



Robyn McCoy and Steve Hiller address classroom students through the work of the Washtenaw County Bar Association Public Service Committee. Photo courtesy of Washtenaw County Bar Association



We The People program in action. Photo courtesy of Michigan Center for Civic Education



Benton Harbor and St. Joseph high school students participate in Berrien County courthouse visit on Constitution Day.

p.m. at the U.S. District Court in the Theodore Levin U.S. District Courthouse in Detroit.

Genesee County Bar Association— Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, Masonic Temple, Flint. Large gathering where Liberty Bell Award will be presented to League of Woman Voters, Golden Apple Award to Jeff Nagy, Crime Victim Advocate of the Year Award to Dr. Edwin H. Gullekson.

Grand Rapids Bar Association Law Day 2010: Law in the 21st Century— Featured Speaker David Moran, director of the University of Michigan Law School's Innocence Clinic. The Bar Association will also present annual awards, including the Liberty Bell Award, the Worsfold Award, and the President's Award. April 30, 2010, 11:30 a.m., University Club, 111 Lyon Street NW, 10th Floor.

Kalamazoo County Bar Association— Law Day Luncheon, Friday, April 30, Kalamazoo Cityscape.

Muskegon County Bar Association— Law Day Luncheon, Friday, May 7, 2010, Muskegon Holiday Inn. Law Day Award Ceremony to honor area students, teachers, and Muskegon's own heroes.

Saginaw County Bar Association—Law Day Awards Banquet Thursday, April 29, 2010. Mock trials held April 29, Saginaw County Courthouse. Law Day winners, Golden Apple Award, Liberty Bell Award, scholarships, billboard contest, poster contest, coloring contest.

Washtenaw County Bar Association— Law Day celebrated Monday, May 3 with Free Legal Advice Day, from 10:00–4:00 at Ann Arbor Community Center and Ypsilanti Library.

36th District Court—May 4–6, 2010. Offering space for attorneys to volunteer their time answering legal questions in civil, real estate, and traffic matters. Space available May 4, 5, and 6 from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon and from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in partnership with the **City of Southfield Human Services Department**—May 1, 2010. Presenting "Ask the Lawyer" program providing one-on-one consultation with an attorney free of charge. Pi Tau Omega's **volunteer attorneys** provide free legal advice on legal topics ranging from bankruptcy and domestic relations to tax and workers' compensation.

**An electronic copy of this newsletter can be found at
http://www.michbar.org/resources/pdfs/connections_S10.pdf**

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

LINKS TO HELP YOU

State Bar of Michigan Law Related Education and Public Outreach Committee

<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/publicoutreach.cfm>

Michigan Center for Civic Education

<http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/resources/miciviced/>

State Bar of Michigan Legal Milestone Program

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/milestones.cfm>

Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary

<http://www.michbar.org/localbars/mla/home.html>

Michigan State Bar Foundation

<http://www.msb.org/>

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/plc/>

ABA Division for Public Education

<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/home.html>

Connections is an electronic newsletter published three times a year by the State Bar of Michigan and distributed without charge to recognized Michigan local and special purpose bar associations and the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Announcements, articles, and pictures for Connections 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:

June 15, 2010

October 15, 2010

February 15, 2011

Law-Related Education: Fulfilling Our Commitment to Community

Candace Crowley

Bar associations everywhere support public legal education. The State Bar of Michigan Strategic Plan includes a goal to support “effective educational efforts that increase public knowledge of the legal system and the rule of law, and of the role of lawyers, judges, and citizens within our system of government.” This goal is shared by virtually all of the affinity bar associations in Michigan. Through the work of our Law-related Education and Public Outreach Committee, we provide bar associations and lawyers with tools to fulfill their commitment to help citizens understand our system of government, the role of the justice system, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens within that system. We also celebrate the work of bars throughout the state that have active community programs that support these goals.

This issue of Connections is devoted to law-related education (LRE): the activities of Michigan lawyers to equip non-lawyers with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, the legal process, and the legal system; and the fundamental principles and values on which these are based. The articles and Internet links in this newsletter will hopefully inspire bars to increase their law-related education activities, and demonstrate that there are a lot of resources available to use for this purpose.

