

Inter Alia

Among Other Things

Spring 2013

www.michiganyounglawyers.com

Council Officers

Chairperson

Felicia O. Johnson

Chairperson-Elect

Hope V. Shovein

Vice Chair

Andrea Irons

Secretary-Treasurer

Mark William Jane

Council

Syeda Farhana Davidson

Jade Jozzmenia Edwards

Nicholas G. Even

Stephanie Elena Farkas

Alana Marie Pauline Glass

Kara Rachel Hart-Negrich

Noah Page Hood

Aysha Jamil Kasham

Laura I. Marji

Shenique A. Moss

Donald Rencher

Derek Glen Russaw

Bonnie R. Shaw

Mwanaisha Atieno Sims

Lori Smith

R. Paul Vance

Ex Officio

Brandy Y. Robinson

Letter from the Chair



Felicia O. Johnson

Commission Counsel
Wayne County Commission
500 Griswold St Ste 810
Detroit, MI 48226

P: (313) 224-6459

F: (313) 224-7484

E: fjohnson@co.wayne.mi.us

As a young lawyer in the beginning stages of your career, how will you build your personal brand? Will you break out from underneath the pile of papers on your desk and discover the world of alliances that every partner knows?

Networking is a key aspect of professional development. Networking helps to establish and foster relationships, builds client portfolios, provides support systems, and builds confidence. Effective networking could be the difference between having a good career and being a rainmaker.

Boost your personal brand by networking. Value your brand and learn to effectively network. Be careful not to improperly use technology to tarnish the brand you are building. Technology is great for networking, but there is nothing like looking into someone's eyes and shaking his hand.

I encourage you to join professional associations, volunteer for community service, and find time to attend events. The YLS offers numerous opportunities to network with judges, seasoned practitioners, and young lawyers. There are several upcoming events listed in this newsletter, including the Sixth Annual Young Lawyers Summit. The Summit is June 7-8 at Greektown Casino and Hotel, Detroit. This year the opening event is a Detroit Tigers baseball game. There will also be a reception and other networking opportunities.

Networking can cement reputations and catapult careers. Build your brand as a hard worker, an advocate and a leader. It could lead to not only professional success but personal honors as well. I imagine that recipients of the Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award (OYLA) did not build their brands with the award in mind. However, their excellent service to the profession and to the community led someone in their network to nominate them for the honor. This year the OYLA will be presented at the Summit. Join us as we honor a fellow young lawyer.

This is the time to build your personal brand.

Sincerely yours,

Felicia Johnson, YLS Chair

2013 ABA YLS Spring Conference Programming on Recent Legal Trends

By Mark Jane

I had the privilege of traveling to Minnesota to represent the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section at the 2013 Spring Conference of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. Held at the modern 601 Graves Hotel in downtown Minneapolis from May 16 to May 18, the Spring Conference provided ample continuing legal education seminars and numerous networking events to enhance the careers of new attorneys from across the United States. Critically, the 2013 Spring Conference offered several seminars for attendees to discuss current legal topics that have recently started developing.

For example, “Social Media Discovery: ‘Like’ It or Not, What Attorneys Need to Do” kicked off the substantive programming on Thursday, May 16 with a discussion on the impact of social media on the law. The presentation noted that parties to litigation are becoming increasingly aware of the consequences of social media—an awareness that is reflected by the massive growth in the number of cases the past few years. The presentation highlighted the types of cases which involve material posted via social media vehicles, ranging from employment issues (e.g., an employee posting material online adverse to the employer) to marital disputes.

In addition, on Friday, May 17, the seminar “Anti-Bullying Laws: Present Status and Future Possibilities” offered a discussion on the recent proliferation of lawsuits (with resulting consent decrees) and school district policies designed to prevent and punish bullying behavior. The presentation provided an overview of the types of anti-bullying policies and the circumstances behind the recent increase in the number of lawsuits. In fact, due to its recent prevalence, the ABA YLD has selected anti-bullying laws as the year-long project focus for the 2013-2014 bar year.

