



# FBAnewsletter

Spring 2014

Federal Bar Association - Eastern District of Michigan Chapter - 56 years of service to our Federal Bench and Bar

## Justice McCormack to Address Gilman Luncheon on April 29

This year's Leonard R. Gilman Award Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 29 at 11:30 a.m. at the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel. The keynote speaker will be Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack.

Justice McCormack was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in 2012 and joined the Court in January 2013. She chairs the Supreme Court's Limited English Proficiency Implementation Advisory Committee and participates with a number of professional organizations, including the ABA Access to Justice Committee, the ABA Working Group on Pro Bono and Public Service, the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, and the National Association of Women Judges. In 2013, Justice McCormack was elected to The American Law Institute.

Before her election to the Supreme Court, she was a law professor and associate dean at the University of Michigan Law School since 1998, where she taught criminal law, legal ethics, and various clinical courses. She created numerous new clinical programs, including a Domestic Violence Clinic and a Pediatric Health Advocacy Clinic. She co-founded the Michigan Innocence Clinic, and she served as

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. She is a graduate of the New York University Law School, and she spent the first five years of her legal career in New York, first with the Legal Aid Society and then at the Office of the Appellate Defender. She also spent two

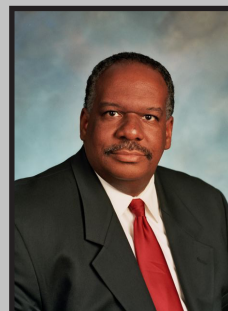
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## President's Column

*Michael K. Lee*



Let me begin this President's Column by extending a great big "Welcome Back" to our Executive Director, Brian Figot. Brian returned to work, as scheduled, in mid-January. As it was the beginning of a new calendar year, Brian had to hit the ground running; and as we have come to expect, it was as if he had never been away. I, for one, am thrilled to have him back and making the Chapter continue to run smoothly. I will end this part of my column by saying this: If it looks easy, that is only because Brian MAKES it look easy.

On January 14, the Litigation Technology Committee held a program on e-discovery. The program had the distinction of being wildly popular, with walk-in attendance taking the total to well over 110 participants. Room 115 of the Levin Courthouse was literally overflowing with attendees eager to hear from a distinguished panel that included, among others, Judge Robert H. Cleland and Magistrate Judge Michael J. Hluchaniuk.

This program's success was indicative of the strength of the Chapter. This was a cutting-edge program with top flight faculty. No other bar association offers the actual decision-makers as faculty at such an affordable cost. In fact, the cost was so attractive that many firms took advantage of the opportunity and sent support staff to attend and get the knowledge first-hand. The Chapter is presently exploring ways to make this a regular program, as well as ways of making it available to the membership electronically. Congratulations to the Co-Chairs of the Committee: Kevin Fanning, Stott Matthews, Dan Quick, Mark St. Peter, and Scott Wrobel. Great job, guys!

On February 20, we held the McCree Luncheon. The keynote speaker was Judge Bernice B. Donald of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, where she has served since her confirmation by the Senate on September 6, 2011. She is the first African American woman to serve on the Court. She was serving as Secretary of the

*(continued on page 2)*

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## President's Column (continued)

American Bar Association when she was nominated by President Barack Obama in 2010, and she is a member of the ABA Journal's Board of Editors.

Judge Donald was born in Mississippi, and received a BA from Memphis State University in 1974 and a JD from Memphis State University School of Law in 1979. When she was elected to Tennessee's General Sessions Criminal Court in 1982, she became the first African American woman to serve as a judge in the history of the state. She served on the General Sessions Criminal Court from 1982 to 1988, also teaching as an adjunct professor at Southwest Tennessee Community College from 1984 to 1989. Judge Donald served on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, where she was appointed by President Clinton in 1995. Judge Donald also served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee from June 1988 to January 1996. She was the first African American woman in the history of the United States to serve as a bankruptcy judge.

