

Inter Alia

Among Other Things

Winter 2011

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Greetings from the Chair



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It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the year already! Although time seems to have flown by since the Annual Meeting in September, the Young Lawyers Section has accomplished quite a bit in the last six months, and we are looking forward to some great events in the next several months as well. The council has made it a priority to put together projects for each month of the year, and I am happy to report that we have had terrific success in meeting that goal. From the well attended and well received Platinum in the Profession events in October, our ABA Touch 10,000 networking event in November, numerous holiday dinners in December, MLK Essay Competition with Cooley Law School in January, and workshops in Lansing throughout February, we are proud to provide continuous service to the Bar and to the public. Take a look through this edition of *Inter Alia* for recaps of these events and many others we have completed to date!

Looking forward, we have upcoming events scheduled for March, April, and May. The council has been working on many ways to get information out to our membership this year and would encourage you to visit our State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers webpage, join us on Facebook, and add your name to our section listserv to find out more information about upcoming events. Those of you who are already a member of our section listserv should have received a "Save the Date" announcement for our 4th Annual Young Lawyers Summit, May 20-22, at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids. Registration materials will be available soon. This year's Summit will be packed with great opportunities for networking, seminars for continuing legal education, exciting speakers, and the unveiling of this year's Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recipient.

It is a great time to get involved with the section, or any one of the State Bar of Michigan's 39 sections, to expand your network of friends and colleagues and your involvement in the practice of law. You can find information on all of the sections that might be of interest to you on the State Bar of Michigan website (www.michbar.org), and I encourage you to take a minute to see what is available to you as a member of the SBM. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Sincerely yours, Maureen M. McGinnis

SAVE THE DATE!

May 20-22, 2011

State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section's
4th Annual Summit

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI

Mark your calendars for the Young Lawyers Section 4th Annual Summit, which will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI, May 20-22, 2011. The 2011 YLS Annual Summit presents a great opportunity to join fellow young lawyers at a wide variety of educational workshops and networking events. The cost is only \$40 for SBM members (early registration rate).



Visit www.michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm and www.facebook.com/sbmys for more information and links to registration forms in the coming weeks.

Accommodations: The YLS is looking forward to hosting the 2011 Annual Summit at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (amwaygrand.com). A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$124/night for Summit attendees. Those intending to register for the Summit can make reservations now by calling 1-800-253-3590. Mention group code 10K13S to obtain the Summit rate.



Young Lawyers Section 4th Annual Summit

By Hope V. Shovein

From May 20-22, 2011, the Young Lawyers Section (“YLS”) will host its Annual Summit at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI.

The YLS first hosted the Summit at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant in 2008. Over 100 attendees 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.

Making it an annual event, the YLS hosted the 2nd Annual Summit at the Soaring Eagle resort in 2009. Edward Pappas, 2009 president of the State Bar of Michigan, delivered the keynote address.

In 2010, Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly honored the YLS as the keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Summit, held at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa.

The YLS is pleased to announce that Justice Brian K. Zahra of the Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to serve as keynote speaker for the 2011 Summit. If Justice Zahra is not reason enough to attend, the YLS also plans to continue the Summit tradition for providing excellent networking and educational opportunities to young lawyers. Programming will include presentations on: The Business of Being a Business Lawyer, Hot Topics in Criminal Law Presenting Objections, Family Law Basic Skills, and several others. 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 weeks.

The YLS will again present the Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award during the Saturday dinner event of the 2011 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/oyleftaward.cfm> for more information. Applications for the 2011 award will be posted and circulate to section members in advance of the Summit.

Sponsorships for the 2011 Summit are still available. To become a sponsor, please contact Danielle Mason Anderson at andersond@millercanfield.com or Carlos Escurel at carlos_escurel@hotmail.com.

