis. The jury assessed \$3.1 million in damages against Riddell.

National Center For Injury Prevention

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention, it is estimated that as many as 47 percent of all high school football players suffer a concussion each year. Football players who suffer multiple concussions are at risk of suffering permanent brain damage. Eight years ago not one state required that high school and middle school athletes who suffered concussion symptoms receive medical clearance to return to play. According to USA Football, 49 states (except Mississippi) now have some form of student-athlete concussion law in place. See <http://usafootball.com>

Michigan Sports Concussion Law

Michigan's Concussion Awareness Compliance, Public Acts 342 and 343 of 2012 became effective on June 30, 2013. This law requires all coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults to complete a concussion awareness *online training program*. Parents and guardians are required to sign a statement form that they have received educational materials on the signs and symptoms provided by the organized entity. The form sets out what constitutes a concussion, symptoms associated with the injury, and what parents and coaches must do if they suspect an athlete has suffered a concussion. The player must also sign the form. **See the attached Michigan Parent & Athlete Concussion Information Sheet.*

The law also requires immediate removal of an athlete from physical participation in an activity who is suspected of sustaining a concussion. The student must then receive written clearance from an appropriate health care professional before he or she can return to physical activity.

Michigan High School Athletic Association Executive Director Jack Roberts has launched new rules for football practices in 2014 to reduce head trauma by restricting the length of practices. The association gave concussion testing kits to some teams in the fall of 2015 as part of a pilot program to improve player safety.

Show Me The Money

For years, there has been a groundswell of talk about whether college players should be paid or profit from their fame before they graduate. This article answers that question with a resounding NO! The reasons are obvious and you cannot make the amateurism argument if you are paying players. Moreover, paying players money raises questions of maintaining the academic integrity of institutions and will disrupt the competitive balance. NCAA President Mark Emmert is in favor of increasing the value of athletic scholarships to cover the *full* cost of attending college. The decision of U.S. Chief Judge Claudia Wilken, sitting in the Northern District of California, in *O'Bannon v NCAA* on August 8, 2014 precluding student-athletes from receiving money for play and endorsements, confirms this view. Moreover, The National Labor Relations Board on August 17, 2015 dismissed a bid by Northwestern University football players to be considered employees and to form a labor union.

Conclusion

The purpose of this article is not to deter participation in football but rather to educate and inform parents, coaches, and players of the risks and symptoms of concussion. Participation in sports by young people can engender mental and physical toughness, discipline, sportsmanship and leadership qualities. These individual attributes collectively can also provide an advantage in the game of life.

In the final analysis, to inspire true sport, Grantland Rice, the dean of sports journalists, said it best: *"When the one great scorer comes to mark against your name, he will not write if you won or lost, but how you played the game."*

James A. Johnson of James A. Johnson, Esq. in Southfield is an accomplished attorney and concentrates on serious personal injury, sports and entertainment law, insurance coverage, and federal crimes. Mr. Johnson is an active member of the Michigan, Massachusetts, Texas and Federal Court bars. He can be reached at www.JamesAJohnsonEsq.com Website: <http://www.JamesAJohnsonEsq.com>

Two Surprising Advantages of Aging

By Roberta M. Gubbins

I am planning a short trip to Florida with my daughters to celebrate my next birthday, which is the start of my eighth decade. We will fly, which necessitates a hassle with TSA, a constant irritant for me since I am always pulled aside. Metal hips worry them; Kleenex in my pocket was the last trigger.

There is a new way to avoid the whole TSA aggravation. The government offers a trusted traveler program. TSA Pre✓® is an expedited security screening program for travelers to, in theory, give them a better air travel experience. Passengers considered low-risk who qualify for the program can go in a shorter line without the disrobing and imaging. A really nice deal if it works. As it is not universal with all airlines and airports, it doesn't work all that often, however, one can hope.

I chose the Global Entry Program, which helps both in country and travel abroad. Part of the required interview at Detroit Metro Airport included a picture and the taking of fingerprints. The agent was able to take my picture—no problem—but, no smiling, please, Ma'am.

The problem? Fingerprints. It seems mine are gone. No little swirlies left. Must be all that writing and the fact the fingers, like the rest of me, are eight decades old. The disadvantage to all this is that now, according to the young agent, my picture will appear on their screen with a big X through it, which, he said casually, "will mean more questions, but it will be okay because they'll see it's because I have no fingerprints." I am doubtful.

My one comforting thought was that I could take up a belated life of crime. No fingerprints to identify me. I did not voice this thought to the nice agent. He didn't have much of a sense of humor.