Judge Donald presently serves as the President of the American Bar Foundation. In 2014, Judge Donald will serve as a Judge in Residence at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri; American University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and the University of Michigan. During the 2013 Annual Meeting of the National Bar Association, Judge Donald received the William H. Hastie Award, which is the NBA Judicial Council's highest award and is presented to recognize excellence in legal and judicial scholarship and demonstrated commitment to justice under the law.

At the McCree Luncheon, Judge Donald was welcomed by numerous colleagues and friends who are now located professionally in this area, including Bankruptcy Judge Steven W. Rhodes. Judge Donald reminded the audience of how much influence we in the legal profession have and, therefore, how important it is that we serve the public, particularly the less fortunate, with zealously, determination, and integrity. I wanted Judge Donald to be the keynote speaker at this luncheon, and I was thrilled that she accepted our invitation. She is the personification of the American Dream—proof positive of what a person can do when that person is bright, hardworking, and humble, and gets an opportunity.

As we go into the home stretch of this Chapter year, please keep in mind the following dates and events: April 29 (Gilman Luncheon), May 1 (Law Day), June 9 (Bench-Bar Social Event), and June 19 (Rutter Seminar and Annual Dinner). Please join us as we finish off the year and send the new President, Tom Schehr, into the next Chapter year with the wind at his back!

## Gilman Luncheon *(from page 1)*

years as a faculty fellow at the Yale Law School before joining the Michigan Law School faculty.

Justice McCormack has received many awards during her career from state and local bar associations, including the Justice for All Award, the Millie Jeffrey Award, and the Hon. Kaye Tertzag Purple Sport Coat Award.

The recipient of the Gilman Award will be honored at the luncheon. This year's recipient is John R. Minock. The Gilman Award is given annually to an outstanding practitioner of criminal law who exemplifies the excellence, professionalism, and commitment to public service of Len Gilman, who was U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan at the time of his death in 1985. The selection is made by prior recipients of the Award, many of whom served with and knew Len.

Tickets are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. For more information and to register for the luncheon, visit the Chapter website or contact Program Chair Jeffrey S. Appel at 248-569-4400.

## Law Day 2014: Why Every Vote Matters

On Thursday, May 1, the Court, the Chapter, and the Wolverine Bar Association will jointly host an Open House at the Courthouse to celebrate Law Day.

The event will occur between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The theme for this year's celebration is "Why Every Vote Matters: American Democracy and the Rule of Law."

Participants will include federal and state law enforcement agencies, members of the federal judiciary and Court staff, and other invited guests. Courthouse tours will be scheduled. The "Ask the Lawyer" pro bono program will again be featured as a community service to those in need. A panel discussion on historical and current issues regarding voting and the election process will be held featuring Chris Thomas, Michigan Director of Elections, and Jocelyn Benson, Dean of Wayne State University Law School. The traditional free hotdog, chips, and cookie lunch will be served.

Members of the public and the downtown community are invited to attend.



## **Court Administrator Dave Weaver**

It is getting a bit crowded around the Court with four new district judges now on board and two new magistrate judges on the way. Judges Judith E. Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, Matthew F. Leitman, and Linda V. Parker have all been sworn in. Once their respective staff positions have been filled, each will be assigned a civil caseload and added to the civil and criminal case random draw. This is the largest number of district judges ever serving at the same time in the Eastern District, with 15 active district judges and 11 senior district judges. Judge Levy will be posted to Ann Arbor, and Judges Michelson, Leitman and Parker are currently stationed in Detroit.

In addition to the vacancy created by the appointment of Magistrate Judge Laurie J. Michelson to a district judgeship, a second magistrate judge vacancy has been created following the appointment of Magistrate Judge Mark A. Randon to a bankruptcy judgeship. The vetting of candidates for these two positions is currently underway. Patricia T. Morris has been selected by the Bench as Magistrate Judge Binder's successor in Bay City. She will be sworn in late April and the Court will hold her investiture ceremony in Bay City on May 16.

