

# Connections

## Linking

State, Local, and Special Purpose Bar Associations

### links to help you

Constitution Day Website Resources for September 17 Celebration [http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives07/constitution\\_day.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives07/constitution_day.cfm)

Free Online Legal Research – State Bar Member Benefit <http://www.icle.org/ScriptContent/mlo.cfm?section=home>

Important Information on Applications for Leave to Appeal [http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives07/leave\\_to\\_appeal.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives07/leave_to_appeal.cfm)

Statewide Calendar of Bar Events [www.michbar.org/resources/localspecialbar.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/resources/localspecialbar.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 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](mailto: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:

October 15, 2007

February 15, 2008

June 15, 2008

## Communication with Affinity Bars

By Candace Crowley

As outreach coordinator, I have the privilege of learning about your organizations, offering State Bar services for your members, sharing your feedback, sharing your stories, and otherwise trying to strengthen our relationships with you to improve the profession in three areas – civility, competency, and service to the public. Along with personal visits, and greetings and support of your events by State Bar leaders, *Connections* is another way to increase communications on these topics. This first issue has a lot of information about the state organization, but we would like to hear from you with stories and suggestions for topics you'd like to read about in future issues. For a detailed memo on what I've found from my last year of work with you, please see [http://www.michbar.org/resources/pdfs/August2007\\_report.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/resources/pdfs/August2007_report.pdf).

*Connections* is an electronic newsletter, and we'd like you to distribute it widely through your e-mail lists. A hard copy will be mailed to those few bar leaders that have not provided us with e-mail addresses.

## Upper Peninsula Tour

Ron Keefe will visit bar associations in the UP during the week of October 8, soon after he is sworn in as president of the State Bar of Michigan. The itinerary has him visiting the 50th Judicial Circuit Bar in Sault Ste. Marie for lunch on Monday, the Delta County Bar for dinner, Copper Country Bar for lunch on Tuesday, the Marquette Bar for a Tuesday evening reception, Gogebic/Ontonagon Bar for Wednesday lunch, and the Dickinson/Iron County Bar Association for dinner on Wednesday night. Wisconsin bar leaders will attend the meetings of bar associations where dual-licensed lawyers practice. For more information, contact Anne Smith, [asmith@mail.michbar.org](mailto:asmith@mail.michbar.org).

## New Officer Information

In order to be recognized by the State Bar of Michigan, local and special purpose bar associations agree to change officers in May, June, or July of each year. President Cahill has sent an e-mail to 2006-2007 bar presidents, asking for updated officer information, and a fillable form for this purpose can be found at [www.michbar.org/resources/officer\\_info.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/resources/officer_info.cfm). Until the new officer sheet is received, the 2006-

## Calendar of Events

### SBM News

#### ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

September 26-28, 2007

<http://www.michbar.org/annualmeeting.cfm>

**LEGAL MILESTONES-** Prentiss Marsh Brown is best remembered as the "Father of the Mackinac Bridge." He was appointed chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority in 1950 and remained so until his death in 1973. Brown's accomplishments will be highlighted at a ceremony on Friday, Sept. 28 in Grand Rapids, which coincides with the Bar's Annual Meeting. The event will begin at noon at DeVos Place.

**PRACTICE MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTER-**The PMRC staff is available to present information to your members on over 15 topics, including "60 Firm and Practice Management Tips in 60 Minutes," "Backup! Best Practice Choices and Systems for Backing Up Your Computer Files," "HotDocs: Document Creation Efficiency: How HotDocs can improve your Bottom Line," and many more. Contact Victoria Kremski [vkremski@mail.michbar.org](mailto:vkremski@mail.michbar.org) for more information or to arrange a presentation at your section meeting.

2007 officers will continue to receive correspondence. For information on how to report new officer data, contact Tracie Dinehart, [tdinehart@mail.michbar.org](mailto:tdinehart@mail.michbar.org).

## Board of Commissioners

At its July 20 meeting, the BOC elected Julie Fershtman as treasurer, approved the creation of an Insurance and Indemnity Law Section, and handled other business items. The next meeting of the BOC will take place on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, in Grand Rapids during the 71st Annual meeting.

## Representative Assembly

At its April 21, 2007 meeting in Lansing, the Assembly considered four proposals. The question of whether emeritus members of the State Bar of Michigan should be entitled to receive referral fees was defeated by a vote of 66-31. The Assembly adopted guidelines for the Board of Commissioners to apply if specialized courts or dockets are proposed. It supported MCR 2.519 regarding a special masters program, on a pilot program basis. It supported proposed MCR 2.301, 2.302, 2.313, 2.401 and 2.506 dealing with electronic discovery rules.

A number of vacancies in the Assembly need to be filled by the April 2008 meeting. Those include two in Wayne County, three in Oakland, two in Kent, and one each in Kalamazoo, Missaukee/Wexford, Calhoun, Lenawee, Lapeer, Cass, Crawford/Kalkaska/Otsego, Lake/Mason and Eaton. Please contact Anne Smith for more information, [asmith@mail.michbar.org](mailto:asmith@mail.michbar.org). Interested candidates should consider attending the next meeting on September 27 in Grand Rapids.

