

Inter Alia

Among Other Things

Fall 2008

www.michiganyounglawyers.com

Council Officers

Chairperson

Bernhardt D.
Christenson III

Chairperson-Elect

Danielle Mason Anderson

Vice Chair

Timothy Tyrone Gardner, Jr.

Secretary-Treasurer

Maureen McGinnis

Council

Erika L. Anderson
Carlos A. Escurel
Antoinette S. Gilbert
Lisa J. Hamameh
Jennifer M. Harvey
Felicia O. Johnson
James William Low
Maureen M. McGinnis
Sean P. McNally
David R. Millar
Solon M. Phillips
Brandy Y. Robinson
Brent George Seitz
Hope V. Shovein
Jessica Renee Simmons
Keith A. Wuotinen

Law Student Section Representative

Lynn M. Digirolamo

Commissioner Liaison

Margaret A. Costello

A View from the Chair: Welcome to the 2008-2009 Bar Year!



Bernhardt D. Christenson, III
Christenson & Fiederlein PC
302 E Court St
Flint, MI 48502
P: (810) 232-1112
F: (810) 232-1113
E: cchristenson@cflegal.net

It is my privilege to serve as this year's chair of the Young Lawyers Section. As many of you know, the YLS is the largest section of the State Bar of Michigan and every year the Young Lawyers in our State, independently and in conjunction with the State Bar, participate in many exciting programs and events. This year will be no different; however, this year more than most our communities need us, and we need each other. In these harsh economic times, we can make a difference and all of you can help. Keep an eye out for YLS events and help out where you can, i.e. Holiday Dinners, Back to School Barbecue, helping out at Habitat for Humanity sites, etc. Every bit helps and makes a difference. The YLS will continue to put together top caliber substantive programs and networking opportunities to help as well.

Plans are already underway for next spring's YLS Summit, a follow up to the very successful first ever summit held this year. The YLS executive Council would like to hear from you and, therefore, if you have an idea or suggestion for a program or project, please feel free to contact one of us.

In addition, we have many ongoing events to benefit both the public and the members of the Bar, so be sure to check out the events calendar in Inter Alia, as well as to keep an eye out for the e-mail alerts for the upcoming events.

The State Bar is also rolling out a new program highlighting the help of lawyers throughout our state called "A Lawyer Helps." Look for details coming up.

ABA YLD Fall Conference

By Danielle Mason Anderson, District 20 Representative



Danielle Mason Anderson
Miller Canfield Paddock &
Stone PLC
444 W Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 381-7030
F: (269) 383-5858
E: andersond@millercafield.com

Dear Fellow Bar Members:

As I enter my second and final year as the ABA YLD District Representative for the State of Michigan, I encourage each of you to get involved in young lawyer activities. Both the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyer Section and ABA YLD are great organizations that afford not only opportunities to network and give back to your community, but also participate in continuing education. Following is my report from the 2008 Fall Conference that was previously sent to all affiliate leaders.

This report will summarize the 2008 Fall Conference held in San Diego, California, October 2-4, 2008 and provide you with updates regarding the ABA YLD 2008-2009 bar year.

The ABA YLD Annual Conference was held in the gorgeous city of San Diego. As always, additional information about the conference and the ABA YLD as a whole can be found at www.abanet.org/yld.

The Council on which I sit in my role as District Representative for Michigan took place on Thursday afternoon at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter - our home base for the conference. As always, there were many lively discussions including the possibility of changing the parameters for membership eligibility in the ABA YLD.

A welcome reception was held at Visions Lounge in the famous Gaslamp District. Once again young lawyers from around the world gathered to socialize and network.

A dinner dance aboard the USS Midway- the longest serving aircraft carrier in US Navy history - was held on Friday evening. It was a spectacular evening highlighted by ABA YLD Chair Liz Acee's presentation of the Stars of the Quarter awards to worthy young lawyers.

