

Inter Alia

Among Other Things

Winter 2010

www.michiganyounglawyers.com

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Letter from the Chair



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Welcome

Welcome to spring! Okay, not yet, but I am hopeful that it is just around the corner. Planning for our June 2010 Summit is well underway, so thoughts of spring and warmer weather are not far behind. Hopefully you have seen the Save the Date e-mails that are circulating. They contain information about registration for both the hotel and the conference itself.

It has been a busy winter for our section. We funded and staffed numerous holiday dinners around the state, as well as other programs and charitable events. Thanks to all of you that attended. The economic struggles of our state, and in particular those in the legal profession, have shifted our focus more toward networking and career counseling-type events—including alternative uses for your degree. Please stay tuned for more events of that nature in coming months.

Our section is growing, and we look forward to expanding our reach within the state. We hope that by hosting our Third Annual Summit in northern Michigan this year, we will be able to entice our members in northern Michigan and even the Upper Peninsula to join us for the weekend.

As always, I welcome your ideas for new programs and feedback on programs that have already occurred. If you would prefer to contact someone closer to the city where you practice, the full council member list is located on the State Bar of Michigan's website. We are here to serve you and hope that you will utilize all that our section has to offer.

Regards,

Danielle Mason Anderson

Chair, Young Lawyers Section

Opportunity for New Lawyers to Learn Basics of Misdemeanor Representation

By Barry Malone

Misdemeanor
Representation:
From Appointment to
Zealous Advocacy
March 24, 2010
Noon
Bloomfield Hills

In this tough job market, new lawyers have to broaden their skill set and look for new sources of income. New lawyers often seek criminal defense appointments at the district court level to get their feet wet. There are many daunting aspects to beginning a criminal defense practice, including how to get appointments, what procedures to follow, how to work with the district court prosecutor, and what to expect from the district court judge.

To help answer these questions, the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) is holding a continuing legal education seminar for new lawyers and lawyers new to criminal defense. The OCBA's Criminal Law and Municipal Law Committees are partnering to host *Misdemeanor Representation: From Appointment to Zealous Advocacy*. The seminar is on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at noon.

This two-hour seminar will follow the process of a misdemeanor case. It begins with an explanation of how to get appointment work at the circuit court level. Angelina Sharon of the Oakland County Circuit Court Administrator's Office will review the requirements to be appointed to the circuit court. Each Oakland County district court sets its own requirements for appointment work. An overview of the common requirements and pay rates of the district courts will be presented by State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section council member and OCBA New Lawyers council Director Syeda Davidson.

Veteran defense attorney and chair of the OCBA Criminal Law Committee Ray Correll will present on what happens beginning with the appointment and will provide insight to help new attorneys guide their way through the court process.

Experienced municipal prosecutors Vahan Vanerian and Hans Rentrop will discuss the role of the prosecutor in misdemeanor matters. Vahan and Garret will discuss the process of negotiating with defense counsel, particularly, what impacts the decisions they make on pleas and what amount of discretion they may exercise. Both prosecutors will offer tips for providing a criminal defendant with the most effective representation, and what tactics should be avoided.

Respected jurist and active bar member Hon. Cynthia Walker, of the 50th District Court in Pontiac, will present a judge's role in misdemeanor matters. Judge Walker will provide expertise on sentencing guidelines, alternative sentencing options, and plea deals. She will also give her insights into the best and worst practices that she sees in her courtroom.

A question-and-answer period will be open to the audience and moderated by OCBA Municipal Law Committee Chair Kristin Kolb following the substantive presentation.

This seminar is open to anyone. It is from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, in the CLE room at the OCBA's offices at 1760 S. Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Hills. Because this seminar is for new practitioners, the price has been reduced to only \$40 for OCBA members and \$55 for non-members who pre-register. For more information or to register, contact Candice Russ, CLE Coordinator, at cle@ocba.org or (248) 334-3400.

Michigan Youth Leadership Summit

*A day of encouragement, inspiration and practical advice
from local, state and national leaders*

Saturday April 17, 2010

10am - 2pm

\$10 per person/includes Lunch

Oakland Community College

Orchard Ridge Campus / Smith Theater

27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-4579

Contact Heather Anderson for more info

517-346-6414

www.michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm

A Call to Action from Key Leaders

**Including: Governor Jennifer Granholm
Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Kym Worthy
Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson
Plus Detroit Professional Athletes**



Detroit Tigers

Detroit Red Wings



Be the young leader Michigan needs!

This is your first step.

