

# Inter Alia

*Among Other Things*

Summer 2007

[www.michiganyounglawyers.com](http://www.michiganyounglawyers.com)

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Applications being accepted for the 2007 Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. See page 6.

## The School of Life

Personally, I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

~Winston Churchill

I love being a lawyer. It hasn't always been that way. It took years of effort, lots of experimentation, and even a few failures. I've tried just about everything as a lawyer. I've been a litigator, a transactional attorney, an associate, a shareholder. I've worked in law firms of all sizes. I've been the "black sheep" of a firm and fired. I've been the "golden boy" who could do no wrong. I've transitioned from one practice area to another, from litigation to taxation, after going back to school.

I started my own law practice, working out of my house, and went through all the trials and tribulations of being the chief cook and bottle washer. I grew my practice and made a good living as a lawyer. I've worked with major corporations and with some of the wealthiest people on the planet. I've performed countless hours of *pro bono* service for charities.

I've worked outside the law as a career coach, adjunct professor, workshop designer and facilitator, author, and board chairman of an international charity. *I never expected to travel so many different paths.* And I'm glad I did.

When I first started practicing law, I thought consistency was the key. Consistency was so important I was willing to stay in a miserable job for years. I didn't want to leave my job and admit I had made a mistake. But staying miserable is one of the biggest mistakes a lawyer can make. Being

willing to learn and grow is the hallmark of every successful lawyer—and human being—I know.

## Change in the Law

Life has a way of forcing us to change even when we want to cling to the status quo. We must embrace change. When I first became a lawyer, I was an insurance defense litigator. Within a couple years, the insurance laws were tightened, fewer lawsuits were filed, and my job became unnecessary. I was laid off and forced to chart a new course. I went back to school, graduated from a tax program, and started working as an estate planning and probate attorney. Within two years, the estate tax credit was significantly increased, and estate planning became less critical for many people. At about the same time, the probate law in Michigan (where I practice) was simplified, and fewer people hired lawyers for probate matters.

I was beginning to think I was jinxed. Everywhere I turned, everything changed. I continually had to re-think how I was going to practice law. Ironically, part of the reason I became a lawyer was to find security, but security was nowhere to be found. I simply had to be willing to change, regardless of whether the change was major or minor, voluntary or involuntary. To fully embrace change, I had to learn to be very honest with myself.

*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from The Lawyer's Guide to Being Human: How to Bring Who You Are to What You Do, reprinted with the permission of its author, Timothy D. Batdorf, a Michigan lawyer. Mr. Batdorf's book is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and IUniverse.*

# Negotiating Your Best Deal Ever!

**Skyline Club • Southfield**  
**Thursday, August 16, 2007**

**8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

(Registration begins promptly at 7:45 a.m.)

Presented by: **Charles R. Craver, Professor of Legal Negotiation**

- Learn to negotiate with seasoned adversaries who have years of practice
- Learn to negotiate to get what your client wants
- Learn how and when to close the deal
- Learn the psychology behind negotiation

**Y**ou know the statistics: 90 percent or more of all cases settle. You have also seen negotiation courses advertised in magazines, and on the Internet and television, costing hundreds of dollars. So how do you learn the skills to be an effective negotiator for your clients?

**T**he Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan is bringing Professor Charles B. Craver to Michigan. Professor Craver teaches legal negotiation at the George Washington University Law School. Professor Craver has presented his course, "Effective Legal Negotiation and Settlement" to thousands of lawyers in 41 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, England, and China. Professor Craver is the author of the Intelligent Negotiator and Effective Legal Negotiation and Settlement.

**T**his special program is one you will not want to miss. Professor Craver's jam-packed session is designed to give you the skills you need in the morning and have you back to the office at lunchtime, putting your skills to work for your clients.

— — — **Members may register online at <http://e.michbar.org>. (Easy login now available.)** — —

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN | Young Lawyers Section

## Registration

### **Negotiating Your Best Deal Ever!** **Thursday, August 16, 2007**

P #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (to appear on name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Firm/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: State Bar of Michigan

Please bill my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name as it appears on credit card:

\_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: (Breakfast included)**  
 By August 11, 2007  
 \$30 per person

After August 11, 2007  
 \$40 per person

**Mail** your check 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 credit card) the completed form and credit card information to:

Attn: Seminar Registration at (517) 346-6365  
 Payment MUST be received on or before date of seminar.