The kick-off for the ABA YLD 2008-2009 Public Service Project focusing on domestic violence was held Saturday morning. The Project, entitled Voices Against Violence, is a "call to action for young lawyers around the country to join forces to end domestic violence." It was created to educate young lawyers about the epidemic of domestic violence. Please visit the project's website found at www.abanet.org/yld/dv. There is a video available to be used in the education of young lawyers, as well as an awareness and prevention toolkit. [Materials are also attached to this message, including the pamphlet distributed at the conference.](#)

Numerous educational opportunities, including several for CLE credit, were held on both Friday and Saturday. The exciting programming included financial planning, issues to consider when contemplating a move between firms, courtroom etiquette, Guantanamo detainee issues, same-sex marriage issues, a Supreme Court update and career counseling. The only problem attendants had was making a choice between sessions since many of them overlapped. The Host Committee did a wonderful job organizing this conference!

The next ABA YLD meeting is the Midyear which will be held in Boston February 12-14, 2009.

Please let me know about any programs or happenings that are occurring in your affiliates. I would like to include them in my report to the ABA YLD. We all know Michigan has great affiliates who are very active, but I would like to show the rest of the ABA YLD as well!

As always, please update your leadership information at www.abanet.org/yld/affiliateleaders/update.html if there have been any changes and send an email to me.

By way of preview, the Spring conference is May 14-16, 2009 in New Orleans, LA and the Annual Meeting celebrating the YLD 75th anniversary will be in Chicago, IL July 30-August 1, 2009.

Appointment applications for the 2009-2010 ABA YLD year are due February 15, 2009. Please consider seeking an appointment and becoming involved in the ABA YLD.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, comments, etc. at andersond@millercafield.com or (269) 383-5880. It is a pleasure serving as your District Representative and I am certainly here to help.

Regards, Danielle

2008-2009**Young Lawyers Section Executive Council**

A photo of Young Lawyer Section executive council and committee members at the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting in Dearborn.

State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyer Division Representative to the ABA House of Delegates

By Jessica Simmons

Over the past three years, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to serve as the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Division Representative to the American Bar Association House of Delegates. The American Bar Association House of Delegates is the policy making body of the association, comprised of 546 members from a number of associations, including state and local bars.

During my time in the House of Delegates, I have had the chance to vote on resolutions that are important to our profession. Recently, the House of Delegates passed a resolution modifying the law school accreditation standards. The House also passed a resolution to increase membership dues in order to continue providing the same quality programming and resources attorneys have come to expect from the American Bar Association.

The House of Delegates has also voted on and passed resolutions impacting our local communities as well. Recently, the House of Delegates passed a resolution voicing its position on President George W. Bush's use of presidential signing statements. As the largest attorney organization in the world, many people and organizations awaited the American Bar Association's stance on this important issue. Many attorneys across the country have been able to take resolutions passed by the House of Delegates and implement them in their local communities.

My time and experience in the American Bar Association House of Delegates has been both informative and inspirational. I always leave those meetings impressed at what we, as attorneys, are able to accomplish and the positive impact we make, not only in our profession, but in our communities as well.

Mentors Plus

By Maureen McGinnis

Over 60 attendees enjoyed a beautiful fall day at the Drayton Plains Nature Center in Waterford on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Oakland County Youth Assistance partnered with the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section to present an “Around the World” picnic event for mentors and their matches assigned through the Mentors Plus program.

Volunteers from the State Bar of Michigan, as well as those from local Youth Assistance offices, were on hand to set up a picnicstyle lunch, including hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill. Different areas from around the world were represented at five stations that allowed the mentors and their matches to sample different music, games, clothing, food, and activities from countries such as India, Japan, Mexico, and France.

As everyone sat down for lunch, they were greeted by Brant Mitchell of Redford, a Native American from the Ojibwa tribe, who told several stories and practices of his tribe. Everyone was also treated to a half-hour program of music, song, and dance by Renee Ginell’s Celtic dance troupe, whose members used traditional dance to illustrate the evolution of Celtic dance from Scotland and Ireland to the Americas.

A bonfire blazed nearby, and everyone was invited to finish up the afternoon on a hayride around the nature center or roasting marshmallows by the fire. The children were all smiles throughout the afternoon, and everyone involved agreed the event was truly a success!



