

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

Links of Interest

Civic and Law Related Education Clearinghouse

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

Michigan Legal Help Self Help Website

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

Casemaker

<http://www.michbar.org/opinions/opinionsearch.cfm>

Economics of Law Practice in Michigan

<http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/articles/0000148.pdf>

Public Policy Resource Center

<http://www.michbar.org/publicpolicy/>

Member Directory with Link to County Memberships

Choose a county from the drop down box and hit "search"

Practice Management Resource Center

<http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/content.cfm>

Meeting Wizard

<http://www.meetingwizard.com/mwiz/home/default.cfm?CFID=14308658&CFTOK>

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, 2011

October 15, 2011

February 15, 2012

Please Join Us at the State Bar Annual Meeting—Just Ahead

The *Annual Meeting and Solo & Small Firm Institute* is set to take place from September 19-21 at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. The *Awards Dinner* on Wednesday night will see the Oakland County Bar Association Mentor Match Pro Bono Program honored with the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award. The Ingham County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award winner, Sergeant Major David Dunkel, will be presented with the State Bar award. State Bar President Julie Fershtman prepares to turn the gavel over to Grand Rapids attorney Bruce Courtade at the Thursday luncheon. Thursday evening will see the Diversity Reception presented at the Grand Rapids Art Museum—especially exciting because the wonderfully acclaimed ArtPrize will be running at the same time. Twenty-five State Bar sections will conduct business meetings and programs throughout the meeting; most of them are free of charge. Finally, please make sure you and your members all *register for Annual Meeting*, whether fees are involved or not. We like to be prepared for our members!

Practice Management Resource Center Offers Free "Seminars to Go"

Looking for a practical seminar for a bar meeting this year? The State Bar Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) offers a choice of 10 free seminars PMRC staff can present to your members. These include Adobe Acrobat X, EZ Document Assembly Options, EZ Paperless Practice, Law Practice Tech Essentials, Market Your Website, Minimizing Law Practice Risks, Practice Management Software, 60 Tips/Apps/Links in 60, SmartPhones, and Tame the Information Tsunami. Contact JoAnn Hathaway (517-346-6381, jbathaway@mail.michbar.org) or Diane Ebersole (517-346-6343, debersole@mail.michbar.org) for more information.

Mentoring Center Now Available

The State Bar of Michigan has launched a new web-based Mentoring Center designed to match veteran attorneys with newer attorneys who have similar interests and backgrounds. To register, users sign in and create a profile consisting of information about their location, practice area, and interests. Once complete, the system generates a list of potential mentors/protégés who have the most similar answers. Then it's up to the mentor or protégé to reach out to a potential match and start a conversation. Signing up for membership takes no more than five minutes. Once registered, it's completely up to the parties to determine the scope of their relationship. Lawyers who are interested in taking advantage of this new service can register by visiting *SBM Mentoring Center*.

Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting

September 19-21, 2012
DeVos Place/Amway Grand Hotel
Grand Rapids

September 18-20, 2013
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn

September 17-19, 2014,
DeVos Place/Amway Grand Hotel
Grand Rapids

BOC Meetings

September 19, 2012
Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids

November 16, 2012

January 18, 2013

March 15, 2013 (if necessary)

April 26, 2013

June 14, 2013
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

July 26, 2013

September 18, 2013
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn

Representative Assembly Meetings

September 20, 2012
Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids

April 27, 2013
Lansing Community College West

September 19, 2013
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn

Bar Leadership Forum 2013

June 14-15, 2013
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

October is Pro Bono Month

Upper Peninsula Tour

October 14-17, 2012

Constitution Day

September 17, 2012

SBM Pro Bono Training—Intro to Domestic Violence Family Law

October 26, 2012
(Live at Auburn Hills Cooley
Campus)

(Webcast at Ann Arbor, Grand
Rapids, and Lansing Cooley
Campuses)

New State Bar Director of Governmental Relations Peter Cunningham

Though Elizabeth Lyon is much missed following her recent move to Washington, DC, the Bar is happy to welcome Peter Cunningham as its new director of governmental relations. Peter joins the State Bar after serving as the executive director of the Campaign for Justice, a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition working for public defense reform in Michigan. Prior to that, he served as legislative director and chief of staff to former Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, following seven years of service as House policy director and research analyst. Peter also managed a successful campaign to pass a \$77 million bond proposal for Lansing Public Schools, which resulted in the construction of a new middle school and improvements at several existing schools. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Penn., and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Welcome, Peter!