Finally, “The Changing Landscape of Marriage Equality: From Ballot Box to Supreme Court” on Friday, May 17 tackled the evolving sphere of state and federal marital definitions. The presentation discussed the case and legislative history of marriage equality leading up to the current legal status in each state. The presentation also addressed the potential impact of the upcoming marriage equality case decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court.

I was honored to attend all these seminars on behalf of the SBM YLS. It will be intriguing to watch these pertinent legal trends develop.



Graves 601 Wyndham Grand Hotel, *hotel photo*



Greetings from the “House”!

By Mwanaisha A. Sims

For the 2013 ABA Mid-year Meeting the House met in Dallas, Texas. The 2013 ABA Annual Meeting will be in San Francisco.

On February 11, 2013 the House convened at the Hilton Anatole. The Hilton Anatole was a destination within itself with its Asian décor and over 45 acres of indoor and outdoor facilities. However, after taking a walk through the “Far East” I reached my final destination to participate in the great debate and persuasion of some of the best legal minds, the approval of resolutions before the House.

The new chair, Robert M. Carlson, took the podium and the debating began. At least from my first experience at the Annual Meeting I thought the debating was going to begin, but it appeared that everyone had come to an agreement about the resolutions that were being presented in the House. Every single time a resolution was being presented the speaker of the House would say there were “no salmon slips in opposition”...what a bummer! I couldn’t believe it—everyone had appeared to work out any issues with the resolutions prior to the meeting, and only amendments were made to certain resolutions before the speaker again said, “no salmon slips in opposition.” Now don’t get me wrong, as lawyers we are suppose to be at the top of our game when we can work things out off the record, but this is the “House.” This is the time when the great legal minds come together and debate issues that will in turn affect lawyers across America. How could everyone agree? Well, we did, and instead of the meeting lasting two days like the Annual Meeting, it only lasted one!

But beyond the non-debating and passing of resolutions with no salmon slips in opposition, ABA President Laurel G. Bellows spoke to the House. She spoke in

support of the House’s work and congratulated the new chair, Robert M. Carlson. President Bellows also spoke on her commitment to diversity and excellence in the legal profession. However, President Bellows expressed her disbelief that in 2013 we still have to celebrate diversity and fight for equal pay for women and ethnic minority groups in the profession. President Bellows also challenged us all to educate ourselves about the modern day slavery that is happening in the front yards of America—human trafficking. A short film was presented on human trafficking in modern America. There was also a human rights luncheon featuring keynote speaker Patricia Williams, a professor of law at Columbia University.

The Mid-year Meeting was a great time, and I look forward to the Annual Meeting in San Francisco this August!

To view a detailed summary of the resolutions that were presented and approved at the Mid-year Meeting visit the ABA House of Delegates website at:

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/leadership/house_of_delegates.html.

Please feel free to visit the House of Delegates website and review the rules and procedures for submitting a proposed resolution. I am proud to serve as your YLS House of Delegates rep and hope to see you at future SBM YLS events and the ABA YLD events!

Mwanaisha A. Sims currently works as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office and holds a seat on the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Council, and the American Bar Association House of Delegates.

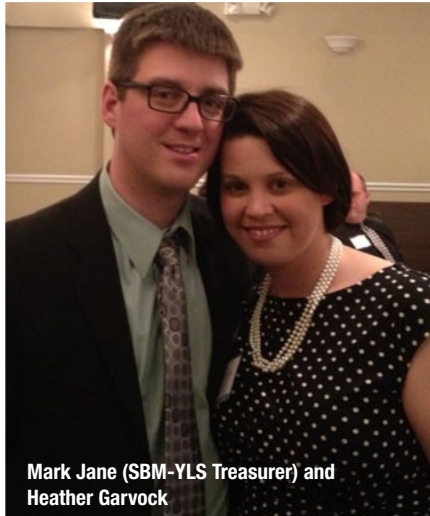


Young Lawyers Learn the Art of Wine Tasting

Members of the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan joined the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Washtenaw Chapter in a wine-tasting seminar on Thursday, April 18, 2013. The seminar took place at Creekside Grill in Ann Arbor (on Jackson Road), and was led by wine consultant Linda Thomas.