Photos from Previous Summits
(2008, 2009, & 2010)



Second Annual “Introduction to Practicing Law in Washtenaw County” Seminar

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section, in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Bar Association New Lawyers Section, conducted a seminar on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at the 22nd Circuit Court in Ann Arbor. The seminar, “Introduction to Practicing Law in Washtenaw County,” served to introduce local and state attorneys to the practice of law in Washtenaw County, regardless of the number of years of legal experience. This year, the seminar focused on assisting lawyers with finding employment and providing tips for practicing in the various court divisions in Washtenaw County.

After a brief introduction by the program chairs, the program began with Jessica Sprovtsoff, law clerk to the Honorable Virginia Morgan (magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Michigan in Ann Arbor), who provided attendees with helpful tips regarding procedures for practice in federal court in Ann Arbor. Next, Magistrate Judge Colleen Currie spoke about the 15th District Court in Ann Arbor. Robert (Bob) Carbeck, deputy court administrator/referee, gave the audience information about the probate court, the circuit court, and the juvenile court. Mr. Carbeck also conducted a tour of the trial court building.

A panel of speakers spoke on topics related to finding employment. The panelists included Mr. Charles Toy, immediate past president of the State Bar of Michigan and dean of career services at Thomas M. Cooley Law school; Ms. Mary Wassel, recruiting coordinator for Miller Canfield; Laura Iacona, associate at Garan Lucow Miller PC and co-chair of the Washtenaw County Bar Association New Lawyers Section; and Elizabeth Jolliffe, experienced litigator d/b/a Your Benchmark Coach, a business dedicated to coaching lawyers.

A networking reception followed at Vinology, where appetizers were served. The event was spearheaded by Lisa Hagan and Suzanne Wahl of Miller Canfield, Laura Iacona of Garan Lucow Miller, Mark Jane of Butzel Long, and Bonnie Shaw of Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lionie. Part of the proceeds from the seminar were donated to the Legal Services of South Central Michigan and specifically to their Access to Justice Fund. Our special thanks to everyone who participated at this well-attended event!



Speaker Panel (l-r): Charles Toy, Mary Wassel, Laura Iacona, and Elizabeth Jolliffe



(l-r): Suzanne Wahl, Lisa Hagan, Mark Jane, Laura Iacona, and Bonnie Shaw



Seminar attendees



2011 American Bar Association Midyear Meeting

By James W. Low

More than 350 young lawyers from across the country attended the ABA Midyear Meeting held February 10-12, in Atlanta, Georgia. Atlanta was a great destination—particularly for those coming from cold and snowy climates. As always, Friday morning was packed with great CLE and non-CLE programs, including a Speed Networking Session for affiliate leaders; implementation of Serving Our Seniors; and discussion of careers in law. Friday concluded with the dinner/dance Gala at the Atlanta Aquarium—the largest in the world.

Saturday began with the annual diversity dialogue, on the topic “Diversity and Inclusion within the Legal Profession: Whose Job Is It Anyway?” Assembly took place on Saturday morning. The ABA YLD Assembly adopted four resolutions:

- **Resolution 1YL**—Truth in Law School Education—was adopted by unanimous consent. It urges all ABA-approved law schools to report employment data in an accurate manner. The resolution further urges ABA-approved law schools to increase transparency on graduate salary information, including national median salary and the actual costs of a law school education.
- **Resolution 2YL**—Student Loan Reform—urges government and commercial lenders to assist students/former students not covered by the student loan overhaul law (March 30, 2010) and develop and implement other programs to assist law students and graduates with student loan debt.
- **Resolution 3YL**—Flextime—urges law firms to formalize flextime procedures and programs and to support the advancement of flextime lawyers.
- **Resolution 4YL**—Independence of Judiciary—urges bar associations to support the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and judicial elections.

The ABA YLD Council met on Thursday, February 10, 2011. The highlights of the meeting included:

- **Serving Our Seniors**—This pro bono project provides free basic estate planning to low-income senior citizens.
- **Law Day Video Contest**—This public service project encourages high school students to submit a 2-3 minute video on this year’s Law Day theme—The Legacy of John Adams: from Boston to Guantanamo Bay. Each state is being asked to select a winner from the state.
- **Touch 10,000**—This member-to-member outreach program educating young lawyers about the many benefits of membership is always looking for more ambassadors. The program is expecting to meet its goal of reaching out to 10,000 young lawyers before the end of the year.
- The ABA YLD launched its new website: www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers.html

To learn more about the meeting, go to www.abanet.org/yld/midyear11.