Solutions on Self-Help Website and Self-Help Centers Officially Launched

The Solutions on Self-Help Task Force has made much progress since we sent you information on the “soft launch” of the new statewide legal self-help website in May. The website was officially launched on August 17 and is now available to help persons who are not able to afford a lawyer handle simple civil legal matters on their own. The website reflects suggestions offered to make it as user-friendly as possible. In addition, four pilot self-help centers will open in Allegan, Oscoda, Wayne, and Oakland counties. Check out the website at www.MichiganLegalHelp.org and see information on the Oscoda center at <http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org/news/michigan-legal-help-self-help-center-oscoda-county-now-open>



Jennifer Berry presents John Racine with Grand Traverse Leelanau Antrim County Bar Association Pro Bono Award

State Bar Domestic Violence Committee Offers Free Pro Bono Training October 26

The State Bar of Michigan Domestic Violence Committee will host an introductory training on how to handle pro bono domestic violence family law cases from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills Campus. It will be simultaneously broadcast to Cooley's three other campuses in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Lansing. The training, provided by attorneys with many years of hands-on family law experience, will cover initial client interviews, substantive legal issues, pleadings, and pretrial and trial practices as they relate to family law cases with domestic violence components. It will offer a comprehensive introduction to family and domestic violence law for attorneys new to this area of practice, and will also serve as a great refresher for more experienced attorneys. The training is free of charge for attorneys who commit to take on a pro bono family law case within six months. [Click here to register](#). For more information contact SBM Pro Bono Counsel Robert Mathis at 517-346-6412 or rmathis@mail.michbar.org.

Law-Related Education Survey Request

If your bar association has any kind of civic or law-related education and you did NOT participate in this survey request from earlier this year, please help now. The State Bar Law-Related Education and Public Outreach Committee provides resources to expand and deepen law-related education (LRE) in Michigan. Bar associations have traditionally led LRE efforts in their communities by equipping the public with knowledge and skills about the law, the legal process, and the legal system, and the fundamental principles and values on which these are based. From Law Day and Constitution Day programs to mock trials, courthouse tours, lawyer-teacher partnerships, and other activities, bars have excelled in presenting community programs that educate and engage the public. The information received through the survey will help our LRE Committee create a baseline of information about how much LRE is being provided in Michigan, essential resources to help bar associations lead law-related education efforts, and how the State Bar can best support or promote your efforts. We know your time is valuable; the 10-question survey should take less than 15 minutes. Please complete it yourself or delegate it to one of your members who leads or has interest in civic education programs. www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22F4UU9G66N



Julie Fershtman, Senator Carl Levin, Alexander Ayar at Chaldean American Bar Association Annual Meeting

Out and About

The **Grand Rapids Bar Association** has been selected as the 2012 Diversity Champion honoree for Corp! Magazine because of its Managing Partners Diversity Collaborative.

Congratulations to **John M. A. Bergman**, new president of the **Delta County Bar Association**.

The **Lansing Black Lawyers Association** has changed its name to the **Davis-Dunnings Bar Association**.

The **Saginaw County Bar Association's** new president is **Julie A. Gafkay**.

Christopher J. Boyle has been named the new president of the **Huron County Bar Association**.

Congratulations to newly named president of the **Muskegon County Bar Association**, **David E. Waterstradt**.

The **Grand Rapids Bar Association's** new president is **T. J. Ackert**.

Robert C. Anderson was named the new president of the **Marquette County Bar Association** in May.

The **Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association's** new president is **Benjamin Jeffers** as of May.

Jeffrey D. Thornburg is the president of the **Clinton County Bar Association**.

The new president of the **Chaldean Bar Association** is **Paul J. Jonna** as of June.

The **Michigan Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel** has named **Bernard Lourim** as its president.

In June **Erica P. Bell** was named president of the **D. Augustus Straker Bar Association**.

The **Federal Bar Association—Eastern District** named **Thomas G. McNeill** president in June.

John C. Bommarito was named president of the **Italian Bar Association** in June.

The **Macomb County Probate Bar Association** named **Elizabeth E. Stubbs** its president in April.

Congratulations to **Elayda Clara Sanchez**, who was named president of the **Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association** in June.



- ① Elizabeth Jolliffe, Linda Rexer, Janet Welch and Lorraine Weber at Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Archer Award
- ② Members of the Wexford Missaukee Bar Association welcome Julie Fershtman to bar lunch meeting
- ③ Carlos Alvarado, second left, president of the Mason Lake Bar Association with members at summer social.
- ④ Judy Susskind, Judge James Rashid and Judge Gershwin Drain at Tertzag Tribute Dinner
- ⑤ Kara Tertzag Lividini and Julie Fershtman at DownRiver Bar Association meeting
- ⑥ Members of the Michigan Pacific Asian Bar Association
- ⑦ Celebration of Signing of Action Plan of Grand Rapids Managing Partners Diversity Collaborative