The registration fee for this event is forfeited if attendance is cancelled. Registrants who cancel will not receive seminar materials. As a courtesy to the planners, written notice of your intent not to attend is appreciated. That notice can be made by e-mail (tbellinge@mail.michbar.org), fax (517-346-6365 ATTN: Tina Bellinge), or by U.S. mail (306 Townsend St., Lansing, MI 48933 ATTN: Tina Bellinge).



Presented by:

State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section

Sponsored by:

Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Barristers

Oakland Community College



Detroit Tiger Nate Robertson, Jennifer Harvey, and Jeff Totten, the chaplain for the Detroit Tigers.

Holiday Breakfast

On Saturday December 12, 2009, the YLS partnered with the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association to host a holiday breakfast at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac, Michigan (formerly the Pontiac Rescue Mission). Approximately 15 eager volunteers showed up for the meal service despite the early morning shift and blistering winter weather conditions. Through their hard work, the YLS and Straker purchased, prepared, and served a hearty breakfast to approximately 100 men, women, and children residing at the shelter. Thanks again to all the volunteers for your continued support.



Holiday Party

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section and the Macomb County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section partnered to raise money for two local Macomb County charities: Family Youth Interventions (FYI) and Turning Point. For those not familiar with these organizations, FYI takes in young adults and offers counseling and teaches them life skills to keep them off the streets. Turning Point's mission is to help victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness.

The MCBA-YLS Holiday Party was held on December 10, 2009 at Madison's Pub in Mt. Clemens, with the proceeds benefiting these two charities. In the weeks leading up to the party, donation boxes were placed in the 16th Circuit Court to collect items that each of the charities indicated they were in need of. The event was very well attended, and, as a result, each charity received an overflowing, large box of donations and a significant monetary donation. Thanks to everyone who donated or attended this event.



SBM PMRC Presents "How to Build and Strengthen Your Law Practice"

The State Bar of Michigan Practice Management Resource Center will present "How to Build and Strengthen Your Law Practice" from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2010 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School's [Cooley Temple Conference Center](#) in Lansing.

This year's seminar will help attorneys establish law practices, expand existing practices, transition from large firms to small firms, and implement effective law office technology.

The registration fee (which includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch) is \$100 for attorneys and legal support staff, and \$75 for law students. Each registrant will also receive "Office in a Flash," a flash drive full of useful practice management tools and resources.

You can register [online](#), fax the form to the State Bar at (517) 346-6365, or mail it with a check or credit card payment to:

How to Build and Strengthen Your Law Practice
 State Bar of Michigan
 Attn: Finance Department
 Michael Franck Building
 306 Townsend Street
 Lansing MI, 48933

For an agenda and further details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ybroot5>.

Questions can be directed to the PMRC at (800) 341-9715.

SAVE THE DATE!

June 4-6, 2010

The State Bar of Michigan
Young Lawyers Section's
Third Annual Summit

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
Acme, MI



Mark your calendars for the Young Lawyers Section Annual Summit, which will be held at a new location—the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in Acme, MI (near Traverse City)—from June 4-6, 2010.

The 2010 YLS Annual Summit presents a great opportunity to join fellow young lawyers at a wide variety of CLE workshops and networking events.

Visit www.michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm for more information and registration forms in the coming weeks.

Accommodations: The YLS is looking forward to hosting the 2010 Annual Summit at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa (www.grandtraverseresort.com) near Traverse City, Michigan. The resort was named a Top 20 Mainland Resort and Top 50 Worldwide Travel Destination by Condé Nast Traveler.

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate for Summit attendees—\$139 hotel, \$169 tower (rates include resort fees). Those intending to register for the Summit can make resort reservations **now** by calling 800.968.7352 (mention code **SBM0610** to obtain the Summit rate). You can also register online at www.grandtraverseresort.com/promocode/index.cfm?promoCode=sbm0610.

Young Lawyers Section 3rd Annual Summit

By Hope V. Shovein

Summit = the highest point of attainment or aspiration: the summit of one's ambition.

Dictionary.com Unabridged. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/summit> (accessed: Feb. 17, 2010).

On June 4-6, 2010, the Young Lawyers Section ("YLS") will host its Annual Summit at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in Acme, MI (near Traverse City). A block of rooms has been reserved at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa at a special rate for Summit attendees – \$139 hotel, \$169 tower (rates include resort fees). Those intending to register for the Summit can make resort reservations now by calling 800.968.7352. Mention code SBM0610 to obtain the Summit rate. You can also register online at www.grandtraverseresort.com/promocode/index.cfm?promoCode=sbm0610.

