

Jerry S. McCroskey 1974  
Robert S. Feldman 1981  
Kevin McCroskey

Darryl R. Cochrane  
J. Walter Brock  
of counsel

Seymour L. Muskovitz  
Michael J. Flynn  
Robert O. Chessman  
Eric C. Lewis  
Gary T. Neal  
James T. Haadsma  
Christopher J. Rabideau  
Paula S. Olivarez  
John M. Karafa  
Stuart M. Saunders  
Leigh S. Zalewski Ebrom

Law Offices

## McCroskey Law

722 North Creyts Road  
Suite C  
Lansing, MI 48917

Toll Free (877)323-3645  
Telephone: 517/323-3645  
Fax: 517/323-3669

[www.mccroskeylaw.com](http://www.mccroskeylaw.com)

Muskegon, MI 49443  
1440 Peck Street  
P.O. Box 27  
Phone (231)726-4861  
1-800-442-0237

Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
2922 Fuller, NE  
Suite 118  
Phone (616) 364-6607  
1-800-344-5255

Battle Creek, MI 49015  
395 S. Shore Drive  
Suite 308  
Phone (269) 968-2215  
1-800-965-6615

June 9, 2008

Heather K. Anderson  
Sections and Committees Administrator  
306 Townsend Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

**Re: Workers' Compensation Section of the State Bar of Michigan**  
**Bar Year: 2007/2008**

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Please accept this letter as my year-end report regarding the workers' compensation law section.

The officers and council members of our section this past year were as follows: Paula Olivarez, Chairperson, 722 North Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan 48917, 517-323-3645, email address [polivarez@mccroskeylaw.com](mailto:polivarez@mccroskeylaw.com); Chair-Elect Maurice Feldman, Secretary Joel Elpert, Treasurer David Degraw, 250 Monroe, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 616-458-3646, email address [ddegraw@shrr.com](mailto:ddegraw@shrr.com).

The members of our committee whose terms ended in 2008 were Tom Ruth, Denice LeVasseur and Phil Brown. The members whose terms expire in 2009 are Charles Palmer, Brian Goodenough, and John Sims. The council members whose terms expire in 2010 are John Charters, William Housefield and Mark Viel.

The council met on September 21, 2007 and October 26, 2007 in Lansing, Michigan. The meetings for 2008 also occurred in Lansing, Michigan. These were on March 14, April 4, where we met with the director of workers' compensation, and a regular council meeting on May 9, 2008.

Our ending workers' compensation treasury has a balance of \$84,877.13.

We had a number of seminars this year. The first seminar occurred in Detroit, Michigan on December 14, 2007. The next event was the winter meeting in Cancun,

*CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE*

**McCROSKY, FELDMAN, COCHRANE & BROCK, P.L.C.**

Mexico. This occurred March of 2008. Our spring section meeting is currently scheduled in Bellaire, Michigan for June 19, 2008.

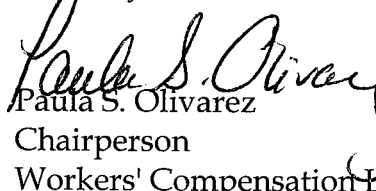
The legislative issues we dealt with a council included the set up for Medicare and Medicaid services legislation. We sent a couple of council members to Washington, DC to lobby on behalf of our interests. We were seeking a change in the proposed legislation to limit the interference of CMS with workers' compensation litigation in the State of Michigan. To further that agenda, the chairperson also wrote to other workers' compensation law sections in the country to join in our lobbying efforts.

We also, as a council, dealt with proposed new 104(a) applications and the proposed vocational rehabilitation rules of the Bureau. Further, we dealt with an issue regarding the proposed brochure, which outlined vocational rehabilitation hearings.

As far as any recommendations for our council which will be meeting in the years 2008/2009, it would be my recommendation that we continue our fight with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services. Further, I believe the council should push the Bureau to reopen a number of closed workers' compensation hearing sites in light of the gas charges. It is overly burdensome for our constituency to have to absorb the expense of the gas and the time of travel to a hearing site, which might be up to three hours one way.

Should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Paula S. Olivarez

Chairperson  
Workers' Compensation Law Section