

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
Senior Lawyers Section  
2006-2007 Annual Report

The annual meeting of the Senior Lawyers Section was held at Chrystal Mountain in Thompsonville, Michigan on August 11, 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Following the annual meeting officers were elected and discussion began of plans for the year. The council decided to research several places for the annual meeting.

The council considered a survey of locations and decided on the Grand Hotel in Mackinac Island the annual meeting in 2007. Dates will be August 17, 18 and 19. The council approved a program including wealth management for retirement, a presentation by H. Rollin Allen of "Around the World in 81 Days," and golf instruction by a noted golf pro.

On May 15, 2007 the section co-sponsored the Golden Celebration honoring the lawyers achieving 50 years of practice. The celebration this year was at The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth Michigan. The event was very well attended and received. Janet K. Welch, our new Executive Director of the State Bar was the key note speaker. This event is much more meaningful as a stand alone celebration instead one meeting at the Annual Meeting as in some years past.

The section conducted a survey of needs and wants of eligible State Bar members in 2001 and is considering updating the survey. Recent figures indicate more than 9000 members of the State Bar are eligible for section membership. The section continues to work to provide interesting and valuable programs and information for its members.

Until a few years ago the State Bar of Michigan recognized the fact that membership is mandatory and members must pay dues. In recognition of the fact that members 70 years of age and older have paid dues for many years and generally slow down their practice, the Bar by-laws waived dues for members age 70 and older. The by-laws were recently changed to require payment of dues to maintain active status after age 70. A special category of membership was created for members aged 70 and older who do not practice but want to continue to receive bar materials. The Senior Lawyer Section requested that the Representative Assembly approve a modification of the rules to allow this special class of retired member to receive referral fees when appropriate. The Section was active in educating the Representative Assembly members and presented the matter to the Assembly. The effort was not successful. The Senior Lawyer Section will continue to study this issue and perhaps bring it back to the table in a year or so.

Again in the summer of 2006 the section published the informative newsletter “The Mentor.” The lead article was “Why is My Practice So Valuable to Me—and Others?” by Jon H. Kingsepp.

The section Council has been meeting quarterly and decided to meet monthly by telephone conference in the months between quarterly meetings.

As usual, Amy Castner of the State Bar staff was invaluable and provided expert help and guidance for the section.