Free Legal Workshop on Legal Issues Concerning Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients

The Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the State Bar of Michigan Justice Initiatives Division will hold a free training workshop on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) issues for pro bono attorneys and legal service organizations on Friday, Dec. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the State Bar of Michigan in Lansing.

ACLU of Michigan attorney Jay Kaplan will present the workshop, titled “Protecting LGBT Families,” as part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to train attorneys to work with low-income LGBT clients who need legal assistance. Topics of discussion include:

- The status of legal equality;
- Protecting LGBT relationships through legal documents;

- Tips for working with LGBT clients;
- Confronting homophobia in the legal system;
- Resources and technical assistance for LGBT-related legal issues; and
- An overview of state, federal, and case law precedent affecting LGBT clients and their families.

A limited number of openings are available for this training session. For more information or to register for the training, contact Katy Conklin, SBM Justice Initiatives program manager, at (800) 968-1442, ext. 6307 or kconklin@mail.michbar.org.

ICLE and the Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan are pleased to present the second seminar of the 2008-2009 Homeward Bound Series. Members of the Young Lawyers Section who are not ICLE partners may register for this seminar at a special low rate of only \$25! Immediately following the program, members of the Young Lawyers Section are invited to meet with members of the Real Property Law Section in the Nazareth Room.

2008-2009 HOMEWARD BOUND SERIES

December 4, 2008

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Inn at St. John's | 44045 Five Mile Road | Plymouth

"Buying a Condo: Understanding Contingencies, Restrictions and Operations"

Condominium ownership continues to increase in popularity, and your standard buy-sell agreements do not address all of the issues that need to be resolved. Agreements to purchase a condo are more complex than for other real estate sales agreements because of the relationship of the owners and the common ownership of certain areas. Hear from the experts how to be sure your purchase and closing documents are in order and how to protect your client from unwelcome surprises.

SPECIAL FEATURE!!

Post-Seminar Reception for Young Lawyers Section Members

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Real Property Law Section in cooperation with the Young Lawyers Section invite you to attend a reception immediately following this seminar.

This reception offers the opportunity for Young Lawyers to meet seasoned real estate law attorneys who will share tips on establishing a successful real estate practice.

SEMINAR FACULTY

C. Kim Shierk, Moderator

Myers Nelson Dillon & Shierk PLLC | Bloomfield Hills

C. Kim Shierk practices in the area of real estate law. She serves as treasurer of the State Bar of Michigan's Real Property Law Section and is a past chair of the section's Committee on Condominiums, PUDs, and Cooperatives. Ms. Shierk has lectured extensively for ICLE and other organizations on real estate issues and has authored and coauthored a number of articles on real estate law. She is also a contributor to "Michigan Residential Real Estate Transactions" (ICLE).

James O. Brown

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP | Holland

James O. Brown has been practicing in the areas of real estate and construction law for 27 years. He is a member of the Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, where he serves as the co-chair of its Committee on Condominiums, PUDs, and Cooperatives, and also holds memberships in the Business Law and Taxation Sections of the State Bar and in the Ottawa County Bar Association. A partner in his firm, he is a frequent speaker for a variety of organizations on real property and construction law topics.

Mark F. Makower

Dickinson Wright PLLC | Bloomfield Hills

Mark F. Makower practices in the area of real property law. A partner in the firm and leader of its condominium service group, Mr. Makower concentrates his practice on real estate development and condominium and construction law. Actively involved in these areas of the law for over 26 years, he currently represents various developers and over five hundred condominium and community associations throughout the state. Mr. Makower is one of only two Michigan members of the College of Community Association Lawyers, a member of the Community Associations Institute (CAI) (serving on its national amicus curae brief writing team), and the current president of the CAI-Michigan Chapter board of directors. He is a past chairperson of the State Bar of Michigan's Real Property Law Section (RPLS) and a past chairperson of its Committee on Condominiums, PUDs, and Cooperatives (having led the legislative effort to overhaul the Michigan Condominium Act in 2001-2002). A frequent lecturer for ICLE, RPLS, Lorman, and CAI, Mr. Makower has also authored numerous articles on condominium law for "Michigan Real Property Review," CAI's "Common Ground," and the "Michigan Bar Journal."