SBM-Young Lawyers Section members at the Midyear Meeting Gala at the Georgia Aquarium. From left to right, Hope Shovein, Jamie Low, Marisa Wiener, and Maureen McGinnis

Updates From the American Bar Association's House of Delegates

By Marisa E. Wiener, State Bar of Michigan Lawyers Section Delegate to the ABA's House of Delegates

The House of Delegates of the ABA (the "House") met on February 14, 2011, to consider specific issues that impact the legal profession. Action taken by the House becomes official ABA policy. [Watch a webcast](#) of one critical resolution moved on behalf of the New York State Bar, opposing any proposal to cut funding for the Legal Services Corporation for the fiscal year 2011, and urging Congress to support increased funding. The resolution was approved.

The invocation for the House was delivered by The Honorable John Lewis, congressman from Georgia. Congressman Lewis thanked the House of Delegates for welcoming him and, in turn, welcomed the House of Delegates to Atlanta. He reminded the House that lawyers are at the heart of progress. Speaking of his experiences and the civil rights movement, he emphasized the significant role of lawyers and judges in achieving a non-violent revolution under the rule of law. He encouraged us to never give up or give in and to keep the faith. He urged us to keep our eyes on the prize by working for justice to create a just system that respects the dignity and worth of every human being. [Please view the congressman's inspirational speech.](#)

The members of the House present on that day who heard Congressman Lewis's speech were truly in the present of greatness. It was an honor and a privilege. The following day after he delivered his speech, the congressman was bestowed with the highest honor any civilian can attain: he was awarded the 2010 Medal of Freedom in a ceremony at the White House.

The following are highlights that may impact young lawyers:

- **[100A]** On behalf of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, the District of Columbia moved Revised Resolution 100A reaffirming support for the ethical independence of law school clinical programs consistent with the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and opposes improper attempts by persons or institutions outside law schools to interfere in the ongoing activities of law school clinical programs and courses. The resolution was **approved as revised and amended.**
- **[100B]** The House **approved by consent** Resolution 100B as submitted by the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, concurring in the action of the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar in making amendments to Standard 509 (Basic Consumer Information); Rule 10 (Appeal of an Adverse Decision of the Council); Rule 22 (Teach Out Plan and Agreement and Closure of a Law School); and Rule 24 (Complaints Concerning Law School Non-Compliance with the Standards) of the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools, dated February 2011.
- **[100C]** On behalf of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, Arizona moved Resolution 100C amending the Model Rule for Admission by Motion, dated February 2011, to eliminate provisions that prohibit in-house counsel and judicial law clerks from qualifying on the basis of practice performed in the jurisdiction where admission on motion is being sought. The resolution was **approved.**

See a complete list of the [House of Delegates Resolutions.](#)



Atlanta, Georgia February 2011

Dr. Martin Luther King, Equal Access to Justice Day Breakfast

By Dionnie Wynter

Young Lawyers Section Partners with Thomas M. Cooley Law School for Dr. Martin Luther King, Equal Access to Justice Day Breakfast - January 17, 2011

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School Diversity Committee and the Center for Ethics, Service, and Professionalism in collaboration with the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan hosted the annual Martin Luther King, Equal Access to Justice Day breakfast on Monday, January 17, 2011. This annual event was organized by the Diversity Committee, a student led organization that was established to create programs and host events that promote diversity and encourage participation on campus and in the community. The Diversity Committee presented its annual Equal Access to Justice Award to Professor Stevie Swanson.

