

Obiter Dictum

E-Volume 1, Issue 2

1 October 2007

This Issue's Highlights:

Korterings take us on their honeymoon to ITALY.



Rome



Florence

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Westshore Dispute Resolution Center growing, moving to new site

The Westshore Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC), a nonprofit issues-solving agency, is growing, needs more space, and is moving to a larger facility in downtown Muskegon.

Beginning in mid-October, the agency will move from 8 West Walton—across



from the Kobza Hall of Justice—to 1200 Ransom. "We simply needed more space,"

David Cotter

said **David Cotter**, the agency's director, who also announced his retirement. "(The Ransom Street building) is barrier-free. It's the expansion that we needed."

Formed in 1994 to help residents of Muskegon, Ma-

son, Manistee, and Oceana Counties, WDRC's highly



WDRC's new home: 1200 Ransom Street, Muskegon

trained volunteers now handle 1,000 referrals a year.

The center has helped courts, lawyers and their clients from throughout West Michigan from its current location since 2002.

There, a growing group of WDRC volunteers has dealt with feuding neighbors, divorcing parents, alienated grandparents—and dozens

of other issues and individuals over the years.

WDRC's new facility will offer staff and clients more room to deal with restorative justice, domestic relations, small claims and other minor general civil matters. In the last six years, WDRC's caseload has quadrupled, Cotter said. While its 5-member staff has remained stable, volunteers are now at 50. "It's like a second career for some people," Cotter said.



Who is this St. Francis of the Court House? Pg. 4

Lawyer Volunteers: Backbone of community boards, agencies, and commissions

I. John Snyder, James Kobza are but two attorneys serving or who have served on the Muskegon County Board of Commission and in other high-profile seats. Dozens more of our colleagues devote their time, expertise, and energy to

lesser-known boards and groups. Here are three:

David M. Wells, of VanderPloeg, Wells and Sweeting LLP, serves



David Wells

on the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. But that's only one line of a resume showing a career of giving. "I believe it is my duty as a Christian and as a mem-
Con't Pg 3.

Vino, storia con honeymoon

By **David Korterling**
and **Kathy Korterling**

Married on 7/7/07 (along with an estimated 65,000 other couples), Kathy and I decided to make another dream come true - travel to Italy on our honeymoon. We agreed to see the historic cities of Rome, Florence, and Venice and we finalized a 10-day itinerary just days before our departure. Ten days is not enough.

In The Eternal City of Rome, we visited St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, the Roman Forum (i.e. "the ruins"), Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Coliseum, Castel Sant'Angelo, the Spanish Steps, and the Galleria Borghese. All in just three days! The highlight of our Rome Adventure was our dinner cruise up and down the Tiber River taking in the glow of St. Peter's Basilica and the Castel Sant'Angelo at night. We were able to share the experience with a nice couple from England during our romantic 5-course meal.

Florence greeted us with a 100-degree heat wave and high humidity on our fourth day. Viewing my namesake, the statue of "David" located in the Galleria dell'Accademia, was the highlight for me. For Kathy, it was shopping at Ferragamo, Ponte Vecchio, and the outdoor markets.

Our train ride to Venice acquainted us with a native Venetian. She taught for 30 years at the University in Venezia and was able to point us to the right vaporetto (water taxi) in order to find our hotel, "Al Ponte Dei Sospiri." It was a beautiful and elegant hotel, complete with Murano glass chandeliers, and a stone's throw away from San Marco Plaza and St. Mark's Basilica. One morning we toured the Galleria dell'Accademia in Dorsoduro and viewed paintings from the 13th through 18th centuries by Bellini, Tintoretto, and Carpaccio. The afternoon was spent window-shopping on the island of Murano, famous for its glass factories.

Venice offered the best pizza I've ever had at "Al Chianti." Other highlights: Walking the "golden staircase" at the Palazzo Ducale, seeing where most of the important decisions were made at the Doge's Palace, and meandering the streets and alleyways of Venice in search of the famous Rialto Bridge.