H. William Freeman

Freeman Cotton & Gleeson PLC | Bloomfield Hills

H. William Freeman practices in the areas of real estate law, including acquisitions, commercial and residential development, financing, condominium development, and environmental law. Mr. Freeman is also active in the area of affordable housing, previously serving as chairman of the Oakland County Housing Network. For his work in the Pontiac area, Mr. Freeman received the Leon Hubbard Community Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association. He has authored several articles regarding condominiums, including mixed-use condominium development, and affordable housing. Mr. Freeman is former chairperson of the Real Estate Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association and is currently co-chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Real Property Section Condominiums, PUDs and Cooperatives Committee. From 1992 to 1998 he served as chairman of the Planning Commission in the Village of Bingham Farms, and is now a trustee on the Village Council. Mr. Freeman is also a director of the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan.

Attend live or by webcast!

Registration fee per seminar: \$80 – Members of Real Property Law Section | \$90 – General Admission
ICLE Partners – No Additional Fee (consult your Partnership agreement)

Special rate! Young Lawyers Section members who are not ICLE Partners may register for this Homeward Bound seminar for only \$25. You must register by phone to receive this special rate.

To register:

Call (with credit card) toll free – (877) 229-4350

Fax (with credit card) toll free – (877) 229-4351

Online (with credit card) – www.icle.org/hb

Mail (with payment) – ICLE, 1020 Greene St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1444

LOCATION:

The Inn at St. John's is conveniently located at 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth, just east of Sheldon Road, easily accessible from I-96, I-275, and M-14.

From The East: Follow I-96 until it turns into M-14. Follow M-14 west to Sheldon Road exit. Turn right onto Sheldon Road. Follow Sheldon Road for about half a mile. Turn right on to Five Mile Road. Entrance to The Inn at St. John's is on the right.

From The West: Follow M-14 east to Sheldon Road exit. Turn right onto Sheldon Road. Follow Sheldon Road for about half a mile. Turn right onto Five Mile Road. Entrance to The Inn at St. John's is on the right.

From The South: Take I-275 north to M-14. Exit onto M-14 west toward Ann Arbor. Follow M-14 west to Sheldon Road exit. Turn right onto Sheldon Road. Follow Sheldon Road for about half a mile. Turn right onto Five Mile Road. Entrance to The Inn at St. John's is on the right.

From The North: Take I-275 south to M-14. Exit onto M-14 west toward Ann Arbor. Follow M-14 west to Sheldon Road exit. Turn right onto Sheldon Road. Follow Sheldon Road for about a half mile. Turn right onto Five Mile Road. Entrance to The Inn at St. John's is on the right.

Note that there is construction on Sheldon Road, south of the M-14 ramps. This closure does not affect driving to or from The Inn at St. John's via M-14.

Welcome to the Jungle:

Keep Your Expectations Realistic When Joining Your First Big Trial Team

By Nicholas G. Even



Nicholas G. Even is an associate with the Troy office of Bowman and Brooke LLP. He defends a variety of motor vehicle manufacturers in automotive product liability cases, concentrating on air bag non-deployment, inertial unlatch and seatback defect allegations, and protects the interests of manufacturers of motor vehicles, motorcycles, ATVs, and watercrafts in consumer warranty claims.

Nicholas G. Even
Bowman and Brooke LLP
50 W Big Beaver Rd
Ste 600
Troy, MI 48084
P: (248) 687-5313
F: (248) 743-0422
E: nicholas.even@
det.bowmanandbrooke.com

Newly-minted lawyers who want to try cases and choose to join smaller firms or hang their own shingle fresh out of law school generally have vastly different apprenticeships from their brethren who accept associate positions with larger firms. Many of the future trial attorneys in the former group will have opportunities to try cases, sometimes without any assistance from a more senior attorney, mere months after passing the bar, while the pedagogic process for attorneys in the latter category commonly leads to a vastly different first trial experience.