**Register soon! This event is approaching fast!**





## The Young Lawyers Section's Commitment to the Community Never Stops

By Felicia O. Johnson, Esq.

For countless years, the Young Lawyers Section ("YLS") has displayed a commitment to service throughout the state. YLS's outreach extends far beyond the courtroom, and into the hearts of our beloved communities. YLS recognizes that it should not only address the legal needs of our communities, but the social-economic needs as well. Supplying a legal analysis is not always the solution; at times, a hands-on approach is needed and is often more effective.

There are many people in need of assistance in our communities. This is why year after year our committed executive council and dedicated members tirelessly reach out to those in need of a helping hand and a warm embrace.

Nationally, approximately three million Americans will be homeless at some time during the year. In Michigan, on any one night there are approximately 24,713 sheltered homeless individuals, with an additional 41,338 unsheltered, totaling 66,051 homeless individuals. Families with children account for 52 percent of the total homeless population. Children 17 years or younger, not in families, account for an estimated 5 percent of the total homeless population. There are at least 3,000 children who are alone and homeless in Michigan. Although, local shelters serve hundreds of people, however, many are turned away due to lack of room, forcing them to live on the streets. It is because of these stagger-

ing statistics that the YLS has chosen to provide projects that positively impact and uplift our communities.

Last August, YLS partnered with a local shelter and provided a "Back-to-School Barbecue." At an outdoor celebration filled with food, games, music, and lots of fun, 75 students received backpacks stocked with school supplies. In December, YLS sponsored several holiday dinners across the state. In May 2007, YLS's "Brown Bag Lunch for the Homeless" provided approximately 250 members of our homeless population with bag lunches and hygiene products. These are just a few of YLS's countless outreach projects, in addition to programs such as the clothing drive and habitat home. All of these projects were successful because our dedicated members continue to volunteer time, skill, and most importantly, their hearts.

Please come out and join us for our "Second Annual Back-to-School Barbecue" on Saturday, August 25, 2007, at the Detroit Rescue Mission Genesis House III located at 3840 Fairview, Detroit, MI 48214, from 1-4 p.m.

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**Please come out and join us for our "Second Annual Back-to-School Barbecue" on Saturday, August 25, 2007, at the Detroit Rescue Mission Genesis House III located at 3840 Fairview, Detroit, MI 48214, from 1-4 p.m.**

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Please contact Heather Anderson via e-mail at [handerson@mail.michbar.org](mailto:handerson@mail.michbar.org) or at (517) 346-6367 to volunteer. If you have specific questions about the program, e-mail Felicia O. Johnson at [fjohnson@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:fjohnson@co.wayne.mi.us) or Brandy Y. Robinson at [brobinson@sado.org](mailto:brobinson@sado.org) for more information.

We need your help to make this year's program a success!

### Are You a Writer?

If so, we want to hear from you.

Please contact our editor, B. Chris Christenson, Christenson & Fiederlein PC, at (810) 232-1112 or submit your article to him at [cchristenson@cflegal.net](mailto:cchristenson@cflegal.net)

## The Young Lawyers and the Straker Bar Association: A Partnership That Works

By Timothy T. Gardner, Jr., Esq.

As the incoming president of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and current Young Lawyers Section (YLS) executive council member, it is my pleasure to discuss a wonderful partnership that has developed between these two organizations. For those young lawyers that are unfamiliar with the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, I will provide you with a short description. The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association (“Straker”) was founded on October 4, 1990, as a special purpose bar association recognized by the State Bar of Michigan. Its membership includes a racially diverse coalition of lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals. The organization is named in honor of D. Augustus Straker, the pioneering African-American attorney, author, and jurist. Straker was the first African-American attorney to appear before the Michigan Supreme Court and first African-American jurist in Michigan.

Based on the trail blazed by D. Augustus Straker, the Straker Bar Association adopted as its mission to increase minority representation in the legal profession, support and encourage legal practice opportunities for minorities, and facilitate equal justice for underserved members of the Oakland County community.