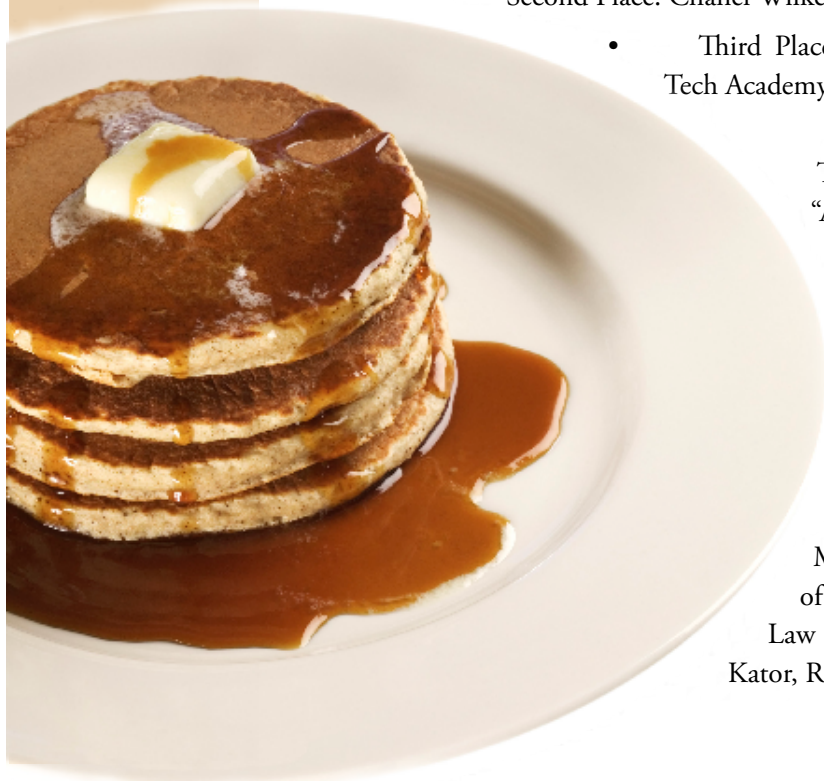
On hand to present the first Martin Luther King Young Lawyer's Essay Award was Ms. Maureen McGinnis. The competition was open to students from grades 1 through 12. The winners were:

CATEGORY GRADES 1-6

- First Place: Karyn Nicole Potlow: Karyn attends WHRC Elementary
- Second Place: Taj Crenshaw. Taj attends Meadowbrook Elementary
- Third Place: Ajani Knox. Ajani attends North Hill Elementary School.

CATEGORY GRADES 7-12

- First Place: Trez Crenshaw. Trez attends West Middle School in Rochester Hills Michigan.
 - Second Place: Chanel Wilkerson. Chanel attends John J. Pershing High School
 - Third Place: Makalia Potlow. Makalia attends the International Tech Academy in Pontiac.



The theme of the program and the panel discussion was "Access to Justice: Diversifying the Dream." The purpose of this theme revolved around the acknowledgment that the Civil Rights Movement, even though initially focused primarily on African-Americans, now encompasses many other groups. The panel members were Gregory Conyers, Diversity Director of the State Bar of Michigan; Mark Fancher, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan; Jennifer Grieco, President, Oakland County Bar Association; Maureen McGinnis, Chair of Young Lawyers Section, State Bar of Michigan; Dewnaya Bazzi, President Cooley Muslim Law Students Association, Auburn Hills Campus and Mary Kator, Rainbow Law Center.

YLS Celebrated the Holiday Season by Serving the Community

The YLS Executive Council and YLS members hosted five holiday events across the state.

December 15: The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers and Macomb County Bar Association Young Lawyers partnered in December to host a Holiday Party to benefit Hope Center in Macomb. Hope Center in Macomb is a local food pantry, whose client base in low-income, unemployed, and under-employed individuals and families in need of food, job services, humanitarian services, and/or the appropriate referrals for housing assistance. The services provided by Hope Center focus on increasing the self-sufficiency of individuals and families.

The party took place at “The Jury Room,” located in Mt. Clemens. At the party, \$162 and five large boxes of food were collected and donated to Hope Center. The representative at the Center said that they turn every \$1 donated into \$18 worth of food.