As you have probably heard, Chief Judge Rosen announced that Congress has approved Phase I funding for the General Services Administration (GSA) to

carry out a complete infrastructure renovation of the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse. The total renovation will cost about \$130 million, with the Phase I funding of \$31 million in place. Phase II funding of \$60 million has been requested in the President's FY 2015 budget, with the balance to be requested as part of the FY 2016 budget.

GSA has already begun its formal solicitation process to select an architect/engineering firm to design and carry out this multi-year project. Once a firm is selected and the design of the project is complete, we expect hammers to start swinging in early 2016. It will be a long and difficult renovation, but as Chief Judge Rosen has stated, when complete the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse "will be prepared to serve our district and the community for the next 80 years."

Finally, please mark your calendar to join us for the Court's 2014 Law Day celebration on May 1. The event is held annually in conjunction with the Eastern District Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the Wolverine Bar Association. The event will include a panel discussion and the popular "Ask the Lawyer" program for our pro se filers.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at: david\_weaver@mied.uscourts.gov.

## **When the District Court Sat in the World's Largest Pool Hall** By David G. Chardavoyne\*

*Editors' Note: In 2014, the Court and Chapter are recognizing the 80th Anniversary of the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse. As we celebrate this anniversary, as well as the recently announced renovations to the Courthouse that will take place in the coming years, it behooves us to remember our roots and the past buildings that the Court has occupied.*

Between 1897 and 1931, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan was located in the Post Office Building on the block surrounded by Lafayette Boulevard, Shelby Street, Fort Street and Washington Boulevard. That building was torn down in 1931 to be replaced, on the same site, by what is now the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse. From 1931 until 1934, when that new building was ready for occupancy, the District Court found a temporary home in an unlikely location, across Lafayette Boulevard in the

*(continued on page 4)*

### **Book Club Event on May 14**

*The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind – and Changed the History of Free Speech in America* by Thomas Healy.

Levin Courthouse  
Judges Conference Center, Room 722  
Wednesday, May 14, 12:00 noon  
Members: free; non-members: \$5

To order lunch or for more details, contact Andrew Doctoroff (doctoroffa@michigan.org), Erica Fitzgerald (efitzgerald@bsdd.com) or David Fink (dfink@finkandassociates.com).



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## Court Sat in Pool Hall *(from page 3)*

Recreation Building, advertised as “the largest building in the world devoted exclusively to billiard rooms and bowling alleys.”<sup>1</sup>

Located on the northwest corner of Lafayette and Shelby, the Recreation Building was a seven-floor brick edifice designed by famed Detroit architects Smith, Hinchman & Grylls. When it opened for business on October 1, 1917, its six upper floors boasted of 103 billiard tables and eighty-eight bowling alleys, both alleged to be a world’s record for a single building. The proprietors, whose motto was “Eat, Smoke, Shave, Rest, and Play,”<sup>2</sup> also provided “a liberal scattering of refreshment fountains and cigar stands,”<sup>3</sup> as well as various retail stores on the ground floor including a drug store and lunch counter, a barber, a laundry, and a “public shine and hat works.” In 1919, Detroit’s Chamber of Commerce hailed the Recreation Building as “the greatest recreational temple in the world,” “a great civic asset” and “the recreational center of Detroit.”<sup>4</sup>

When the District Court transferred its operations to the Recreation Building, the fourth floor was transformed into the chambers and courtrooms for District Judges Arthur J. Tuttle, Charles C. Simons, Edward J. Moinet, and Ernest A. O’Brien.<sup>5</sup> The fourth floor also contained the offices of the Master in Chancery, the jury room, and two rooms used by prosecutors when court was in session. Court Clerk Elmer Voorheis occupied two rooms on the third floor. United States District Attorney Gregory H. Frederick and his staff were housed in twenty rooms on the fifth floor of the Lafayette Building, just across Shelby. The court’s stenographers also had their office in the Lafayette Building.