Past Straker Presidents David Perkins and Angelique Strong Marks have served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section. Current Straker members such as Solon Phillips, Lavonda Jackson, and I have implemented jointly sponsored programs that have benefited the State Bar. Over the past few years, Straker and the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan have collaborated on several successful programs. Some of these programs include:

**The Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition** (“MLK Competition”) is an annual program jointly organized by the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, and the Association of Black Judges of Michigan. Begun 12 years ago as the brainchild of Magistrate A. Kay Stanfield Brown, the MLK Com-

petition is designed to highlight the written and oratorical skills of high school students and expose them to legal professionals. The MLK Competition is intended to encourage high school students to analyze contemporary issues using the principles espoused by Dr. King in celebration of Black History Month.

**The Feed the Homeless Holiday Dinner** is an annual program supported by both Straker and YLS at Grace Centers of Hope Shelter in Pontiac, Michigan. Volunteers prepare and serve dinners to individuals residing in this homeless shelter. This year, YLS executive council members Brent Seitz, Brandy Robinson, and Tim Gardner assisted in providing holiday meals for over 70 residents.

**The “Can Women Really Have it All” program** chaired by Angelique Strong Marks and the Honorable Victoria Roberts, United States District Court, received an award from the American Bar Association. The purpose of the program was to address the issue of whether women can have successful families, marriages, and careers.

**The “Successful Practice in the Michigan Court of Appeals” seminar** was presented by Michigan Court of Appeals clerk Hannah J. Watson on December 4, 2006. YLS executive council members Dawn King and Tim Gardner created this program to educate new lawyers on how to properly file pleadings with the Michigan Court of Appeals. Lawyers received information on how to avoid procedural pitfalls when filing briefs, craft productive motions, and utilize the court of appeals website to answers any questions that may arise.

**The “Legal Rights Day” program** advised Pontiac Northern High School students of their legal rights when they turn 18. YLS executive council members Maureen McGinnis, Ryan Deel, Tim Gardner, and Jessica Simmons prompted students to consider the importance of their



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# Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Application

**Outstanding Young Lawyer Applications Due August 31, 2007**

Applications for the Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award are now being accepted. The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is named in honor of Regeana Myrick, who was an active member of the Young Lawyers Section and also served on its Executive Council. From the time of her swearing-in to the Bar to her untimely passing, Ms. Myrick exemplified the commitment to service to the public that the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award represents.

**Application Prepared by:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Name of Applicant**

Applicant's Date of Birth\*: \_\_\_\_\_ College and Graduation Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Law School and Graduation Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Law School Honors/Distinctions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Post-Graduate Education: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Year Applicant was Admitted to Michigan Bar\*: \_\_\_\_\_ State Bar of Michigan "P Number": \_\_\_\_\_

\*This information is relevant only to verify whether applicant qualifies as a "Young Lawyer."  
Applicant must be under 36 years of age or have practiced law 5 years or fewer (whichever comes last).

**2. Other Information About Applicant**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Applicant's Service to the Public**

Using the form below, please describe the services which the applicant has provided to the PUBLIC while he or she attended law school and/or since he or she has been a lawyer.

**Please Complete A Separate Form  
For Each Service To The Public Or Project Serving The Public  
(Make Copies Of This Form As Needed)**

Project or Type of Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) Project or Service Took Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location(s) of Project or Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Were other people involved in conducting the project or service along with the Applicant? If so, please describe, specify if they were lawyers, and give approximate number who helped or worked with applicant. [Example: Washtenaw County Young Lawyers Section (15 people), State Bar Law Practice Management Section (2 people), Saginaw Jaycees (19 people)]:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Project or Service Description. Please describe the Applicant's service or project in 250 words or less. Also include the role(s) played by the Applicant in the undertaking of the project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Number of People Who Benefited from the Applicant's Project or Service\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
If exact number or range cannot be provided, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_ Handouts/Materials  
\_\_\_ Articles \_\_\_ Press Releases, etc. \_\_\_ Other (specify)

**4. Applicant's Service to the Bar**

Using the form below, please describe the services which the applicant has provided to the Bar while he or she attended law school and/or since he or she has been a lawyer.

