

Connections

Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

LINKS TO HELP

State Bar New Online Career Center
http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives11/2_15_11_Career_Center.cfm

2010 Economics of Law Practice Survey Attorney Income and Billing Rate Summary Report
<http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/articles/0000146.pdf>

Judicial Crossroads Task Force Report and Recommendations
<http://www.michbar.org/judicialcrossroads/>

Sign on to the Diversity Pledge
<http://www.michbar.org/diversity/home.cfm>

State Bar Member Benefits Including Casemaker!
<http://www.michbar.org/programs/home.cfm#research>

Practice Management Resource Center and Tip of the Week
<http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/content.cfm>

Access to Justice Campaign
<http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/home.cfm>

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

State Bar of Michigan Assists Affinity Bars in Pro Bono Efforts

Jennifer Williams

In December 2010 the State Bar of Michigan hired Robert G. Mathis for the position of pro bono service counsel and to support the Pro Bono Initiative. The primary focus of the Initiative is to expand pro bono services in Michigan. Mr. Mathis works directly with law firms, legal aid programs, law schools, and bar associations to build relationships and increase pro bono services and efforts both locally and statewide. Some of our bar associations work closely with their legal aid programs and lead the community in delivering pro bono services. Rob can assist other bars who are interested in looking at pro bono but perhaps not exactly sure how to go about engaging members in a program that works for their community. If your bar association seeks assistance in developing a pro bono program or expanding an existing pro bono program, please contact Mr. Mathis at rmathis@mail.michbar.org or (517) 346-6412. If you're not sure whether your bar is ready to develop a pro bono program, contact Rob.

Nominations Due April 1, 2011 for Major State Bar Awards

The State Bar Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the Roberts P. Hudson, Champion of Justice, Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award, Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service, and John W. Cumiskey Pro Bono awards. See http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives11/1_7_11_awards.cfm

Special Note Regarding Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award

Please consider nominating your bar association for recognition through the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award. Established in memory of the 2006-2007 State Bar president who passed away in January 2008, the award is 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. Michigan bars are doing terrific work—please take the time to showcase your work and be recognized for what you are doing.

Calendar of Events

Board of Commissioners Meetings

April 8, 2011

June 10, 2011, Mackinac Island

July 22, 2011

September 14, 2011 Dearborn

Representative Assembly Meeting

April 9, 2011

Bar Leadership Forum

Mackinac Island

June 10–11

Upper Michigan Legal Institute

Mackinac Island

June 10–11

ABA Annual Meeting

August 5-10, 2011

Toronto, Canada

State Bar Annual Meeting

September 14–16, 2011

Dearborn

Liberty Bell Award Nominations Due May 2, 2011

The Liberty Bell Award recipient is selected from nominations made by local and special-purpose bar associations. The award is presented to a non-lawyer who has made a significant contribution to the justice system. There is no form for the Liberty Bell Award; the State Bar Awards Committee accepts whatever written information is submitted by the local or special bar in making its decision.

Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary Looking for New Chapters

Alice Gordon, president of the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary, is asking for help in establishing new auxiliary chapters around Michigan. The purposes of the corporation are educational and charitable; to create a better citizen awareness of the law; to serve the organized bar associations of the state of Michigan and to support and assist local lawyers' spouses' organizations. For more information, contact Alice at aigordon@att.net and see <http://www.michbar.org/localbars/mla/home.html>

State Bar Group Releases Disabilities Report: Are Your Members Using Michigan Court Form 70?

The Equal Access Initiative (EAI) Disabilities Workgroup recently completed work on the follow-up to the 2001 report "Access to the Legal System in Michigan for Persons with Disabilities." "Persons with Disabilities and Access to the Michigan Legal System: A Status Report, 2010" shows the results of a survey sent to over 300 lawyers who are either disabled or serve disabled clients. It also includes feedback from focus groups held around the state to gather input from care providers and patients at centers for assisted living, and gathered information with the help of the State Court Administrative Office from judges, court administrators, and American With Disabilities Act coordinators. Among other things, the survey discovered that nearly 8 out of 10 respondents (79 percent) were not aware of Michigan Court Form 70 that is used to request accommodations for those with special needs. This number includes practitioners who need to have good information to better serve clients. The findings underscore the importance of information sharing to facilitate improvements in access to the legal system for those facing the challenges of physical or mental disabilities. For more information see <http://www.michbar.org/programs/EAI/pdfs/disabilitiesreport.pdf>



Lansing Black Lawyers attend monthly meeting at State Bar Building in Lansing

Out and About



Rochester Bar Association President Honorable Julie Nicholson welcomes State Bar President Tony Jenkins to luncheon meeting

Congratulations to **Andrea D. Mashak**, who was elected as the new president of the **Dickinson-Iron County Bar Association** this past January.

The **Federal Bar Association** will be hosting its **Judicial Family Reunion** for judges and their current or former law clerks at **Bodman, LLP's** law offices at Ford Field on March 16, 2011. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Madelyn C. Lawry is now the executive director of the **Ingham County Bar Association** as of January. We see new and exciting things happening for ICBA in the future.

The **Michigan Defense Trial Counsel** is hosting its summer 2011 Annual Meeting & Conference on May 19 & 20. The focus of this year's summer conference is "**Trial Practice: Tactics and Techniques**" and will be held at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant.

The new president of the **Michigan Judges Association** is the **Hon. Annette M. Jurkiewicz-Berry**. Best wishes for your presidential term.

Congratulations to **Tatilia Y. Burroughs**, who was promoted to executive director of the **Genesee County Bar Association** in 2010. It has already been a pleasure working with Ms. Burroughs.

The **Oakland County Bar Foundation** is hosting its **12th Annual Signature Event** at the Oakland Hills Country Club on Friday, April 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person. Please visit www.ocba.org for more information.

The **Women Lawyers Association of Michigan** will hold its **93rd Annual Meeting** on April 29 at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant.

Another "congratulations" goes out to **Alecia M. Powell**, the new association manager of the **Women Lawyers Association of Michigan**.





State Bar Director of Diversity Gregory Conyers (second from left) presents information on diversity programs to members of the Referees' Association of Michigan, including President Paul Jacokes (second from right)



Straker Bar President Myron Lloyd, Legal Aid and Defender Association CEO Deirdre Weir, Oakland County Bar President Jennifer Grieco, and State Bar President Tony Jenkins celebrate pro bono



Dan Buscher, Darrell Price and Paul Beardslee at the Calhoun County Bar Association Evening with the Judges



President Tony Jenkins and wife Sondra Jenkins joined members of the Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary at a recent meeting