Michigan LRE Summit Leads to Plan

More than 50 participants gathered in East Lansing in March of 2009 to learn more about law-related education, to hear from national and state experts in the field, and to develop a plan to expand and deepen LRE in Michigan. Gathered by 2008-2009 State Bar President Ed Pappas, the group heard from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn J. Kelly. “The Michigan constitution begins with the premise that education is necessary to good government. Educated citizens are, not surprisingly, better citizens,” Kelly told the group.

At the end of the day’s hard work, a plan was formulated to move LRE in Michigan forward, and the State Bar’s Law-related Education and Public Outreach Committee, through its Chair Jeff Paulsen, was charged with implementing that plan. Its features include (1) develop and support an online LRE clearinghouse for use by local and specialty bars, individual lawyers, and educators to access quality materials and tools for LRE; (2) build needed lawyer-educator relationships, generate partnerships and collaborations; (3) communicate the value of LRE in a manner that reaches educators and legal professionals. For a full copy of the plan, see *Expand and Deepen Law-related Education in Michigan: A Plan for the State Bar’s Role*.

Master Calendar of Bar Activities

Michigan Legal Milestones: Elk, Oil, & the Environment

Gaylord
June 9, 2010

Bar Leadership Forum

Mackinac Island
June 11–12

Upper Michigan Legal Institute

Mackinac Island
June 11–12

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 29–October 1
Grand Rapids

Board of Commissioners Meetings

June 11 Mackinac Island
July 23
September 29 (Grand Rapids)

Michigan Council for the Social Studies 55th Annual Conference

Kalamazoo
November 8-9, 2010

ABA Annual Meeting

San Francisco, CA
August 5–10, 2010

Law Day

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower designated May 1 as Law Day. This day is an opportunity to strengthen our great American heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. The State Bar of Michigan joins various local bars, businesses, schools, and other organizations in conducting programs associated with improving the public's understanding of our justice system. Materials on Law Day can be found on the *State Bar website*.

The American Bar Association has an extensive *Law Day program* and leads with the development of a national theme each year. This year's theme is "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges." If a bar chooses to follow the ABA theme, it has access to the extensive ABA resources to support that program.

Liberty Bell Awards Promote Better Understanding of the Rule of Law

The Liberty Bell Award originated with the Michigan Young Lawyers Section. In the 1960s, they established an award to acknowledge outstanding community service. The criteria they established then are often still used by the more than 200 Law Day programs that make the award. The award recognizes those who have promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged a greater respect for law and the courts, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, and contributed to good government in the community.

The awards are made by individual Law Day programs, and each group presenting the award is free to establish its own criteria. Many groups present the award to a layperson, but often the award goes to a lawyer or a judge. On occasion, the award is given to an organization, rather than a person. Sometimes the award is presented to two or more recipients, and some groups give out more than one award a year.

Practical LRE Resources for Michigan Lawyers

You and the Law is a State Bar booklet to help young people be aware of their rights and responsibilities under the law and to be a responsible citizen of Michigan. It tells young people about areas of the law that are of special concern to them. It's something a lawyer can use to prepare remarks to classroom students, to download for his/her use, or to purchase at \$1.50 per copy for distribution.

Teenagers and the Law: Your Guide to the Most Pertinent Laws and Issues Facing Teens in Michigan is a publication from the Barristers Section of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. It's downloadable and very modern and practical.

Courtroom Visits for Students are popular, and this State Bar of Michigan publication shows you how to make one happen.

The American Bar Association has many resources for lawyers interested in law-related education. *Community Education* includes tips on doing specific kinds of programs like Ask a Lawyer, Court Outreach, Honoring Jurors, Informing Teens about the Transition to Adulthood, Legal Information for Teenage Parents, Producing Call-in Shows, and Producing a People's Law School. The page includes much more, including information in Spanish.

The ABA also has *grade-by-grade lessons* for K-3 (contracts, dispute resolution, responsibility and community service, and more), grades 4-6 (Yertle the Turtle mock trial, equal protection lesson and activity guide, juries, public policy, separation of power, and more) grades 7-9 (drug testing in schools, judicial independence, juvenile justice, right to counsel, voting, and more) and high school (teaching about due process, expansion of voting right, Equal Protection/defining equal education opportunities for women, and more).