**Please Complete A Separate Form  
For Each Service To The Bar Or Project Serving The Bar  
(Make Copies Of This Form)**

Project or Type of Service:

Date(s) Project or Service Took Place:

Location(s) of Project or Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Were there other people involved in conducting the project or service with the applicant? If so, please describe. Specify if they were lawyers, and give approximate number who helped or worked with applicant. [Example: Washtenaw County Young Lawyers Section (15 people), State Bar Law Practice Management Section (2 people), Saginaw Jaycees (19 people)]:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Project or Service Description. Please describe in 250 words or less. Also include the role(s) played by the Applicant in the undertaking of the project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Number of People Who Benefited from the Applicant's Project or Service\*: \_\_\_\_\_

If exact number or range cannot be provided, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_ Handouts/Materials  
\_\_\_ Articles \_\_\_ Press Releases, etc. \_\_\_ Other (specify)

# Top Ten Reasons Why Realtors are Worth Their Weight in Gold

By Jennifer M. Harvey, Esq. and Graziella Bruner

**B**uying and selling real estate is not a simple thing. It is, in fact, a significant business transaction that requires a team of talented and skilled people to ensure everything is completed properly and in the right process.

As an important part of most real estate transactions, lawyers, financial advisors, mortgage specialists, home inspectors, property appraisers, interior decorators, movers, and realtors all play a significant role within their areas of expertise. And of all these professionals, realtors are the ones who assist clients through the entire real estate process with care, professionalism, and competency.

It is estimated there are more than 146 large and small tasks that must be managed for a successful real estate transaction to be closed. A committed and professional realtor will make the complex process of selling or purchasing real estate both simple and painless.

As an overview of what a realtor can do for you in your next real estate transaction, here are the top ten reasons why enlisting a realtor is one of the best investments people can make in the process of buying or selling real estate:

## **10. Realtors provide their clients with expert assessments on the value of any property they are seeking to sell or to purchase.**

How do you decide upon a fair value for a property you are selling or purchasing? Your realtor will analyze real estate values in comparable properties, and will help you determine a price reflecting the current real estate market.

## **9. Realtors provide professional advice on how to prepare your property so that it shows at its absolute best.**

Realtors know exactly how to present a home in its best light, and they advise clients on how to improve the showing of their home to potential buyers. When viewing properties, realtors also provide a critical eye to flaws that may be more significant than clients realize.

## **8. Realtors use the Multiple Listing Service® to put a clients property front and center in the real estate market, or to find a property that fits with what their client is seeking.**

Only realtors, those real estate agents who are members of the Michigan Association of Realtors, can list properties on the MLS® system. When listed on the MLS® system, the entire

network of realtors can access your property details and bring them to the attention of their clients. Who wouldn't want such a team working for them?

## **7. Realtors take care of all the nitty-gritty details involved in selling or purchasing a home.**

When you select a realtor to help you sell your home, your realtor will plan and manage open houses for you, they will show your home regularly to scores of potential buyers, and they will work evenings and weekends to ensure the right buyers are matched with the right sellers.

## **6. Realtors take care of advertising.**

Realtors not only list your property in the MLS® system, but they also advertise properties in the hundreds of different real estate magazines and newspapers in circulation.

## **5. Realtors take care of yard signage.**

If your home is for sale but nobody knows it, how can it possibly be sold? Realtors provide attractive, recognizable yard signage to let people know that your valuable property is available for purchase!

Jennifer M. Harvey  
Harvey Legal Group, PLLC  
[www.HarveyLegalGroup.com](http://www.HarveyLegalGroup.com)

Jennifer M. Harvey focuses her practice on estate planning, real estate, and contracts in Northville.

Graziella Bruner, Realtor  
Coldwell Banker Preferred  
Realtors  
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Suite A  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
Office: 734-459-6000  
Direct: 734-416-9514  
[www.coldwellbanker.com/for/graziella.bruner](http://www.coldwellbanker.com/for/graziella.bruner)



#### 4. Realtors assist clients in understanding all offers to purchase.

Realtors are experts in all conditions of sale and provide explanations and expertise regarding offers made for a property. As your realtor works on your behalf, he or she will advise you on any conditions of sale that may be problematic and will take steps to negotiate any unacceptable elements.

#### 3. Realtors know how to negotiate an acceptable sale price.

Because home ownership is a substantial investment that can have emotional implications, both buyers and sellers usually have too much at stake to be good negotiators. While representing their clients, realtors remain professionally detached and are able to negotiate satisfactory sales prices in real estate transactions.

#### 2. Realtors know the pulse of the current market.

Realtors are professionals who live, breathe, and study real estate. They know the Michigan marketplace from day-to-day exposure and how its pulse is beating. They are professionals with intricate, expert knowledge

that assists everyone who is interested in buying or selling a property.

