

This past year began with the 2002 Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. The Law Student Section Governing Council (LSSGC) held regular monthly meetings for the remainder of the school year, with active participation from all of the Michigan law schools. For the first year, Ave Maria law school was represented on the governing council. LSSGC welcomes 13 new representatives to the governing council for the upcoming 2003-2004 term, who will replace the seven current graduating LSSGC members and other vacant positions. The University of Michigan and Detroit College of Law still have representative positions open, so any interested Law Student Section members who would like to be considered as a Governing Council representatives for U of M or DCL are encouraged to contact Greg Mick, the incoming chairperson.

The LSSGC continued to pursue increasing its presence at the respective law schools by increasing its on-campus involvement through event sponsorship, recruiting, and communication with other student organizations and students. This included co-sponsoring school events, recruiting, donating funds to various school initiatives, and communicating to students about LSS and other State Bar of Michigan events.

LSSGC was proud to co-sponsor the first Skate for Justice Event to Benefit Civil Legal Aid Programs for the State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice, a charity hockey event held at Joe Louis Arena in April to help indigent people with pressing unmet civil legal needs. Hockey players from Wayne State, University of Detroit, University of Michigan, Ave Maria, and Detroit College of Law squared off in a competition that resulted in MSU-DCL winning first place; WSU coming in second place; and third place going to the U of M/ Ave Maria combined team. LSSGC provided the championship cup, and also donated funds to ATJ. Special recognition goes out to all of the law student hockey players who organized the successful event, especially the event coordinator, Pippin Brehler (a University of Michigan law student section member). LSSGC looks forward to supporting the event in the future. LSSGC has been in contact with ATJ staff and hopes to create more initiatives and new event to support ATJ in the upcoming year.

LSSGC participated in planning part of the Open Justice Commission Symposium, sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice. LSSGC assisted in planning the roundtable discussion revolving around diversity in legal education and the implications of the affirmative action case before the United States Supreme Court.

In particular, LSSGC would like to commend Mr. Albert Quick, the main organizer of the roundtable program for his efforts in bringing about the successful program.

LSSGC also co-sponsored Winterfest with the Young Lawyers Section and other organizations this year. The event took place at Sangria in Royal Oak and had a good turnout of both young lawyers and law students. LSSGC is planning more combined events with YLS, including another upcoming event focusing on career initiatives. LSSGC continues to encourage its members to attend various YLS events by disseminating information contained in *Inter Alia* to law students. I would like to thank YLS for their cooperation and hard work throughout the past year. In particular, I would like to thank Kathryn Day for her advice and support, and Ginta Kukainis, and Wil Steiner for their efforts in coordinating Winterfest.

Also, LSSGC approved and drafted a letter addressed to the Michigan Supreme Court, supporting a change to MCR 8.120 that would allow students practicing law in conjunction with a law school's clinical law program to practice before the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, in addition to the trial courts. The rule does not currently permit law students to argue before these courts, even while under the supervision of the clinical program. John Fedynsky and Geoff Brown (Governing Council Member), both University of Michigan students who recently assisted in oral arguments for a case before the Michigan Supreme Court, brought the issue to the attention of the section. The federal court system (Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals) allows supervised law students to argue at the appellate level, thus, the law student section supports a change in the Michigan rules to be commensurate with the analogous federal court rules.

The hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of the governing council members over the past year have been much appreciated. I would like to thank each member of the LSSGC for the efforts put forth over this past term. I greatly appreciate the advice and support from Rolf Lowe, *ex officio*, and also for his leadership and professionalism during his term as chairperson. Finally, I would like to give heartfelt congratulations to Karen Williams, our section liaison to the State Bar, who is retiring this summer. She has participated in our section for many years behind the scenes and has sacrificed many Saturdays to attend our meetings. Her knowledge, assistance, and patience have been greatly appreciated throughout my three-year tenure on the governing council.

Best of luck to my fellow graduating law student section members in your future careers, and to the incoming governing council members for the 2003-2004 term.

Jennifer Woodside Wojtala

Chairperson