The YLS first hosted the Summit at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant in 2008. Over 100 young lawyers from across Michigan attended the 2008 Summit, which featured prominent members from the bench and bar as presenters, a keynote speech by Justice Clifford W. Taylor of the Michigan Supreme Court, and significant sponsorship support from Michigan companies. The programming included a presentation on effective opening statements in criminal trials, and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge William C. Whitbeck's presentation on effective appellate advocacy in the first 90 seconds of your argument.

Given the success of the inaugural Summit, the YLS Council voted to make it in an annual event and hosted the 2nd Annual Summit at the Soaring Eagle resort in 2009. Edward Pappas, 2009 President of the State Bar of Michigan, honored the YLS as the Keynote Speaker for the 2009 Summit. Other presenters included Judge Daniel Ryan of the 3rd Circuit Court on evidence issues, Judge Joseph Farah of the 7th Circuit Court on preparing and arguing motions in criminal cases, Judge Stephen L. Borrello of the Michigan Court of Appeals on appellate issues, and Joann Hathaway of the State Bar of Michigan's Practice Management Resource Center on practice management issues.

As in prior years, the purpose of the 2010 Summit is to provide networking and educational opportunities to young

lawyers, in addition to building a stronger statewide network for the section's membership. In furtherance of this tradition, the 2010 Summit presents a great opportunity to join fellow young lawyers at a wide variety of networking events and CLE workshops. Programming will include presentations on

- Preliminary Exams
- Opening Statements/Closing Arguments
- Juvenile Referees
- an Overview of Divorce
- Foreclosure Modification; and
- Ethics and Changes in the Rules

The summit will also feature a Bar Leadership Panel and discussions on Technology Tips and Business Formation. Further details and presentations on additional topics will appear in the final program. Visit www.michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm for more information and registration forms in the coming months.

The YLS will again present the Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award during the Saturday dinner event of the 2010 Summit. 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. Visit <http://www.michbar.org/younglawyers/oynaward.cfm> for more information. Applications for the 2010 award will be posted and circulated to section members in advance of the Summit.

Sponsorships for the 2010 Summit are still available. To become a sponsor, please contact Felicia Johnson at (313) 224-6459 or by e-mail at fjohnson@co.wayne.mi.us.

Photos from the 2008 and 2009 Summits



What I Wish I Knew

By Tim Batdorf

Having practiced law for 15 years (and after officially entering “middle age”), there are a few things I wish I had known when I was a young lawyer:

1. **Think About It.** Take the time to reflect on what you want from your career. Find a mentor or a career coach, someone you trust to help you make the most of your career. Going through life without taking the time to understand where you’re going will lead to nowhere. Moving from one job to the next or changing practice areas based on the belief that someone else has designed the perfect job for you is crazy. Know what you want from your life—know your highest values—and create your own perfect job.
2. **Focus.** If you focus exclusively on the details of your life, you’ll lose the Big Picture. It’s easy to spend countless hours fretting about minutiae instead of considering what’s truly important. Of course, details must be handled. But if you never ask life’s big questions, you’re likely to find yourself filling in details rather than living the life you once imagined.
3. **Trust Yourself.** Conventional wisdom tells you to “grind it out” for 40 years, and when you finally retire you can do what you’ve always wanted. Talk about delayed gratification! If you learn to love your job now, every day will feel like retirement. Many lawyers love what they do. Be one of those lawyers.
4. **Move Backwards to Go Forward.** Sometimes you must take a step backwards to move two steps forward. It’s much easier to make life changes as a young lawyer than to make them after you’re married with two kids and a mortgage on top of your student loans. If you have any doubts about your career, take the time *now* to consider what you truly want. It will never be any easier for you to make changes than it is right now.
5. **Be Grateful.** Who you are is much more important than what you do. Most of us get so caught up in “doing” that we forget to enjoy the ride. Life is a series of experiences, and even if you’re in the middle of some pretty stressful stuff, being grateful and making the most of difficult situations makes all the difference.

Tim Batdorf is a practicing lawyer and a career coach. He is the founder of Lawyer & Self (www.lawyerandself.com) and the author of The Lawyer’s Guide to Being Human: How to Bring Who You Are to What You Do. Tim is currently leading Lawyer Leadership Groups in South-east Michigan. If you are interested in participating in a leadership group, contact Tim at tim@lawyerandself.com, or by telephone at (248) 542-9200. New groups are being formed.