The Recreation Building had advantages as a new home for the court. Files, fixtures, and furniture only had to be transported across the street, and the open architecture of the billiard halls were easy to convert into courtrooms and offices. Besides, the building’s owners promised “a recreation center of the strictest moral tone and environment.”<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, within a year of moving, an embarrassing string of acquittals in important cases raised an alarm among judges and prosecutors about jury integrity in the court’s temporary home. In January 1932 the *Detroit News* reported that federal officials were concerned that they could not control “hangerson” in the building who might try to communicate with jurors in order to try to fix cases.<sup>7</sup> The *News* reported that prosecutors were “incensed at several acquittals by juries recently in cases where the Federal authorities were sure the evidence for conviction was conclusive,” particularly the case of Alois Albers who had been arrested in a house where agents found ten

barrels of beer. The jury deliberated only forty minutes before returning a verdict of not guilty of possession of alcohol and keeping a public nuisance. Enraged by the verdict, Judge Simons dismissed the twelve Albers jurors from the court’s standing jury venire, telling them: “I am amazed that you should have reached this verdict. The evidence against the defendant was undisputed and I don’t see how you could have found him not guilty.”

The *News* claimed that U.S. Attorney Frederick was investigating another possible reason for some of the acquittals: rumors that two deputy U.S. Marshals and three other federal court “attaches” shepherded jurors across the river to be “entertained on liquor parties in Canada by professional bondsmen.” Frederick and F.B.I. Special Agent O.G. Hall questioned the officers and the Albers jurors, but with no success.<sup>8</sup> The jurors scoffed at the idea of parties in Canada, telling the *News* that their acquittal was due to the government’s failure to prove that Albers had any control over the premises where the beer was discovered.

The Eastern District made its first contribution to the Federal Supplement while it was housed in the Recreation Building. The second volume of that reporter contains a decree by Judge Tuttle, dated November 14, 1932, in a patent case, *Kellogg Switchboard & Supply Co. v. Michigan Bell Telephone Co.*<sup>9</sup> Judge Tuttle dismissed the plaintiff’s claims of infringements of several patents relating to long-distance telephone equipment.

The land on which the Recreation Building stood had been purchased by the Hammond family in 1889 from the First Congregational Unitarian Society of Detroit for \$45,000. In 1917 the family leased the property to the Sweeney-Huston Co. which contracted with Porter Brothers Co. to construct the building for about \$750,000, spending another \$350,000 for furnishings. In 1928 the land alone was appraised at \$900,000.<sup>10</sup> In the 1950s, the Recreation Building still housed billiard tables and a bowling alley as well as Silver’s office supply store, Summer’s Good Food, and the Federal Bar, a drinking establishment. However, it eventually reached the end of its useful life and was torn down. Since then, the site has served the District Court as a parking lot convenient for visitors to the federal courthouse.

(This article originally appeared in the February 2003 issue of *The Court Legacy*, Vol. XI, No. 1, published by the Court Historical Society. An edited version of the article is being reprinted here with permission.)

*\*Mr. Chardavoyne is an attorney in private practice in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He also teaches at Wayne State University*

*Law School and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Mr. Chardavoyne's most recent book, The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan: People, Law and Politics, was published in 2012 by Wayne State University Press. His numerous works, including the Court history, led to his being named the first recipient of the Avern Cohn Award for Excellence in the Collection, Preservation, and Interpretation of Michigan Legal History.*

1. *Detroit Evening Journal*, September 21, 1917.
2. *The Detroider*, January 13, 1919, p. 33.
3. *Detroit Evening Journal*, supra.
4. *The Detroider*, supra.
5. *Polk's Detroit City Directory, 1931-1932* (Detroit: Polk & Co., 1931) pp. 36, 1673.
6. *The Detroider*, supra.
7. *The Detroit News*, January 7, 1932.
8. *Id.*, January 8, 1932.
9. 2 F. Supp. 335 (E.D. Mich. 1932).
10. *Detroit Evening Times*, October 21, 1928, p.2