## Annual Meeting 2007

The State Bar of Michigan 2007 Annual Meeting and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education Solo and Small Firm Institute are joining together for the largest gathering of Michigan legal professionals ever. This event is designed to meet the educational, practice, professional, and business needs of the solo and small firm practitioners and will be held at the DeVos Convention Center/Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids September 26-28, 2007. <http://www.michbar.org/annualmeeting.cfm>.

## MABE Program

The Michigan Association of Bar Executives presents "The Future of Associations: How to Remain Relevant" on Friday, September 28, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Grand Rapids Peninsular Club. For more information, see <http://www.michbar.org/resources/pdfs/MABEseminar.pdf>. Participants are encouraged to attend the State Bar Annual Meeting Legal Milestone Luncheon immediately following the MABE program.

## Justice Initiatives Program

The State Bar's Justice Initiatives Division is presenting two programs at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Members of the Michigan Association of Bar Executives (MABE) gather to mark the retirement of Washtenaw Bar Executive Director Judy VanAmburg. From left to right, Kim Coleman, Grand Rapids Bar; Kristen Kemp, Ingham Bar; Kyeena Slater, new ED, Washtenaw Bar; Ramona Sain, Genesee Bar; Judy VanAmburg, Washtenaw Bar; Candace Crowley, State Bar; Brian Figot, Federal Bar, Eastern District; Z. Kay Fitzpatrick.

The Criminal Issues Initiative will present *The Hidden Obstacles of Civil Collateral Consequences: Life After Conviction* with featured guest Darryl Hunt, who was exonerated after 18 years in prison and is the subject of a recent HBO documentary which will be shown later in the day. Other topics for this program include Michigan's public defense system, civil collateral consequences of criminal convictions, and the Eleven Principles of a Public Defense System. The program will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

At 3:00 p.m. on September 27, *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, an HBO presentation, will be shown with Mr. Hunt available for questions. Refreshments will be served. Mr. Hunt's appearance is made possible with grant funding from the Michigan State Bar Foundation. The Foundation's funding does not constitute an endorsement of content.

The Equal Access Initiative and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan are presenting a stimulating program in a unique format entitled *Successful Practice and Happy Family—Whose Balance Is It, Anyway?* The program will take place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The subject matter will include Family Medical Leave Act updates, negotiating your work life, and creative options for time and resource management. The presentation will include enactments performed by actors, as well as a panel of experts for discussion and Q and A.

## How to Handle the Media

The State Bar's Law and the Media Committee arranges programs on "Dealing with the Media" for attorneys that are ideally suited for local bar association events. Experts provide practical advice on how to handle inquiries from media representatives, and review the ethical contours of extrajudicial statements by attorneys. The seminars last about one hour and are free of charge. For more information, contact Naseem Stecker, [nstecker@mail.michbar.org](mailto:nstecker@mail.michbar.org).

## Out and About

The Alger Luce Schoolcraft Bar Association held its annual summer outing on Friday, July 27.

The Honorable Edward Ewell, Jr., is the new president of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan.

President Donald G. Rockwell will lead the Centennial American Inn of Court this year.

Marjorie K. Nanian of Novi, Michigan, will lead the Armenian-American Bar Association.

The Saginaw Valley Patent Law Association elected John D. Wright, Dickinson Wright, of Bloomfield Hills, as its new president.

Amy M. Johnston will head the Catholic Lawyers Society again this year.

The Ottawa County Bar Association will look again this year to Robert E. Robbins for leadership.

Lawrence T. Garcia of Allen Brothers in Detroit has been elected president, Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan.

David B. Cade, General Motors Legal Staff, has been elected president of the Wolverine Bar Association.

The Gogebic-Ontonagon Bar Association has elected Michael K. Pope for another term as its president.

Joseph Szperski is president, Michigan Creditors Bar Association.

President Valerie Newman will lead the National Lawyers Guild again this year.

Judge Mark A. Goldsmith will lead the Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, as its president. The Annual State of the Court luncheon will be held at the Athenaeum Hotel in Detroit on September 11.

The Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association has elected Lee Hornberger as its president.

Judy VanAmburg has retired as executive director of the Washtenaw County Bar Association, and Kyeena Slater has been named as the new ED to lead that bar.

On Friday, September 14, 2007, the Macomb County Bar Association will hold its Installation Ball where William L. Staugaard will be installed as the 79th president of the association.

## Grant Opportunities

Do you have a project that involves law-related education, civil legal services to low-income persons, conflict resolution, or other efforts to improve access to the justice system? Visit [www.msbf.org](http://www.msbf.org) for upcoming opportunities to apply for funds through Michigan State Bar Foundation Administration of Justice grants. Questions? Please call Kelly or Celee at 1.800.968.6723, or e-mail Kelly at [Kelly@msbf.org](mailto:Kelly@msbf.org).



Women Lawyers Association leaders meet at Michigan Women's Hall of Fame gathering in October of 2006. L-R: Kathleen Allen, Ann Erikson-Gault, Kimberly Cahill and Nicolette Zachary



Dana Warnez, State Bar President Kimberly M. Cahill and Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association Executive Director George Beeby gather at June dinner meeting in Traverse City.

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