While virtually all young people striving to become trial lawyers have had a trial practice course or two and have read many of the countless articles addressing the issues involved in trying one's first case, the great majority of the subject matter covered in these courses and articles assumes that you, young trial lawyer extraordinaire, will define the themes of your case, prepare and deliver the opening and closing statements, and examine the critical witnesses. The reality is often far different from what you may have read. You might go to trial for the first time on a complex, catastrophic exposure case for which the trial is expected to last for an extended duration. If so, you will probably be one lawyer on a team of many, and your role may be far different from what you had envisioned since the time you first set your sights on trying cases. It happened to me, and I could not have imagined a better learning experience than that which I received during a pair of six-week trials of such ilk with and against some of the finest trial lawyers in the country. I offer the following suggestions for any new trial attorney facing a similar situation:

Before Trial

Understand and Embrace Your Role: Inquire about what your role will be at trial several months before you actually get to the trial destination, and do not be disappointed if it is not the role for which you had hoped. While the lead trial attorney may want to give you the valuable experience and stand-up time you likely so covet, there are a variety of reasons for which it might not happen.

If you are destined to be a warroom workhorse who toils away on pre- and mid-trial motions, briefs, and outlines while the rest of the team is at the courthouse, you should discuss the strategies and approaches which have worked for associates who have undertaken similar roles in the past, investigate potential resources into which you may tap for extra mid-trial ammunition, and do anything else which will help you craft the best pieces of work product you are capable of preparing. Even if it appears you will not have an opportunity to handle any witnesses at trial, prepare as if you will have such an opportunity because even long-term plans have a habit of changing in the blink of an eye during trial.

Master the Applicable Rules: Take it upon yourself to learn the procedural and evidentiary rules, the local rules applicable to your venue, and the policies, procedures, and practices of your judge. While this task is not time consuming in the relative universe of trial preparation activities, the knowledge you will gain is immensely important. You may find yourself knowing more about the applicable rules and practices than anyone else on your team, or even anyone else in the courtroom, including local lawyers and the judge. You can use this knowledge to help your team best use these rules to your client's advantage.

Digest the Complex Issues and Develop an Expertise:

If you do find yourself as a trial team member on a complex case, there is a high likelihood there will be several complicated non-legal issues significantly involved in the case. Regardless of whether the issues involve engineering, medicine, or another technical field, the better you understand them, the more you will be able to contribute. Reference material aplenty exists through which you can learn basic concepts. Once you master the basic concepts, talk with your experts, who will often be on-site for days at a time while waiting to testify, to develop an understanding of the more complicated concepts.

Know the File Inside and Out: “Exhibit 31...exhibit 31...why can't I find exhibit 31 to Joe Smith's deposition?!?!?” demands the lead trial attorney as he enters the warroom with his hair on fire on the eve of his critical cross-examination of the opposition's big liability expert witness. If the case file with which you are working is voluminous and contains thousands of subfiles, you will probably not even know where to begin to look to find it if you have not taken the time to figure out what the file contains before the heavy lifting of trial begins. If you have taken the time to thoroughly review the file before a crisis arises, you may be able to help fix the problem or avert it altogether.

Befriend the Court Staff: As a routine matter of courtesy, befriend the court staff. At some point during the trial, your team will inevitably need something from a staff member, and you will be infinitely more likely to get the help you need if you have been considerate and professional to those whose help or goodwill you seek.

Kiss Your “Normal Life” Goodbye: As Joseph Story accurately stated during his inaugural lecture at Harvard University, “The law is a jealous mistress and requires a long and constant courtship.” If you want to be a trial lawyer, prepare to give up your “normal life” for extended periods, occasionally with little to no notice, and do not expect anyone to give you a proverbial pat on the head for your sacrifices. Whether it is the mail piling up at home, your pets growing weary of their time at the kennel, or your significant other tiring of eating alone, sacrifices must be made. Trying complex cases over an extended duration is not for everyone, so do not be ashamed if you are unwilling or unable to make those sacrifices. But do not fool yourself into thinking you are so indispensable that you can cut it as a big time trial lawyer without making them, at least not at this stage of your career.

During Trial

Be Prepared for Anything: Anything can, and often does, happen during trial. Unexpected issues arise on a daily basis and, as the least experienced lawyer on the trial team, you will often be asked to research them and, given the knowledge and information you acquire, help make strategic decisions with that information. This is one of your opportunities to shine, so take advantage of it rather than envisioning yourself missing out on something more glamorous.