December 18: YLS volunteers served a hearty home cooked holiday meal to approximately 120 individuals at Grace Centers of Hope in Oakland County. Grace Centers of Hope is a non-profit organization committed to positively changing the lives of the homeless, addicted, and unwanted through personal accountability, life skills education, and work-related programs. Grace Centers of Hope (GCH) provides a full recovery and rehabilitation campus for homeless men, women, and children who have been abused or addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. On any given night, Grace Centers of Hope will accommodate from 150-200 men, women and children. Each year we serve over 127,000 meals and provide over 55,000 nights of stay.

December 19: The YLS hosted a holiday meal and informational session at the Detroit Rescue Mission. Volunteers prepared and served a hot holiday meal to 85 women and children residing at the mission. In addition, attorney Veronica Leonard graciously used her volunteer time to individually counsel the shelter residents on issues related to divorce, child custody, and child support. Leonard is a family law specialist with the law firm of **Annette J. Benson & Associates PC** in Bingham Farms. The Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries is a non-profit organization devoted to meeting the basic needs of humanity while motivating individuals to rebuild their lives, one life at a time. Founded in 1909, it provides food, shelter, and services to intervene where homelessness and substance addiction occur. Special thank you to attorney Veronica R. Leonard.

December 21: YLS joined the Genesee County Bar Association and Bar Foundation for its 16th Annual Community Holiday Dinner at the Masonic Temple in downtown Flint. Hundreds of volunteers, including judges, lawyers, legal secretaries, Boy Scouts, and others purchased and wrapped presents and served the dinners, while Santa Claus handed out gifts to the sounds of a choir singing Christmas songs. Hundreds of people were fed, and numerous gifts were handed out. The community dinner is probably the largest community dinner in Michigan. It is estimated that more than 10,000 people have been feed over the years, and more than 5,000 presents have been distributed.

February 12: Ministry with Community Dinner in Kalamazoo. Eight YLS volunteers served a wonderful pork chop, sweet potato, veggie and ice cream sundae bar meal to approximately 130 people. The mission of Ministry with Community is to provide food, daytime shelter, and other basic services to central Kalamazoo’s homeless, poor, mentally ill, and hard-to-serve adults. Through community cooperation they provide services in an atmosphere of dignity, hope, and unconditional acceptance. Rebuilding lives means restoring hope, dignity, and self-respect. Rebuilding lives means putting faces on poverty. Rebuilding lives takes daily, face-to-face contact with adults in crisis.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that assisted with the holiday events.

Volunteers Needed to Help Implement Public Service Project

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section (SBMYLS) is pleased to announce the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's (ABA YLD) national public service project, Serving Our Seniors. We are in the process of implementing the program around Michigan, and are seeking volunteer attorneys to help with this important program. With your assistance, we will be able to help protect our senior population and provide them with peace of mind regarding future health care and financial decisions. As one of America's fastest growing population group, senior citizens are one of the most underrepresented populations, with many seniors living near or below the poverty line.

The Serving Our Seniors program will help the senior citizen population by educating them about their estate planning options and providing direct legal assistance through coordination with existing legal service agencies. The primary goals of the Serving Our Seniors program are:

1. To educate seniors about their estate planning options; and
2. To empower them to take steps now to plan for their future and protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud and abuse.

The ABA YLD, along with the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, the Chicago Bar Foundation, and Illinois Legal Aid Online, developed the Serving Our Seniors program based on a clinical project created by the Center for Disability and Elder Law. The Serving Our Seniors program provides a comprehensive multi-media package including educational outreach, training, and implementation materials to assist young lawyers in providing low-income seniors with legal advice regarding the creation of basic estate plans, including powers of attorney for health care and property, living wills, and simple wills. By working with local legal aid organizations and others operating in this field, the more than 150,000 ABA YLD members can make a substantial impact in the lives of thousands of seniors.



Please contact Carlos Escurel at carlos_escurel@hotmail.com or Chris Smith at christopher@smithelderlaw.com if you are interested in volunteering for this program.