## Daniel H. Krichbaum McCree Award Honoree

No event on the Chapter's calendar is more fraught with social significance and history than the annual Wade Hampton McCree, Jr., Memorial Luncheon. Judge McCree's life and work gave rise in 1990 to the creation of the Award in his name for the Advancement of Social Justice. The Chapter remembers his life on its website at <http://www.fbamich.org/AboutUs/Awards.aspx#mccree>

The McCree Award honorees over the years have been as diverse as he would have wished; individuals and organizations truly

dedicated to the advancement of social justice. The full list may be viewed at the link shown above.

The harshness of the winter we have experienced manifested itself in an unexpected way affecting the luncheon on February 20. This year's McCree Award honoree, Dr. Daniel H. Krichbaum, slipped on the ice and suffered a concussion the day before the luncheon. The presenter, Judge David M. Lawson, accordingly dealt with the rare challenge of both presenting the McCree Award on behalf of the Chapter and accepting it in Dr. Krichbaum's name. [As this is going to the printer seven weeks after the event, Dr. Krichbaum is reported to be recovering completely from his injury.]

Attendees were treated to a heart-felt summary of Dr. Krichbaum's life and accomplishments from his long-time friend, Judge Lawson. Most recently, Dr. Krichbaum served as Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and Governor Granholm's Chief Operating Officer. Before his work in State government, he served as President and CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Executive Vice President of WTVS (Channel 56), and Director of Recreation and Parks for the City of Detroit. An ordained Methodist minister, he had served several churches in New York and southeast Michigan.

Chapter President Michael K. Lee was pleased to present Judge Denise Page Hood who shared some personal recollections

of Judge McCree before introducing the keynote speaker, Sixth Circuit Judge Bernice B. Donald.

Judge Donald's remarks were deeply personal in nature. She reflected on her own life beginning in segregated schools in Mississippi, through her bachelor and law degrees from Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis). She decided early on that she wanted to be a lawyer because of the constructive role she saw lawyers playing in the community. After some years in private practice



*Cynthia Haffey, Co-Chair McCree Award Selection Committee; Judge Paul D. Borman; James McCree; Judge Victoria A. Roberts; Saima Mohsin, Co-Chair McCree Award, Selection Committee; Judge Bernice Donald; Judge David M. Lawson; Michael K. Lee, Chapter President; David Lewis; and Judge George Caram Steeh.*

*Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC.*

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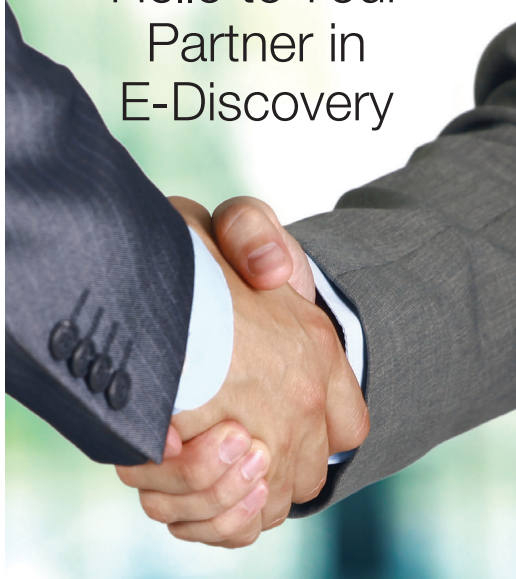
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## McCree Luncheon *(from page 5)*

and working with Memphis Area Legal Services, she began a series of African American female firsts:

- First state court judge in Tennessee in 1982
- First U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the United States in 1988
- U.S. District Judge, Western District of Tennessee in 1995
- U.S. Circuit Judge, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2010

Judge Donald called upon the lawyers and judges present to make full use of their positions and their influence to improve the administration of justice and the quality of life in their communities. She thanked them for what they are already doing and called on them to do more if it is within their power.