Lawyers learned the “5 S’s” of wine tasting sampling (the “5 S’s” are sight, swirl, smell, sip, and spit or swallow). Attendees also sampled delicious food prepared by Creekside meant to accentuate and enhance the flavors of the specially-paired wines. Participants also had the opportunity to purchase wines sampled at the tasting, with proceeds going to support the Women’s Center in Ann Arbor, a local charity whose mission is to provide support to women in the community, particularly counseling support.

Attorney Bonnie Shaw spearheaded the event on behalf of both SBM YLS and WLAM Washtenaw Region. WLAM Washtenaw County board members Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop, Kate Sharkey, and Jen Lawrence also provided key assistance and support.



Mark Jane (SBM-YLS Treasurer) and Heather Garvock



L-R, Gerlinde Nattler, Laura Salvati, Jena Agler, Benjamin Muth



L-R, Sheila Strong, Bonnie Shaw (SBM-YLS Council Member and VP WLAM-Washtenaw), Elizabeth Jolliffe, Gerlinde Nattler, and Kate Sharkey (Treasurer, WLAM-Washtenaw)

Enhancement of Pro Bono Culture in Michigan: A Summary of the State Bar of Michigan's Pro Bono Workshop

By Kaitlin Abplanalp Brown

The bridges between pro bono organizations, attorneys, and bar associations carried heavy traffic on May 15, 2013, when the State Bar of Michigan held a Pro Bono Workshop to discuss the current culture of pro bono programs in Michigan and analyze ways to enhance this culture. Bruce Courtade, president of the State Bar of Michigan, welcomed attendees and presented the following facts:

- **The Need:** One in three Michiganders lives below the 200 percent poverty level.
- **The Funding:** Pro bono organizations are struggling to maintain funding.
- **The Resources:** 67 percent of Michigan attorneys reported involvement in pro bono services.
- **The Challenge:** *“Access to justice is a dream. We must make it a reality.”* (John Cummiskey)

The workshop began with an update on pro bono services in Michigan. Bob Gillett of Legal Services of South Central Michigan explained the role of the Pro Bono Initiative (PBI), which is responsible for encouraging and coordinating pro bono legal services in Michigan. For example, PBI promotes firms and corporations that are fully meeting the State Bar of Michigan's Voluntary Pro Bono Standard¹ by naming them as part of the Pro Bono Circle of Excellence. The 2012 Pro Bono

Circle of Excellence included 23 large firms, 20 small firms, and one corporation.

Linda Rexer, executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, then introduced the new development director of the Access to Justice Fund (ATJ), Judi Peters. The ATJ was established to receive funds donated by attorneys in fulfillment of the Voluntary Pro Bono Standard and distribute the funds to eligible not-for-profit programs throughout the state. Ms. Peters described her efforts to meet with pro bono organizations to evaluate models and determine effective formulas for ATJ programs.

John A. Tull of John A. Tull and Associates then presented his report “An Assessment of Pro Bono in Michigan,” which was a deliberate effort to evaluate the current systems and recommend strategies for improvement. He first complimented Michigan's cooperative culture and suggested that Michigan is likely near the top when compared to other states' level of cooperation versus competition. Mr. Tull also identified the important institutional resources of the State Bar of Michigan, Michigan State Bar Foundation, and the provider community, which all provide a “rich sea of support” to attorneys and pro bono organizations. Mr. Tull then suggested multiple strategies to create new institutional structures to promote engagement, improve systems and structures already in place, and enhance Michigan's pro bono culture. The key, Mr. Tull explained, is to establish trusting relationships with strong leadership.

[Build bridges between client needs, pro bono organization services, and attorney resources.](#)

Justin M. Sheehan, legal & policy program manager for Michigan Community Resources, described the challenge as finding “the right attorneys for the right cases at the right time.” One valuable resource in making these con-



nections will be an online directory of pro bono organizations in Michigan, searchable by the regions served and the services provided. Rob Mathis, pro bono service counsel with the State Bar of Michigan, announced that the State Bar of Michigan will be unveiling this directory soon.