But when in Venice, a gondola ride is a must. Our gondolier, Mateo, picked us up at our hotel's water entrance and whisked us through parts of Venice that can only be seen by boat. He showed us Marco Polo's palace, Casanova's hideout, and a superb view of the Bridge of Sighs, built in the 17th cen-

ture to connect the palazzo and the Courts of Justice to the prisons - thus the name. Prisoners condemned to death could be heard sighing as they passed over this bridge both on their way into prison and eventually on their way to execution in Piazzetta San Marco.



Honeymooners at Bridge of Sighs in Venice, the Coliseum



For only a glass or two of 'vino rosso' we'll loan anyone our "Italy for Dummies" book our maps, and provide you with a litany of do's and don'ts.

Bob Engel starts new career as Family Court referee

Veteran family law practitioner **Robert S. Engel** recently closed a chapter on his life and opened another as a Muskegon County Family Court referee.

Mr. Engel, 57, replaces Gerald Gibbs who retired last month. His duties include holding conciliation meetings with divorcing clients, issuing proposed resulting orders, and serving as attorney-referee in juvenile criminal cases.



Bob Engel

So where have you been?



- * Where have **depositions** and other work assignments taken you? The best places, the worst.? The most remote, the most populated? The most dangerous?
- * What's been your favorite vacation spot, here or abroad?
- * What's Michigan best-kept secret?

Please call or email Mike Walsh at 726-1400 or mgwalsh@yahoo.com.

Profiles in Leadership: Volunteer Attorneys

Continued from Page 1

ber of the community to share with others those gifts God has given me. I was taught by my father and grandfather and I have learned from experience that the strength and quality of a community and a society are only as great as the organizations that exist within it.

‘Many of the moral, character and leadership lessons I learned as a child . Imagine our community without ... volunteers. Our freedom and quality of life de-



Roy Portenga

pend on volunteers. There is only so much that capitalism and government can and should provide. How much better it is to rely on each other when we can.” Mr. Wells also serves or has served on the Lake Michigan Estate Planning Council, White Lake Senior Services Board, and Mercy General Health Partners Board Quality Committee.

Roy Portenga is past president on the Governing Board at First Congregational Church, Muskegon, and as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Muskegon Community College. “I serve on these boards because I really believe we've been placed on earth for a purpose---to serve one another,” Portenga said.

“That may sound corny, preachy, self-serving, etc., but it's what I believe. Both of the boards I'm involved with operate institutions that provide people with an opportunity for positive change---in a very direct way. It's my pleasure and duty to give them my time.”



C. Houghtaling

Chris A. Houghtaling is President of the Grand Haven Area Public Schools Board of Education. He's been on the board since 2001, and President of the Board of Education since 2003.

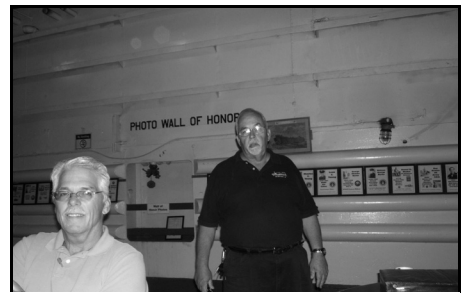
D-DAY: 6 June 1944: MCBA's August meeting aboard LST 393 enjoys rendezvous with history on ship that landed at Omaha Beach in the greatest invasion ever.



WWII-era Jeep, on loan to the museum



Hon. Richard Pasarella, Daniel Bonner, and Jim Stariha enjoy a catered lunch.



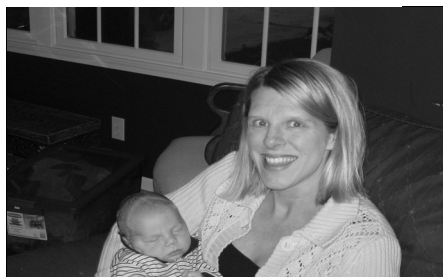
Dan Weikel tells the LST's tale as Hon. Andrew Wierengo, a Vietnam veteran, listens.

Muskegon Heir Force

Hyllands welcome #4, Andrew Jacob

Jennifer Hylland and husband, **Mike Hylland**, welcomed **Andrew Jacob**: born August 28, 2007. Andrew is the Hylland's fourth child, after Matt (4) and the twins, **Lauren and Tommy** (2).

