

connections with SECTIONS

links to help you

Board of Commissioners

www.michbar.org/generalinfo/board.cfm

Representative Assembly

www.michbar.org/generalinfo/repasssembly.cfm

State Bar Staff

www.michbar.org/generalinfo/staff.cfm

Access to Justice—Year-End Giving Donation

www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pledgeOnline.cfm

New Pro Hac Vice Rule—Effective 9-1-2008

www.michbar.org/opinions/ethicsopinions.cfm#recent

Connections with Sections is an electronic newsletter published three times a year by the State Bar of Michigan and distributed without charge to section chairs and chairs-elect and the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Announcements, articles, and pictures for *Connections with Sections* are highly encouraged. Please send suggestions to Candace Crowley at ccrowley@mail.michbar.org. The State Bar of Michigan reserves the right to edit for clarity and suggests that submissions be kept at 500 words or fewer.

Submission Deadlines:

February 15, 2009
June 15, 2009
October 15, 2009

A Great Bar Year Ahead!

By Candace Crowley

This issue of *Connections* marks the first communication to new leaders of the 133 affinity bar associations and the 39 State Bar sections working to improve the administration of justice in Michigan during the 2008-2009 Bar leadership year. Welcome aboard, new leaders, and a warm hello to those of you who remain at the head of your organization!

Connections is meant to improve communications among all of us so we can learn from each other, use our resources most effectively, ask for help from each other, and find allies to enlist in common goals. The pictures are meant to help us visualize your activities and stimulate thinking as to whether a featured event is something your audience is ready for. "Out and About" showcases your programs and introduces your leaders—we are always looking for information, so send us ideas to include in upcoming issues.

One of the most important messages from the State Bar is that we are here to support your work and to help you succeed. We can assist you in finding partners, developing materials, or strategizing policy work. Our presidents are always open to supporting your events, and this year is no exception. Ed Pappas is a friendly but competitive person and is eager to attend more events than any of his predecessors. Please invite him to join you at a meeting, discussion, or celebration. I can help you with his calendar, so give me a shout. Most of all, let me know how the State Bar can help you with your work this year.

Looking for Interested Attorneys to Participate in Disabilities Access Issues

The Justice Initiatives Committee and its disabilities work group are looking for attorneys who are willing to participate in a survey to determine the accessibility of courts for persons with disabilities. A note to this effect was sent to section leaders earlier this year, but the work group is still looking for two populations: (1) attorneys who have represented clients with disabilities and (2) attorneys who would voluntarily identify themselves as people with a disability that requires

Calendar of Events

Poletown and Eminent Domain Legal Milestone

December 2, 2008
Hamtramck, MI
http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives08/sbm_poletown_milestone.cfm

Free Legal Workshop on Legal Issues Concerning Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Clients

December 5, 2008
http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives08/lgbt_seminar.cfm

ABA Mid-year Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts
February 11-17, 2009

Bar Leadership Forum

Mackinac Island
June 12-13, 2009

Upper Michigan Legal Institute

Mackinac Island
June 12-13, 2009

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 16-18, 2009
Dearborn

Board of Commissioners Meetings

January 16, 2009
March 6, 2009
April 17, 2009
June 12, 2009 (Mackinac)
July 24, 2009
September 16, 2009 (Dearborn)

accommodation. Those who are identified should be willing to participate in a survey to identify barriers/challenges/issues.

If you or your members can help identify attorneys within these populations, the disabilities work group would be very appreciative. Please contact Katy Conklin, kconklin@mail.michbar.org.

Section Leader Listserv Now Available

As we know from the section chair orientation on October 2, much energy, sharing of ideas, and potential policy and program partnerships can be realized through healthy sharing of information with each other. A section chair and co-chair listserv has been set up for the purpose of continuing conversations, posting inquiries about section activities and interest in policy or program partnerships, and sharing information about key section events. You can access the listserv by typing “SectionLeaders@groups.michbar.org” in the address line of your e-mail screen. We encourage section leaders to use the listserv.

Sections Invited to Address State Bar Board of Commissioners

One way the State Bar keeps connected with the work of the sections is through in-person reports to the Board of Commissioners. A calendar of Board meetings is included with this issue of Connections. Please let Candace Crowley know if you would like to make a brief presentation to the Board and keep your section’s challenges and accomplishments in front of Bar leadership.

Involve Your Commissioner Liaison!

Each section has a Board of Commissioner liaison appointed to keep communication lines open and to assist sections in achieving their goals. A list of 2008-2009 liaisons is available on the State Bar website. Please include your liaison on your listservs and newsletter mailing lists, and be sure to send notices of council meetings to your liaison. Your work is important to key strategic decisions made by the Board; having an informed liaison will help those decisions be responsive to section interests.

Taxation Section Uses Access to Justice Fund to Make Grant Awards

Like many State Bar sections, the Taxation Section has a robust scholarship and grant award program that recognizes the work of individuals and programs whose accomplishments follow the goals of the section. Earlier this year, the section identified seven programs and 17 individuals whose exemplary work was rewarded with a financial stipend. Five of the grants were awarded to programs that are part of the Access to Justice program, and those awards were directed through the ATJ Fund. Kudos to the Taxation Section for using the ATJ Fund to make its grants. For more information on how to use the ATJ Fund, contact Linda Rexer at lrrexer@msbf.org, (517) 346-6401.