#### 1. Realtors put your mind at ease and let you relax through the real estate transaction.

In today's busy, busy world and intense real estate market, isn't it worth it to have a professional guide you through a complex business transaction with ease and security? You have a choice of more than 10,000 realtors working in the Detroit Metro area. Find a realtor whom you enjoy, trust, and like, and agree on an acceptable commission within your business relationship. Realtors are professionals in the process of selling and purchasing real estate, and they provide a value that is worth its weight in gold.

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## Financial Planning for Young Lawyers to be Held at The Inn at St. John's

Young lawyers are often starting their careers with student loans to worry about, and may be either facing a large salary with great benefits or struggling to find work in a poor economy. Either way, they must learn how to wisely manage their finances, both short and long term. The focus of the seminar will be on financial management and planning for attorneys who are just entering their legal careers. Steve Alexandrowski and Timothy Story of Gem Asset Management and Christopher Fischer of Northwestern Mutual will discuss insurance, estate planning, personal financial management, investment strategies, and market forecasting, including question-and-answer sessions with the attendees. The seminar will be free of charge to attendees, and will be held in Plymouth, Michigan at The Inn at St. John's. Food and beverages will be provided. The seminar begins at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2007—mark your calendar and be there!

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**Financial Planning Seminar**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**The Inn at St. John's**  
**44045 Five Mile Road**  
**Plymouth, MI 48170**

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## We the Jury

By B.D. 'Chris' Christenson, Esq.

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section once again sponsored and promoted the “We the Jury” program, which was adapted from the American Bar Association (ABA) program. With the ABA program, two attorneys attend a local school and show a video presentation of a trial, after first putting the students through a mock voir dire and jury selection process. As in previous years, the SBM Young Lawyers Section presented an adapted version of the program by taking the students on location to the courthouses and adding a realistic juror wrinkle.

This year, approximately 65 students from Flint Southwestern Academy High School participated in the program, along with volunteer criminal defense attorneys, an attorney from the Attorney General’s office, and an attorney from the Genesee County Prosecutor’s office. The students were split into groups and were given a tour of the district court courtrooms and the prisoner holding area, a tour of several circuit court courtrooms, and taken into the jury room to view a complete actual jury orientation. They were also presented with the trial video, the students were split into group, given an identity as an actual juror, and instructed to think like their characters as they deliberated. The jurors were separated into several jury pools and allowed to deliberate after they had seen the trial.

After the presentations and the tours, the students are treated to lunch at the Masonic Temple, where the jurors are separated and allowed to deliberate and return their verdicts. The attorney panel then answers any questions the students may have.

This is the third year that this program has been presented, and we have had eight juries so far. For the first two years that we presented this program, the first six jury pools returned not guilty verdicts; however, this year, both jury pools returned guilty verdicts. We have tried to hold constant the composition of the jurors that make up the pool, as the jurors that we have used for all of the pools are supposed to be considering the case from the point of view of their individual characters.

For the attorneys involved, it has been a revelation as to some of the dynamics of the jurors because the constant in these presentations has been, without a doubt, the materials provided by the American Bar Association “We the Jury” video program, as well as the consistency of the juror makeup, and yet we are finding that we are getting inconsistent jury verdicts.

In addition, the students have an opportunity to see how the jury process, jury selection, and orientation work, as well as a fundamental look at components of the court system that help court function on a daily basis—for example, the deputies that are involved, the court clerks, the judges, the secretaries, the jury board, and other staff members at the court houses.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the attorneys that were involved in the past as well as this year’s panel, including defense attorney Kraig Sippell and David Leyton, Genesee County Prosecutor, for allowing Shari Baran to participate, and to our special Attorney General guest and Young Lawyers Section council member, Timothy Gardner, for his help as well.

If anyone is interested in the program or video and/or participating in the program, please contact the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section, as we plan on continuing with the program again next year.



## Michigan's ABA Young Lawyers Division District Representative

**Offers Reflections on Two Years of Service**

By Carlos Escurel, Esq.

Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure to serve as Michigan's district representative, to the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD). My primary responsibility has been to keep the Michigan affiliates informed of the ABA YLD's events and meetings, but I also kept the ABA YLD informed of what was going on in various young lawyer organizations around Michigan. I also went through FEMA training and served as the Michigan liaison between FEMA and the YLD, in the event that disaster legal services needed to be coordinated in our state because of an emergency.

