

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
LITIGATION SECTION 2002 – 2003  
ANNUAL REPORT**

*Submitted by Chairperson Anne Warren Bagno*

The Litigation Section has once again enjoyed a year filled with successful professional programs, with a newsletter filled with program information and substantive articles and with multiple opportunities to interact with other litigators. The Litigation Section has also maintained its commitment to the improvement of the administration of justice.

The Section's Program Committee, under the capable direction of Tom Cavalier and in conjunction with the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, sponsored three banner programs with nationally recognized luminaries in the Masters in Litigation Series. Targeted at litigators who have reached the advanced level, these seminars focused on both procedural and substantive aspects of litigation. Robert Musante led participants on April 24, 2003 in "How to Take a KILLER Deposition," an animated and dynamic program for sharpening deposition techniques. On May 8, 2003, Dana K. Cole presented "Psychodrama For Litigators," a compelling, hands-on approach to addressing the jury and examining and cross-examining witnesses at trial. Finally, Ed Pappas offered "Ed Pappas on Business Torts: Posturing to Prevail" on June 24, 2003, a stimulating presentation on the now hugely active area of business tort litigation. The collaboration between the Litigation Section and ICLE continues to be extremely successful in presenting high quality programs at an attractive price. With ICLE's Section discount, savings for Litigation Section Members surpass the Section dues of the entire year.

Another exciting collaborative effort is in the works with ICLE. A new program is being planned by Shel Stark, ICLE Education Director, entitled “Litigation Boot Camp – Basic Training for Every Litigator.” The Litigation Section Council voted to sponsor and support the program. “Litigation Boot Camp” will provide practical and comprehensive litigation training for new lawyers that promises to provide a sound and memorable beginning to a litigator’s career. The program will consist of nine separate sessions from September through May lasting two hours each. The curriculum includes client intake and conflicts of interest, pleadings, discovery plans, depositions, motion practice, negotiating settlements and using ADR, expert witnesses, trial preparation, and civility and professionalism.

The Section will hold its eighth Summer Conference on the last weekend in July. Under the diligent leadership of Susan Keener, the Summer Conference Committee organized numerous activities for Litigation Section members and their families at the JJ Resort. The traditional Saturday morning substantive program, entitled “Winning Your Trial: Techniques for Effective Advocacy,” will be hosted by Joseph V. Gustaferra and James W. Jeans, Sr. Once again, the social programs and activities have been geared to members and their families, including the welcome reception Friday evening, followed by a rodeo. After the educational program on Saturday, participants can horseback ride or play golf. The conference will conclude with a Family Barbecue Saturday night. The Section once again retained the capable support of Special D Events of Troy, Michigan to handle logistics related to the conference, including advertising, registration, planning and onsite coordination. The Summer Conference Committee was also successful in obtaining sponsorship from a number of entities to help defray the cost of the conference.

The Litigation Section's Rules and Legislative Committee, under the dedicated leadership of Lynn Shecter, analyzed and commented upon numerous proposals circulated by the State Bar of Michigan, the Michigan Supreme Court and the Legislature. The activity of this committee permits our members to have a voice in the ongoing improvement of the practice of law in the State of Michigan.

Another prominent feature of the Litigation Section's activities included the publication of the Litigation Section Newsletter, under the skilled direction of Brad Sysol. Three issues were published this year, which included substantive articles on a number of litigation topics, as well as program information and reminders.

The Litigation Section also continued its ongoing commitment to improving the administration of justice. For example, it became an official sponsor and contributed \$1,000.00 to the first Michigan Conference on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Legal System, which was held in April, 2003 in Detroit. The Litigation Section Council also approved a \$2,000.00 contribution to the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament through the Center for Civic Education Through the Law.

Preliminary efforts also were made to form a collaborative relationship between the Litigation Section and the Inns of Court. Chair Anne Bagno and Council Member Steve Wolock approached members of the Inns of Court to explore future programming opportunities and other areas of shared interests.

Thanks to the technological support of Dickinson Wright, PLLC, the Litigation Section Council was able to meet several times over the course of the year by video conference from that firm's offices in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids. The Section's

Executive Committee met by conference call one week prior to each Council meeting to discuss pertinent matters and to refine the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting.

The Section's financial condition is healthy. The success of the Litigation Section is the direct result of the ongoing commitment and diligent activity of the Litigation Section Council and its Committees. This Section will continue to thrive and provide improved services to its members under the capable leadership of Chairperson-elect Bob June, Secretary Kevin O'Dowd and Treasurer Gordon Gold.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Warren Bagno, Chairperson  
Litigation Section  
May 31, 2003