Jennifer is a veteran attorney with



Jennifer Hylland and Andrew Jacob, arriving 28 August 2007.

Legal Aid of Western Michigan.

Husband Mike is co-owner of Wood Trucking.

Office Space For Rent

First floor of the Noble Building , 500 W. Western Avenue - between the LC Walker Arena and the Amazon Building. Rent and utilities reasonable.

Please contact **Jeff Vanderstelt @ 725-8214..**

2007 MCBA

Brian T. Lang, President.....231-727-2612
blang@wnj.com

Jenny L. McNeill, VP 231-744-6218
jennymcneill@comcast.net

David L. Bossenbroek, Treasurer.231-726-6603
britboslaw@aol.com

Joseph Bader, Secretary.....231-724-6435
baderjo@co.muskegon.mi.us

Contact *your* Muskegon County Bar Association:

MCBA
PO Box 88
Muskegon, MI 49443-0088

We want YOUR NEWS and PICTURES

We want news about you, your colleagues, your firm.

- * What's that special talent you have?
- * Tell us about your trip of a lifetime.
- * Who retired? Who joined your firm?

Send to Mike Walsh at mgwalsh@yahoo.com
Or mgwalsh@famlawcenter.com.

UPCOMING MCBA EVENTS

10 October: Michigan Coalition for Justice to speak on efforts to change public defender system at the state level. Luncheon presentation, Holiday Inn, Downtown. **RSVP to Marcy at Jenny McNeill's office 231-744-6218 or marcy-sorito@comcast.net**

Friday October 19: **Elizabeth Sadowski**, former Chairperson, State Bar's Family Law Section and current moderator of its Listserve.

Wednesday Nov. 14: **John McGarry**, Muskegon County Museum Director. Further information: Contact: **Carolyn Marcus** at 231-727-6001. or attycmarcus@cs.com.

7 December: Annual Christmas Party—Muskegon Country Club. Bring your dancing shoes and enjoy the season.



Dr. Joseph Auffrey

The monthly MCBA Family Law Section "brown bag" lunch meetings are becoming increasingly popular. Firms volunteer lunch for colleagues; **Judge Mullally** volunteers his courtroom. **Joseph Auffrey, Ph.D.**, left, regaled regulars at the last meeting.

TRANSITIONS: Muskegon Prosecutor Tony Tague announces promotions in key staff positions

Muskegon County Prosecutor Tony Tague has announced the promotion of two veteran assistants—**Paula Baker** and **Joseph J. Bader**.

Mr. Bader, who also serves as secretary of the MCBA, was named chief trial attorney. Ms. Baker has been named a senior assistant prosecutor.

A veteran trial lawyer, Mr. Bader assists younger assistants with trial preparation skills, Mr. Tague said. "He has shown a tireless commitment to prosecution and has developed the necessary skills to become a great chief trial lawyer." He replaces Les Bowen, who retired earlier this year.

Ms. Baker, an experienced civil attorney and prosecutor, has served with distinction in every division of the MCPO, Mr. Tague said.

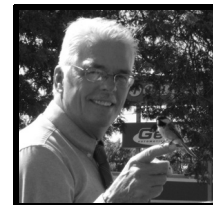
Ms. Baker is actively involved with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and is a member of the Women's Division of the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce.

Attorneys form new firm

Chris A. Houghtaling, of Chris A. Houghtaling & Associates, has joined with **Edward E. Wasiura**, and **Chad D. Catalino** to form Houghtaling, Wasiura & Catalino, PLC.

Harry J. Knudsen is of counsel to the new firm, and continues to serve his clients. The firm is located at 1189 Peck Street, Muskegon, Michigan.

**What's your
Alma Mater?**
mgwalsh@yahoo.com



60 DC Judge Andrew Wierengo a/k/a St. Francis of the Courthouse made friends with a bird visiting the Kobza Hall of Justice.

Office Space Available

Second-floor office space located across from the Muskegon County Jail and Kobza Hall of Justice. Ideal for single practitioners. Landlord can possibly provide additional services such as fax, photocopy, secretarial.

Call **RICK TOLLE** 726-1400.