While serving as district representative, I was proud and honored to see several outstanding young lawyer organizations from Michigan get national recognition from the American Bar Association for their public service and member service projects, including the Oakland County New Lawyers, the Kalamazoo County Young Lawyers, and the Washtenaw County New Lawyers.

During the past year, I also had the chance to attend one board meeting for seven of the nine local young lawyer organizations in the state. This brought me into contact with many outstanding young lawyers around the state. During those meetings, JJ Conway and I informed these organizations of the benefits and sponsorship opportunities available through the ABA YLD and the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section. For those who don't know, the ABA YLD provides subgrant funding (up to \$500-\$2,000) for public service and member service projects of young lawyer organizations



around the country.

As district representative, I also served as a member of the ABA YLD council, which is the general and administrative authority of the Young Lawyers Division. The council is comprised of 33 district representatives from across the country, in addition to elected officers and appointed directors, constitutional representatives, and national bar representatives. The council helps provide things you might be familiar with, such as *The Affiliate* and *The Young Lawyer* publications (<http://www.abanet.org/yld/publications.html>). For the 2007-2008 bar year, I have been appointed to serve as the chair of the E-Communications Board for the ABA YLD, which has the task of overseeing the website (<http://www.abanet.org/yld>) and all electronic communications and marketing to the membership (which hopefully explains why I've plugged these websites in this column).

As my term comes to an end in August, I will pass the baton over to Danielle Anderson of Kalamazoo, who will serve for the next two years as district representative. Danielle, I hope that you find the next two years as fulfilling and rewarding as I have found my last two years to be. I've made many lasting friendships during my experience with the various bar activities, and I hope to make many more in the years to come. Please feel free to contact me at [carlos\\_escurel@hotmail.com](mailto:carlos_escurel@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.



## **SBM Election Results— YLS Executive Committee**

Attorneys Jennifer M. Harvey of Northville, Felicia O. Johnson of Detroit, and Brandy Y. Robinson of Detroit have won contested seats in Wayne and Macomb Counties in recent State Bar of Michigan elections for the Young Lawyers Executive Council.

Jennifer M. Harvey of the Harvey Legal Group, PLLC, was re-elected to the Young Lawyers Section Executive Council. She focuses her practice on estate planning, real estate, and contracts, and has additional experience in corporate litigation, collections, family law, and criminal law.

Felicia O. Johnson is an assistant commission counsel with the Wayne County Commission, where she represents 15 elected officials. Prior to assuming her current duties, she was an assistant corporation counsel for the County of Wayne, Department of Corporation Counsel. She has extensive experience in environmental law, real estate, and transactional matters.

Brandy Y. Robinson, who has served on the Young Lawyers Section Executive Council since 2005, is an assistant defender with the State Appellate Defender Office and represents indigent criminal defendants at all stages of appeal. Before joining SADO, she was an associate at Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone.

Four attorneys won uncontested races in two other districts. They are Jessica R. Simmons of Troy, Hope Shovein of Southfield, Danielle Mason Anderson of Kalamazoo, David R. Miller of Grand Rapids, and Timothy T. Gardner, Jr. of Lansing.

The Executive Council governs the members of the Young Lawyers Section. It is comprised of a maximum of 23 members, of which 10 are elected each year for two-year terms. The Young Lawyers Section is the largest and oldest section within the State Bar of Michigan. It provides education, information, and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter, and has won numerous national awards for its public service and educational programs.

A yellow poster with a sunburst background. The text reads: "Oakland County Bar Association New Lawyers Committee and the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Presents: Summer Splash 2007 Friday August 24 @ 6pm Woodward Avenue brewery 22646 Woodward Avenue One block south of 9 mile in Ferndale Admission is free, donations suggested Complementary Food and non-alcoholic beverages The WAB house-made beer and full bar will be available All proceeds benefit Lighthouse of Oakland County Casual attire, Please R.S.V.P. to cle@ocba.org".