Samantha Meinke, communications specialist at the State Bar of Michigan, suggested that social media, such as a Google+ Community, LinkedIn group, or Facebook group, would be an excellent way to connect attorneys with pro bono organizations. These pages could increase the awareness of pro bono opportunities, such as events, clinics, trainings, volunteer needs, or employment postings.

How Can Young Lawyers Help? Create, review, and/or contribute to a social media page to promote and volunteer at pro bono opportunities. Browse the online directory of pro bono organizations when it becomes active. Identify and connect with an organization that is meaningful to you. Promote the directory in courts, shelters, and other places serving populations with legal needs.

Reach out to programs for possible replication of effective systems.

In afternoon breakout sessions, representatives from firms, universities, and not-for-profit organizations presented their pro bono systems through panel discussions. Thom Linn, an attorney at Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, described his firm's written policy regarding pro bono and his own personal efforts to publicize opportunities and recognize attorneys' accomplishments through publications and awards. Dykema's Heidi Naasko and Bodman's Kimberly Paulson were also mentioned as leaders at their respective firms as pro bono coordinators.

University of Michigan's Amy Sankaran described externships, internships, and the voluntary Pro Bono Pledge, which aims to create a norm of continually balancing pro bono work with educational, and eventually professional, responsibilities. University of Detroit Mercy's Tammy Kudialis described the Project Salute program, which provides a VA accreditation program, trains attorneys on how to represent veterans, and assigns cases to attorneys. Cooley Law School's Cynthia Ward described the school's "Junior Associate Program," through which firms and attorneys may request a law student for assistance in handling a pro bono case.

Dustie Deville of Community Legal Services of Western Michigan stressed the importance of engaging attorneys by meeting them in person to identify their interests, connecting attorneys with organizations that are meaningful to them, and referring cases to organizations best suited to address the issues. Justin Sheehan of Michigan Community Resources also explained that he matches firms with pro bono opportunities by creating an extensive database to track interests, needs, and involvement. Keith Morris,

of Elder Law of Michigan, suggested multiple technology resources for developing pro bono organizations. Another resource referenced was www.michiganlegalhelp.org.

How can young lawyers help? Register on the State Bar of Michigan's website as a pro bono volunteer (go to <http://www.michbar.org/probono.cfm> and click "Volunteer Online!"). Identify other attorneys who are interested in pro bono work and recommend that they do the same. Connect your peers with a pro bono organization that best matches their particular interests. Become involved in the PBI. Draft and propose a written pro bono policy for your organization. Publicize pro bono opportunities. Publically recognize your peers who commit to pro bono volunteer work.

Improve pro bono efforts through self-assessment.

The PBI recommended self-assessment for effectively managing pro bono operations in Michigan. Through this process, pro bono organizations, bar associations, law firms, and individual attorneys may evaluate, for example, their level of mutual trust in each relationship, effectiveness and efficiency, and success in accomplishing intended objectives. The PBI provided a worksheet describing three approaches to self-assessments (process evaluation, output evaluation, and outcome evaluation), all of which are integral to obtaining a clear understanding of pro bono operations.

How can young lawyers help? Promote a greater commitment to pro bono volunteer work by evaluating the systems around you, considering other programs, and taking on the challenge to improve the system. Organize a pro bono event for the October Pro Bono Month and publicize it on the State Bar of Michigan website (go to <http://www.michbar.org/probono.cfm> and click on "Submit Your Event").

Katie Abplanalp Brown works as an Associate at Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook.

Endnote

- 1 The Voluntary Pro Bono Standard recommends that attorneys participate in pro bono legal services to the poor by annually doing at least one of the following:
 - Providing representation without charge for at least three low-income individuals;
 - Providing at least 30 hours of representation or services without charge to low-income individuals or organizations;
 - Providing at least 30 hours of professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means, public service or charitable groups, or organizations; or
 - Contributing at least \$300, or \$500 for those individuals whose income allows a higher contribution, to not-for-profit programs organized to deliver civil legal services to low-income individuals or organizations.