So if you see me leaving a bank in a bit of a hurry, carrying a bag with the bank's name, please look the

Passengers considered low-risk who qualify for the program can go in a shorter line without the disrobing and imaging.

other way. They'll never find me—I have no fingerprints to leave behind. That added to the fact that little old ladies are invisible will guarantee my success. Worn off fingerprints and invisibility are two surprising advantages that only aging can bring.





MASTER LAWYERS SECTION

America's Beautiful West

14 DAYS

America's legendary West beckons with the breathtaking scenery of the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park. Get in on all the nonstop action in Las Vegas. Experience history as it comes alive in Sacramento, the majesty of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and Salt Lake's Mormon Temple and Tabernacle. This memorable tour includes unforgettable journeys aboard Amtrak's *Southwest Chief*, *San Joaquin* and *California Zephyr* as well as comfortable motorcoach travel across America's vast and wondrous terrain.



Grand Canyon National Park

Your tour includes:

- Roundtrip rail travel departing from Chicago on Amtrak (2 nights on train)
- Hotel accommodations for 12 nights including a 2-night stay in Fisherman's Wharf and a 2-night stay on the Las Vegas Strip
- 21 meals
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Yosemite National Park
- Muir Woods
- San Francisco city tour
- Salt Lake City tour
- Transportation by deluxe motorcoach
- Services of a professional tour manager
- Baggage handling

Travel insurance is recommended.

Roundtrip connecting rail to Chicago is available. Pricing will be quoted on an individual basis at time of reservation.

Tour Departure
September 2 - 16, 2016

Price
\$2,985 Twin/Coach
\$3,895 Single/Coach

Roomette and Bedroom pricing is an upgrade.
Roomette: Add \$598
Bedroom: Add \$1,395

Prices are per person.

\$750 deposit due at registration.
Final balance due: June 2, 2016

**For more information and to make a reservation,
call Vacations By Rail at 877-929-7245 and
mention code SBM2015**

Day 1 - Depart Chicago

Meet your tour manager and fellow travelers at Chicago's Union Station and prepare for your afternoon departure. Overnight train. (D)

Day 2 - Scenic Wonders En Route to Flagstaff

We pass through seven states enroute to Flagstaff. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight DoubleTree by Hilton, Flagstaff, AZ for two nights. (B, L, D)

Day 3 - The Grand Canyon

Experience one of the seven natural wonders of the world. We view the Grand Canyon from several observation areas with a knowledgeable guide and see vistas of the Colorado River, the Canyon, the Painted Desert and Kaibab National Forest. (B, D)

Day 4 - Las Vegas Strip

Board your deluxe motorcoach and travel northwest to fabulous Las Vegas. Check into your Vegas Strip hotel before enjoying the evening on your own at one of the world-class restaurants, casinos or shows. Overnight Monte Carlo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV for two nights. (B)

Day 5 - Las Vegas

The day begins with a tour of three hotels. The afternoon is for exploration or relaxation at your leisure. Tonight, we experience the original Las Vegas, now known as "downtown," which rivals the Strip as a popular destination. The Fremont Street Experience features an impressive \$70-million canopy of light and sound that envelops the historic hotels and casinos along four city blocks. (B)

Day 6 - Merced, California

Depart Las Vegas this morning, stopping in Barstow, CA for lunch on your own. Arrive in Bakersfield in time to catch an afternoon *San Joaquin* train to Merced. Early this evening, arrive in Merced and transfer to your hotel. Overnight Courtyard by Marriott, Merced, CA. (B, D)

Day 7 - Yosemite National Park

Board your motorcoach for the scenic 82-mile journey into Yosemite National Park and experience El Capitan, Bridalveil Falls, Yosemite Falls and Half Dome. This afternoon, take a two-hour narrated sightseeing tour of this World Heritage Site. Later, we'll continue on to Sacramento, with a stop for dinner on your own. Overnight Holiday Inn, Sacramento, CA for two nights. (B)

Day 8 - Sacramento Exploration

The day is yours to explore one of Sacramento's many delightful attractions. Relive the California Gold Rush in historic Old Sacramento or visit the California State Railroad Museum and the majestic State Capitol Building. (B, D)

Day 9 - San Francisco

This morning we depart for San Francisco with an early afternoon arrival. Enjoy a sightseeing tour, including Chinatown, Golden Gate Park, Telegraph Hill and the Presidio. The tour ends at Fisherman's Wharf, where you can enjoy dinner at one of its famous seafood restaurants



Route Map

on the water. Overnight Radisson Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA for two nights. (B)

Day 10 - Muir Woods

Today we cross the famous Golden Gate Bridge on our way to Muir Woods and its magnificent 800 year old, 250 foot tall redwood trees. Before returning to San Francisco, we will stop in the mediterranean village of Sausalito. (B)

Day 11 - Elko, Nevada

We depart for the Amtrak station in Emeryville to board the *California Zephyr*. Traveling eastward, we leave the green landscape and palm trees of California and enter the rugged terrain of the high Sierra Nevada Mountains. We pass through Donner Pass before arriving in Elko, NV. Overnight Red Lion Hotel and Casino, Elko, NV.