Oakland County Bar Association  
New Lawyers Committee and  
the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers  
Presents:

# Summer Splash

## 2007

**Friday August 24 @ 6pm**

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A Partnership That Works  
continued from page 5

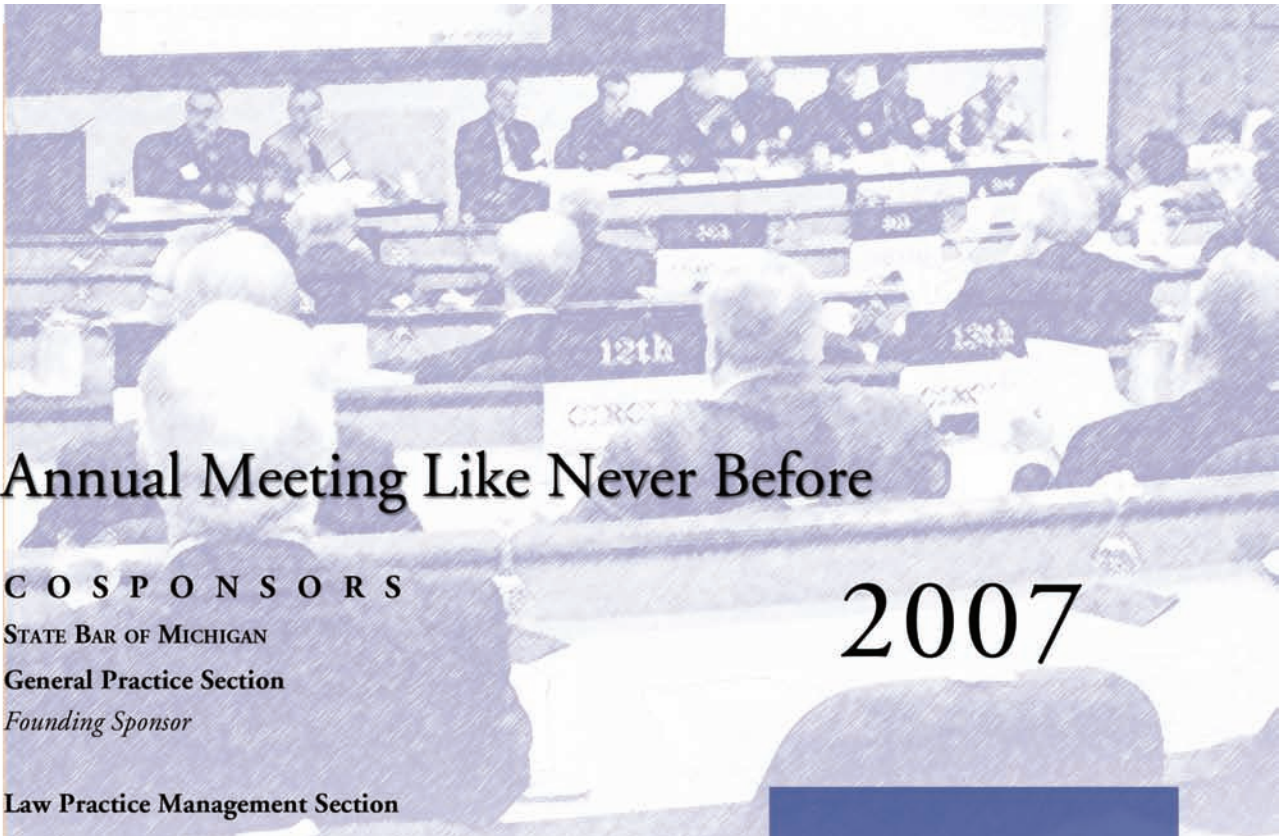
legal rights. The purpose of the program was to assist students in making a successful transition to adulthood. Lawyers provided examples such as the effects of bad credit, legal requirements for operating a motor vehicle, and landlord-tenant issues.

**The “Effective Career Strategies for Young Lawyers” program** was chaired by Solon Phillips on May 9, 2007. The purpose of the program was to provide practical advice for lawyers attempting to change their field of practice and successfully market their skills to future employers.

**The Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association adopted the “Choose Law” program as its special project for the 2006-2007 bar year.** The purpose of the program was to increase diversity in the legal profession by encouraging high school students to pursue a career in law. For this very reason, Solon Phillips implemented this program at Detroit Renaissance High School on May 2, 2007. Several practitioners discussed their fields of practice and encouraged students to consider law as a career.

I invite you to become involved in Straker. For more information, please visit our website at [www.michbar.org/localbars/straker/home.html](http://www.michbar.org/localbars/straker/home.html) or you may contact Straker President Tim Gardner at [gardnerjr5@aol.com](mailto:gardnerjr5@aol.com) or at (313) 590-1634.





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