Soak up the Trial Process: A one- or two-day trial may introduce you to the basics of trial practice, but you would be amazed what you learn after 25 or 30 days of trial. You can learn a great deal about how to properly prepare for trial by simply observing the action and taking notes. You are a trial lawyer, not a court reporter, so do not feel compelled to transcribe every word uttered inside the courtroom in the course of a trial day. However, taking notes with a purpose will allow you to revisit procedural and substantive issues you do not fully understand at a more convenient time and ask the decision-makers why they proceeded in a certain manner, whether the issue was ignoring a section of an examination outline or declining to object to a portion of testimony you believe to be damaging to your client. What you will likely find when the time comes to ask the questions is that there is no one way to conduct a trial because every attorney, every judge, and every trial is different. Experienced trial attorneys seem to play to their audience, roll with the punches, and make the tough decisions which uniquely arise in every trial, and you have to learn to do the same.

Watch the Differing Styles and Develop Your Own: The five attorneys with the most visible roles during my last trial had completely different methods to their madness. As I initially observed those diverse styles of trial lawyering, the sole commonality between the attorneys appeared to be that words came out of their mouths when they were on their feet. Only after spending weeks cooped up in a hotel with them did I see the real trait they shared: Each had embraced his own personality and used it to maximize his effectiveness as a trial lawyer.

Take Responsibility: If you are going to a trial with a large team, chances are you will have some non-lawyers (paralegals, investigators, and/or secretaries) with you for support. When working with a support staff, you are ultimately responsible if something goes awry. When something inevitably goes wrong, focus on solving the problem rather than assigning blame to someone who might not even know any better.

Welcome to the Jungle ...
continued from page 7

After Trial

Prepare a Lessons Learned Memo/Presentation: Many young lawyers fail to learn from their own experiences, especially when their trial team prevails. After the judge charges the jury and sends them off to deliberate, you will have made it through your first trial. Rather than kicking back and starting to relax, create a list of every memorable experience you had, every mistake you made, and everything you wish you had done better while you were in trial. When you return to your office, ask other attorneys how they would have handled specific situations and figure out ways to avoid similar pratfalls in the future. Prepare a formal memo to yourself and the other attorneys in your office discussing what happened and how you would avoid the same mistakes in the future. If similar circumstances ever arise in the course of one of your future trials, you will be prepared to handle the issue. Should you go one step further and prepare a “lessons learned” presentation for the other attorneys in your office, you might even prevent one of your comrades from experiencing the same issues or get some good war stories from the more experienced trial attorneys.

Fix the File: Just because the trial has ended does not mean the case is over. At least one side will likely appeal the result, and if the verdict is reversed and the case does not settle, you may have the opportunity to try the case again. After you return to your office and the file arrives at your firm’s doorstep, do not expect the cluster of disorganized boxes standing in front of you to even remotely resemble the pristine file you encountered on the day you first arrived at the warroom. While it probably is not a task for which you have been given the responsibility and likely not something for which you can bill, help your support staff get the file back in order, and do so soon after your return. The longer you wait before making sure the file is in order, the more of a pain it will be to figure out where everything should go. You should know the file better than anyone else by this point, and there will be a litany of materials for which your file clerk cannot find a home. Sacrificing a few hours of non-billable time is well worth the headaches you will avoid months down the road when it seems every basic search turns into a crisis situation because no one can find anything in the file.

These are just a few observations from my first few trials, but I hope they help you prepare for your own first trial experience.

What They Didn’t Teach You in Law School

By Jennifer Harvey



(Left to Right) E. Christopher Johnson, Jr., Jennifer Harvey, Opolla Brown, and Raymond Cassar

On October 9, 2008, the Young Lawyers Section sponsored the seminar “What They Didn’t Teach You in Law School.”

The seminar was held at the Skyline Club in Southfield, and the featured attorney presenters were Raymond Cassar of the Law Offices of Raymond Cassar, Opolla Brown of the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, and E. Christopher Johnson, Jr. of General Motors Corporation. Jennifer Harvey of the Harvey Legal Group, a YLS council member, was the moderator.