SAVE THE DATES

New Lawyer Orientation

Friday, June 7, 2013

1:30 pm registration

2:00 pm–5:00 pm program

Greektown Casino & Hotel,

Detroit, MI

Cost: Free

For more information contact

Felicia Johnson at fojohnson@

yahoo.com

6th Annual Young Lawyers Summit

June 7-8, 2013

Greektown Casino & Hotel

Detroit, MI

Cost: \$60

(not including Tigers game)

Register online at

<http://e.michbar.org/>

or by mail/fax form

(See next page).

For more information contact

Felicia Johnson at fojohnson@

yahoo.com



Visit michbar.org/

[younglawyers/](http://younglawyers/news.cfm)

news.cfm or

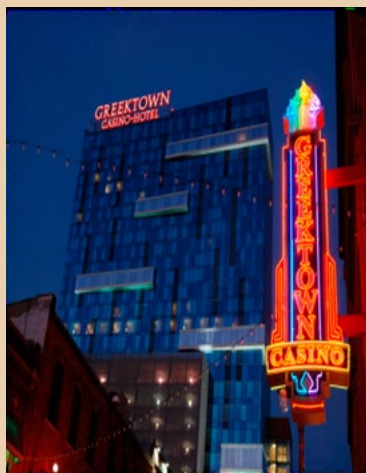
[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/sbmys)

[sbmys](https://www.facebook.com/sbmys) for more

information about

upcoming YLS

events.



State Bar of Michigan

Young Lawyers Section

6th Annual Young Lawyers Summit

June 7-8, 2013

Greektown Casino & Hotel, Detroit

The Summit will provide educational seminars, informational programming, and social events designed to enhance the skill, knowledge, and understanding of the legal profession. This year's seminar topics will include criminal law, legal writing, oral advocacy, evidence, depositions, technology, social media, and more. Networking events will include Tigers baseball, cocktail reception, music, and dancing.

Former Michigan Supreme Court associate justice, past president of the State Bar of Michigan and the American Bar Association, and former mayor of Detroit **Dennis W. Archer** will deliver the keynote address at Saturday's luncheon.

Register for the Summit online at <http://e.michbar.org/> or by mail/fax form (see next page). Hotel **reservations** can be made with the *Greektown Casino & Hotel* (Group Code YLS2013) at a special rate of \$139 per night until May 24, 2013. After that date the regular room rate will apply.

Register and reserve a room to stay overnight for the Summit before the early bird registration deadline and you will be entered to **WIN** a one night stay at the Greektown Casino and Hotel, including a \$50 food credit for a subsequent visit after June 10, 2013. (Restrictions may apply)

Join the YLS on Friday, June 7 to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Cleveland Indians. All tickets are in Section 337 (seats vary). Tickets will be distributed at 6 p.m. on June 7th in the Greektown Hotel lobby to those who registered for tickets. The YLS group will depart for the ballpark at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Felicia Johnson at fojohnson@yahoo.com or (313) 549-6329 for more information.

Thank you to our sponsors and vendors for helping to make the 6th Annual SBM-YLS Summit a success!

Gold Sponsors

Affinity Consulting Group

Brooks Kushman PC

Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)

Judeh & Associates

Silver Sponsor

Stevenson Keppelman Associates

Gold Sponsor Sections

SBM Family Law Section

SBM Insurance and Indemnity Law Section

SBM Labor and Employment Law Section

Vendors

EPS Settlement Group

Hantz Financial Services

SBM Probate and Estate Planning Section



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

6th Annual Summit

Greektown Casino & Hotel

555 E. Lafayette, Detroit

June 7-8, 2013

Event Schedule

Friday, June 7, 2013

5:00–6:30 p.m.	Registration
7:00 p.m.	Tigers baseball game at Comerica Park

Saturday, June 8, 2013

8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:30–9:20 a.m.	Breakfast, Welcome and State Bar of Michigan Justice Initiative Presentation by Candace Crowley, Valerie Newman, and Michael Blau
9:30–10:20 a.m.	Seminars
10:30–11:20 a.m.	Seminars
11:30–12:20 p.m.	Seminars
12:30–2:00 p.m.	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Address: Hon. Dennis W. Archer, former Michigan Supreme Court associate justice, past president of the SBM and the ABA, Dennis W. Archer PLLC/Dickinson Wright PLLC • Presentation of Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
2:10–3:00 p.m.	Seminars
3:10–4:00 p.m.	Seminars
4:00–5:30 p.m.	Reception
7:00 p.m.	Music, Dancing, and Refreshments