Save the Dates

Annual Evening at the Movies Fundraiser

Tuesday, March 22 at 5:30 pm

Location: MJR movie theatre at 15 and Van Dyke

Cost: Tickets are \$40 (includes food, popcorn, a movie and drinks). For more information visit www.theresolutioncenter.com

Carol Ann Substance Abuse and Recovery Center (CASAR) Fundraiser

Thursday, March 24 from 5:30–8:00 pm

Location: Madison's in downtown Mt. Clemens

Cost: \$10 includes appetizers

All proceeds will benefit CASAR.

For more information contact Andrea Irons at andreairons@gmail.com

Admission Ceremony to the United States Supreme Court

Monday, April 18

Location: Washington, D.C.

Cost: \$240, which includes the application costs and breakfast. Space is extremely limited. Please contact attorney Chris Christenson or Julie at (810) 232-1112 as soon as possible.

Networking Stroll and ABA Touch 10,000 Event

Thursday, April 28 (tentative date)

Location: TBA

Appetizers and cash bar will be provided.

Contact Marisa Wiener at marisawien@gmail.com for more information.

The 4th Annual Young Lawyers Summit

Friday–Sunday, May 20–22

Location: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI

Cost: before or on April 8 is \$40 for SBM members

Registration opens soon. For more information please visit

michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm

Instant Connection Seminar – reading and understanding how to effectively communicate with others

Saturday, June 4

Location: Thomas Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills Campus.

Cost: \$30 for YLS members, More information will be available in the coming days on the YLS website



Visit michbar.org/younglawyers/news.cfm or facebook.com/sbmys for more information about the events.

Young Lawyers Section 2010-2011 Executive Council



Front Row (from left to right): Syeda F. Davidson, Lisa C. Hagan, Brandy Y. Robinson, Chair-Elect; Maureen M. McGinnis, Chair; Danielle M. Anderson, Ex Officio; Alexandra Nassar; Hope V. Shovein; Dionnie S. Wynter; and Andrea Irons. **Back Row** (from left to right): Shenique A. Moss, Bonnie R. Shaw, Brent G. Seitz, Carlos A. Escurel; Nicholas G. Even, James W. Low, Secretary-Treasurer; Felicia O. Johnson, Vice-Chair; and Erika L. Anderson. **Not Pictured:** Jennifer M. Harvey, Mark W. Jane, Marisa E. Wiener, and Adam G. Zuwerink.

The Executive Council governs the Young Lawyers Section (“YLS”). It is comprised of a maximum 23 members from throughout the state. The YLS provides education and information about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, public service programs, and publication of this newsletter.

Most YLS activities consist of projects and programs on various areas of the law to bridge the gap between law school and law practice and programs to benefit the community and promote the profession. YLS provides an organized means for young lawyers to serve the Bar and society. Information about YLS activities can be found at www.michiganyounglawyers.com or www.facebook.com/sbmys

Officers

Maureen M. McGinnis, Chair

Law Offices of Donald E. McGinnis, Jr, PC, Troy, MI
Maureen received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Colorado in 2000. She returned to Michigan to attend law school in East Lansing and received her Juris Doctor from Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law in May of 2003. She specializes in family and criminal law. She handles cases primarily in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties.

Brandy Y. Robinson, Chair-Elect

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, MI Brandy is a law clerk to the Honorable Julian Abele Cook Jr. Before clerking for Judge Cook, she worked as an Assistant Defender with the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit. There, she successfully represented indigent criminal defendants at all stages of appeal, in both state and federal courts. She graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2003.

Felicia O. Johnson, Vice-Chair

Wayne County Commission, Detroit, MI
Felicia is the lead attorney for the Wayne County Commission where she advises the legislative body on ordinance, contract, personnel, litigation and other municipal matters and she is also the Parliamentary for the Commission. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1999 and from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in May of 2003.

James W. Low, Secretary-Treasurer

Sullivan, Ward, Asher & Patton PC, Southfield, MI
James is a member of the specialty litigation division. He represents doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice cases and represents lawyers in legal malpractice cases. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1998 in Psychology and Health Studies. He then earned his law degree from Michigan State University College of Law in 2001.

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