Revised *You and the Law* Booklet Now Available

The Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary and the Public Outreach Committee of the State Bar announce the availability of an updated *You and the Law* booklet for young people in Michigan. Janet Welch’s foreword explains that “The State Bar of Michigan offers this booklet to help you be aware of your rights and responsibilities under the law and to be a responsible citizen of Michigan and the United States. It



Real Property Law Section past, current, and future chairs Lawrence Shoffner, C. Leslie Banas and Jerome Pesick celebrate the Section's 35th Anniversary at a November dinner.

is specially designed to tell you about areas of the law that are of special concern to young people." The book costs \$2.00.

Announcing the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award

This new State Bar of Michigan award is established in memory of Kimberly M. Cahill, president of the State Bar of Michigan (2006-2007). The award will be presented to a recognized local or affinity bar association, program, or leader, for excellence in promoting the ideal of professionalism or equal justice for all, or in responding to a compelling legal need within the community during the past year or on an ongoing basis. Watch for more information in January.

"A Lawyer Helps" Campaign Announced



Young Lawyers and Mentors Plus Host Multicultural-Themed Picnic. Complete story in the November *Michigan Bar Journal* "Up Front" section.

The Board of Commissioners recently approved the launching of a statewide campaign to enhance the image of lawyers and the legal profession by focusing on attorney public service. Thousands of Michigan attorneys are active volunteers in their local communities, and this campaign will help us publicize the good deeds and services performed by these lawyers—not only as members of the Bar, but also as members of their own communities. Bar associations, sections, law firms, legal aid organizations, law schools, and individual Michigan attorneys will all be encouraged to participate. T-shirts, buttons, golf shirts, hats, and aprons will carry the distinctive "A Lawyer Helps" logo.

Out and About

The **Administrative Law Section** will be holding an event on December 12 regarding "Best Practices in Administrative Law."

The **Insurance and Indemnity Law Section** marks its first birthday on December 4, 2008! Congrats to Chair Hal Carroll and his executive council for a job well done.

A Fall/Winter Seminar for the **Workers' Compensation Section** is scheduled for December 5 at the Cadillac Plaza Building.

Interested in informed consent decisions? The **Judicial Conference Section** put forth a unanimous vote to recommend that the legislature enact a series of reforms of Michigan's mental health system.

Congratulations to the **Environmental Law Section** for the intense efforts they've put forth over the last few months to update their web page—check it out at www.michbar.org/environmental/ today!

The **Brandi Award** was proudly presented by the **Animal Law Section** on October 23 to state legislative Representatives Steve Bieda (D-Warren), Pam Byrnes (D-Lyndon Township), and John Espinoza (D-Croswell) for their dedication and outstanding contributions to legislation for the humane treatment of animals.

The **Consumer Law Section** is planning to host another E-Discovery Seminar, led by Jeffrey Ritter of Water's Edge Consulting. Contact Chair Terry Adler for more information at lemonade1@sbcglobel.net.

An annual fall retreat was enjoyed by the **Young Lawyers Section** executive council at the Soaring Eagle Resort on November 15, 2008.

The **Health Care Law Section** presented another successful continuing education session regarding the Stark Law regulations on October 14.

The **Labor and Employment Law Section** is deep in planning for its January 30-31 Winter Conference at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The **Public Corporation Law Section** is excited to present a seminar on Municipal Financing on February 6 at the Inn at St. Johns.

State Bar staff continues to meet with potential partner groups to identify the best way to move forward with the campaign. A Law Day launch is anticipated.

We Can Help You with Your Events

State Bar staff can provide you a wide range of services to help you plan your event. From Save the Date flyers, to e-commerce registration, to e-blasts to your members, and in-person staff support at the event, our people are here to help. Make sure to look at the [events checklist](#) for ideas on what we can help you with. If in doubt, start by contacting Heather Anderson, handerson@mail.michbar.org, (517) 346 6414.

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to the 15 most commonly asked questions presented to Bar staff by section leaders can be found in our [October 2008 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. Where to start, how to take a position on a current bill in the legislature, what's necessary to file an amicus brief, how to get State Bar letterhead, how to publicize your events, why contracts need to be reviewed by our general counsel, and other questions are all answered in the FAQ.

One question we posed, with an answer based on information from past section chairs, is "I want to have a successful year as chair of my section. Do you have any advice?" Part of the answer states: "Advice from past chairs includes setting manageable goals, getting others involved, delegating work, managing your scarce time well, finding a mentor, and mentoring your own chair-elect. Advice from Bar staff includes plan ahead, use our services, responde to our requests for information or advice, and have fun!"



2007-2008 Chair Asher Tilchen and Mrs. Hess present President Ron Keefe with the Senior Lawyers Section first Robert A. Hess award, named for the section's immediate past chair who died unexpectedly in December.



Law Student Section members met in April at Ave Marie Law School to elect Alan Hamisch (plaid shirt) as their chair. Secretary Charles Skinner appears on the left.

Keep Your Website Up to Date!

One sign of a healthy and energized section is the strength of its website. Current listings of upcoming meetings and events, and timely posting of council minutes help to inform members (and others interested in joining) on how to get involved. Perhaps most importantly, please post information on all of your upcoming events. As soon as a date and topic are identified, send that information to Sandi Barger, sbarger@mail.michbar.org, for posting on your site. Not only will that generate interest from those who visit your site, but also it helps Bar staff answer questions from the many, many people who contact us for information on your events.