Seminar Topics

(Topics and speakers subject to change)

Evidence in the Courtroom

- Hon. Prentis Edwards Jr., 36th District Court
- Michael Servitto, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office

Know Your Audience: Practical Written Advocacy for Young Attorneys

- Mark Cooney, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Technology in the Court Room

- Michael Naughton, James C. Thomas PC

Michigan Criminal Law Update

- Ronald Bretz, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Oral Advocacy Tips

- Barrington Wilkins, U.S. Attorney's Office
- Gerald Gleeson II, Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone

Improve your Image and Public Profile Through Social Media

- Julie Fershtman, past president, State Bar of Michigan, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC

Depositions: Seek and Destroy

- Vernon Johnson, Johnson Law PLC

Supercharge Your Practice with Cutting Edge Technology

- JoAnn Hathaway, SBM Practice Management Resource Center

How to Avoid Grievances and Other Ethical Considerations

- Martha Moore, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

How to Succeed in Mediation

- Robert Wright, The Peace Talks PLC
- Antoinette Raheem, Resolutions by Raheem

Questions: Contact Felicia Johnson at fojohnson@yahoo.com or (313) 549-6329.



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

Registration

Sixth Annual Summit • June 7-8, 2013

Greektown Casino • 555 E. Lafayette Ave. • Detroit

Register online at <http://e.michbar.org>

P #: _____

Name: _____

Your Firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Guest/Spouse Name: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Enclosed is check # _____ for \$ _____

Please make check payable to: STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Please bill my: Visa MasterCard for \$ _____

Debit/Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please print name as it appears on debit/credit card:

Authorized Signature: _____

Questions: Contact Felicia Johnson at fojohnson@yahoo.com or (313) 549-6329.

Mail your check, or credit card information, and completed registration form to:

State Bar of Michigan
Attn: Seminar Registration
Michael Franck Building
306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

OR

Fax (ONLY if paying by debit/credit card) the completed form and debit/credit card information to:

Attn: Seminar Registration at (517) 372-5921

Cost: (Please check your payment fees)

Before or on April 30, 2013

- Section Members \$45
(includes seminars, meals, and reception)
- Guest \$30
(includes meals and reception)

After April 30, 2013

- Section Members \$60
(includes seminars, meals, and reception)
- Guest \$45
(includes meals and reception)

Registration total: \$ _____

Keynote Luncheon Program

- YES, I will attend the luncheon program
_____ guest(s) will attend the luncheon with me.

Meal Option: Beef Chicken
 Vegetarian Non-dairy

Guests must be registered to attend the luncheon (see above)

Guest Meal Option: Beef Chicken
 Vegetarian Non-dairy

- NO, I will not be attending the luncheon program

Tigers Baseball Game

Register online at <http://e.michbar.org> to reserve your spot for the baseball game on Friday, June 7 at Comerica Park. (Tigers tickets are non-refundable.)

Hotel reservations cannot be made with this form.

Reservations for the Greektown Hotel and Casino may be made at a special rate of \$139 per night plus taxes by calling 877-424-5554 or at the following website: <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=23374&Chain=9056&group=YLS2013> The group code is YLS2013. Rate expires May 24, 2013.

Seminar Cancellation Policy: All cancellations must be received at least 48 business hours before the start of the event and registration refunds are subject to a \$20 cancellation fee. Cancellations must be received in writing by e-mail (tbellinger@mail.michbar.org), fax (517-372-5921 ATTN: Tina Bellinger), or by U.S. mail (306 Townsend St., Lansing, MI 48933 ATTN: Tina Bellinger.) No refunds will be made for requests received after that time. Refunds will be issued in the same form payment was made. Please allow two weeks for processing. Registrants who cancel will not receive seminar materials.