Day 12 - Price, Utah via Salt Lake City

Board the motorcoach for the trip to Price, UT. On the way, we tour Salt Lake City, UT to see the Mormon Temple, Tabernacle, Brigham Young's Monument and private burial ground, Beehive House, Trolley Square and more. Overnight Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Price, UT. (B)

Day 13 - Colorado Rockies

After breakfast, board Amtrak's *California Zephyr* in Helper, UT for your return trip to Chicago. View the spectacular scenery from the Sightseer Lounge car as we make our way toward Denver. We encounter the famous, five-mile long Moffat Tunnel and, literally, go under the Continental Divide, before passing through Denver. Overnight train. (B, L, D)

Day 14 - Tour Conclusion

The *California Zephyr* is scheduled to arrive in Chicago late afternoon. Upon arrival, transfer to your connecting train to your departing Michigan destination. (B, L)



RESERVATION & TRAVELER INFORMATION FORM

**State Bar of Michigan – Master Lawyers Section
America’s Beautiful West
September 2-15, 2016
Double Occupancy per person / Single Occupancy per person
\$2,985/\$3,895**

<p>Please print name exactly as it appears on your government issued photo identification that you will use while traveling. (Passport, Government ID or Driver’s License)</p> <p>Traveler 1: _____</p> <p>Traveler 2: _____</p> <p>Street Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Country: _____</p> <p>Tel: _____ Cell: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Roommate’s Name: _____</p> <p>Accommodation Occupancy: _____ Single _____ Double</p> <p>Rail Accommodation Type: _____ Coach (included) _____ Roomette _____ Bedroom</p> <p>How would you like your name printed on your name tag? _____</p> <p align="center">Payment Information</p> <p>Deposit Amount: \$ 750.00 per person</p> <p>Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____</p> <p>_____ Check here and provide <u>phone number</u> if you would like to be contacted to make deposit payment by credit card.</p> <hr/> <p align="center">(Telephone Number)</p> <p>Once reservation is confirmed, Vacations By Rail will forward a form to verify authorization was given for credit card deposit payment.</p> <p>Submit Completed form: Vacations By Rail – SBM2015 code</p> <p>Via email: cathy@vacationsbyrail.com</p> <p>Via mail: 309 West Washington St, Suite 309 Chicago, IL 60606</p> <p>Phone: (877) 929-7245 *When securing your reservations, please inquire about rail transportation departing from Michigan to Chicago.</p>	<p align="center">Security Information - RAIL</p> <p>In order to make your vacation as enjoyable as possible, and to assist us in preparing official documentation, kindly complete information below.</p> <p>Traveler 1: Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ _____ Male _____ Female</p> <p>Traveler 2: Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ _____ Male _____ Female</p> <p align="center">Terms and Conditions</p> <p>All payments for land and train arrangements (ticketed by Vacations By Rail) will be refunded, less the applicable cancellation fees as outlined below.</p> <p>The following per person cancellation charges will be assessed: Once confirmed: \$250 per person plus supplier fees 90-61 days prior to departure: \$700 per person plus supplier fees 60-46 days prior to departure: 50% of package price plus supplier fees 45 – day of departure: 100% non-refundable 100% cancellation fee for no shows or if cancellation is made after travel is scheduled to begin No refund for unused portions of the trip</p> <p>Deposit: \$750 per person deposit due at sign-up.</p> <p>Final Payment: Due by June 2, 2016</p> <p align="center">TRAVEL INSURANCE is strongly recommended</p> <p>_____ Check here and include your email address below if you would like Vacations By Rail to request a travel insurance quotation for you. This will be sent to you by email upon receipt of your deposit payment.</p> <p>You are responsible for purchasing your travel insurance. Travel insurance purchases should be made within 14 days of the date of deposit with Vacations By Rail.</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Email Address</p> <p>Emergency Contact (Optional)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p> <p>Tel: _____ Cell: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
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