Oakland County Bar Association Public Service Committee member Paula Zimmer of Lakeshore Legal Aid gives free legal advice to a Seniors' Law Day participant. Photo courtesy of Oakland County Bar Association

The [ABA Dialogue Program](#) provides lawyers, judges, and teachers with the resources they need to engage students and community members in discussion of fundamental American legal principles and civic traditions. The Dialogue resource offers step-by-step direction to enable you to lead a discussion on these themes: Lincoln—A Legacy of Liberty, The Rule of Law, Youth and Justice, The American Jury, *Brown v Board of Education*, Freedom, and Law in the 21st Century.

Constitution Day Planning Starts Now

In 2004, Congress created a law requiring schools receiving federal funding to designate September 17 each school year as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day ("Constitution Day.") As part of Constitution Day, educational authorities must make plans to observe the Constitution and instruct students about their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens. This provides a great opportunity for lawyers to participate with local students to meet the federal requirement.

Planning for Constitution Day should start in May so that school connections can be made and volunteers have the summer to prepare their programs. The State Bar LRE and Public Outreach Committee has a number of *Constitution Day resources* available, including a *Planning Timeline*.

This year's theme has been identified by the LRE Committee as the jury process. *Educating for Everyday Democracy: The Jury Process* is a Michigan-specific resource especially suited for high school students. For more information on Constitution Day, see *Constitution Day: Developing Habits of Citizenship* by LRE Committee member Sherri L. Belknap.

Bar Leadership Forum Includes Breakout Session on Law-related Education

This year's Bar Leadership Forum will be held at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, on June 11 and 12. In accordance with the "Expand and Deepen Law-related Education in Michigan" plan, the Forum will include an LRE workshop. Saturday morning's first session will include this information: "Civic education programs are easy, low-cost ways to interest individual members, provide service to the community, and draw positive press attention for your organization. This session will show you how to enlist help from your members and what resources are available."

Moderated by Immediate Past President Ed Pappas, the panel will include Judge Cynthia Stephens. Judge Stephens will include information on the importance of LRE in creating pipeline programs to increase the diversity of the legal profession. For more information on the BLF, contact Kari Thrush, ktbrush@mail.michbar.org

Out and About—Law Day

The Ingham County Bar Association and Legal Services of South Central Michigan announce a joint program entitled "Ask A Lawyer," which will take place on Monday, May 10, 2010 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Gone Wired Cafe', 2021 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

Berrien County Bar Association—April 29, 2010. Luncheon program at the Shadowland Ballroom. Celebrating our American system of law with speaker Hon. Dennis Archer and presentations by the Liberty Bell Winner/High School Essay Contest Winners. \$12.00 at the door. RSVP to Mike Sepic at (269) 983-7111, ext. 8314 or by e-mail at msepic@berriencounty.org by April 23.

Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and the Women's Resource Center of Grand Traverse—April 30, 2010. Law Day Luncheon with speaker Hon. Alton T. Davis. Luncheon held at the Elks Club in Traverse City including presentation of the Liberty Bell Award, and announcement of the winners of the student essay contest, the Mayor's Law Day Proclamation, and the Law Day speech. RSVP to Mike Richey at (231) 947-4900 or e-mail mar@richey-law.com by April 27.

Jackson County Bar Association in partnership with Comerica Bank and NALS of Jackson County—May 5, 2010. Celebration inviting all Jackson-area attorneys and their support staff to observe Law Day May 5, 2010 at the Country Club of Jackson at 7:30 a.m. for buffet breakfast and 8:00 a.m. program with speaker Hon. William C. Whitbeck of the Michigan Court of Appeals. Also announcing the winner of the Liberty Bell Award.

Macomb County Bar Foundation—May 7; Law Day Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. at the Macomb County Administration Building to announce the winners of the Law Day Essay & Poster contest for grades 1-8. First place winner receives a \$100 U.S. savings bond. Second and third place winners receive a \$50 U.S. savings bond. Teachers who submitted the most polished essays and posters receive the Golden Apple Award.

State Bar of Michigan and Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary—May 3, 2010. Law Day Awards Luncheon at the Michigan Hall of Justice with 11:00 a.m. tour and lunch at 12:00 noon with speakers Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, SBM President Charles Toy, and SBM Executive Director Janet Welch.

U.S. District Court and the Federal Bar Association—Eastern District of Michigan Chapter—May 3, 2010. Courthouse tour; dedication of Presidents Wall; and "Ask the Lawyer" pro bono program with free hot dogs, chips, and cookies from 11:00 a.m.-2:00