All seminar speakers brought a wealth of experience and practical advice to the 19 attendees.

Raymond Cassar, a criminal defense attorney, discussed tactics on how to get your clients to tell you the truth. His tips included empathizing with your clients, building trust, and creating a safe environment for them to share their case.

E. Christopher Johnson, Jr., vice president and general counsel for GM North America, emphasized the importance of the lawyer in the community. A lawyer must serve both the legal profession and the community. Character and reputation take a lifetime to build and moments to lose. Also, it is the responsibility of legal practitioners to serve the community because we have been given the opportunities to be lawyers.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Opolla Brown discussed tips for dealing with the courtroom. This included everything from handling an uncooperative opposing counsel to how to best communicate your points to the court and jury.

The participants were able to ask these seasoned professionals an array of questions in a panel discussion. The topics ranged from handling bully opposing counsel to balancing life with work.

At the conclusion of the seminar, Jennifer Harvey presented the speakers with gifts from YLS. The attendees truly appreciated that wealth of knowledge that the speakers were able to share, especially their personal stories as practitioners.

Lansing Habitat for Humanity Shed Build

By Hope V. Shovein

On September 27, 2008, the Young Lawyers Section of the Michigan State Bar sponsored a volunteer event with Habitat for Humanity Lansing, building sheds for the Lansing ReStore. The ReStore, www.habitatlansing.org/restore, accepts donations of new and used building materials, which they sell at a discount and use in home builds. YLS volunteers assembled recently donated sheds to house the ReStore's overflowing inventory.

Volunteers arrived with sleepy eyes on this crisp fall Saturday morning and promptly began sorting through shed walls and ceilings, hauling bricks, leveling land, laying brick floors, erecting walls and raising roofs, with a little bit of pizza provided to fuel the efforts. The six volunteers accomplished quite a bit in one morning, building two sheds, perhaps inspired by the hope of finishing in time to watch a little bit of college football.

Thank you to the following volunteers for participating in the shed build: Brent Seitz, Jamie Low, Carlos Escurel, Russ Kavalhuna and Darrell Ford.

Also, many thanks to our onsite supervisors and Ginny Noble, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Lansing, for notifying the YLS regarding the volunteer opportunity and for her part in coordinating the event. We greatly appreciate everyone's time and efforts!

Hope Shovein practices trademark law at Brooks Kushman P.C. in Southfield, Michigan.



(Left to Right) Russ Kavalhuna, Jamie Low, Brent Seitz, Hope Shovein, Carlos Escurel and Darrell Ford.



The OCBA New Lawyers Committee Presents

Novemberfest!

Wednesday, November 19th, 2008

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Forte` Restaurant

201 S. Woodward Avenue

Birmingham, MI 48009

Come join us for this ever-popular New Lawyers social event!

It's a great opportunity to meet other new lawyers.

Cost of admission is a donation to Habitat for Humanity.

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided throughout the evening.

Pre-registration for this event is strongly encouraged.

e-Mail Candice Russ at cle@ocba.org or call 248-334-3400.

This event is being sponsored by

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section

Please help the State Bar of Michigan -
Young Lawyers Division
collect NEW coats for kids up to 13 years old at
Capuchin Soup Kitchen

HAPPY HOUR – Appetizers Provided!!!

Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Please attend one of the following SBM-YLD Happy Hour events to deliver the new coat(s) or make a donation toward the purchase of a new coat(s) for a child in need.

ROYAL OAK AREA:

Where: The Sky Club, 401 S. Lafayette in Royal Oak
(located upstairs in Sangria Tapas Café)

GRAND RAPIDS AREA:

Where: TBD



*If you would like to donate a coat, but do not wish to attend a happy hour event, please contact:

Lisa J. Hamameh
Adkison, Need & Allen, PLLC,
39533 Woodward Ave, Suite 210
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 540-7400
Lhamameh@Adkisonneed.com

OR

David R. Millar, Esq.
Millar & Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 230352
Grand Rapids, MI 49523
(616) 855-5560
dmillar@millarassoc.com