## Trial Practice and Mentoring: Opening Statements on Opening Day

As spring finally arrived, trial skills were on display in several Detroit courtrooms populated by veteran lawyers recognized as masters of their craft. The Opening Day statements were delivered not by the experts, but instead by newer lawyers honing their techniques through the Chapter's biennial Trial Practice and Mentoring Program.

Program participants were divided into teams representing either the plaintiff or the defendant. Teams were limited in size to foster mentoring and personalized training by the seasoned team leaders.

Their training kicked off on Thursday, March 27, with an orientation session that included trial

tips presentations by the six team leaders, drawn from government service (AUSAs Mark Chutkow and Elizabeth Stafford), and civil practice, including boutique (Ed Kronk of Brooks, Wilkins, Sharkey & Turco), mid-size (Michael Leib from Maddin Hauser) and large (Dykema's Jim Feeney and Honigman's Bill Winsten) law firms.

The mock trials held on March 31

and April 1 each turned on whether a mysterious shooting death was a suicide or an accident resulting in the payment of insurance benefits. Each trial required the examination of five witnesses, including experts, portrayed by volunteer attorneys and law students. The trials played out before Judge Sean F. Cox, Judge Mark A. Goldsmith, and Magistrate Judge Michael J. Hluchaniuk, who also provided performance feedback and valuable insights to the trial lawyers.

Judge Goldsmith also served as a program co-chair along with attorneys Kelly Walters and Frank Ortiz, with the able assistance of Chapter Executive Director Brian Figot and attorney Sarah Harwood.



*Trial Practice and Mentoring on Opening Day.  
L to R: I.W. Winsten, Ed Kronk, Iveory Perkins,  
Melissa Benton Moore, and James McAskin*

*Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC.*



*Opening Day trial skills being practiced.  
L to R: Melissa Benton Moore, James McAskin, Jonathan Young,  
and Daniel Warsh*

*Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC.*



## State of the Bankruptcy Court Luncheon

On March 5, the Bankruptcy Committee hosted the State of the Bankruptcy Court luncheon at the Atheneum Hotel, with Chief Bankruptcy Judge Phillip J. Shefferly addressing the bar. Over 175 bankruptcy professionals, judges, and law students attended the luncheon. Chief Judge Shefferly addressed the gathering, providing updates on court administration, local rules, and programs sponsored by the bankruptcy community. These include the Pro Bono Program organized through the Bankruptcy Court and Access to Bankruptcy Court, a non-profit organization assisting debtors in the filing of petitions and representation in bankruptcy proceedings.

This District once again remains among the top districts for case filings and number of cases handled per bankruptcy judge. The Bankruptcy Courts in Detroit, Flint, and Bay City have the most cases per judge in the United States.

The Court also recognized and honored those attorneys in the Pro Bono Program who have provided services to debtors in defense of lawsuits seeking to deny debtors discharges. The Pro Bono Program provides a vital service to the Court and the community in obtaining qualified professional counsel to represent debtors in such lawsuits.

The Access to Bankruptcy Court Program provides a resource for debtors who otherwise cannot afford counsel to file for bankruptcy. Chief Judge Shefferly also reminded the bar of our bankruptcy mediation program which, while a voluntary program, has an extremely high success rate in resolving litigation pending in the Bankruptcy Court.

Coming events for the bankruptcy community include a reception for new Bankruptcy Judge Mark A. Randon for Detroit. In addition, on May 22, the bankruptcy community will gather for the annual Walter Shapero Symposium to hear Professor Kara Bruce from the University of Toledo College of Law provide insights

on her research and writings about bankruptcy reform. The symposium will be held at the Westin Town Centre. It will include a reception dinner, and a lively discussion about the good, the bad, and the ugly of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2005.

At the luncheon Chief Judge Shefferly also discussed reconvening the Rules Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Bankruptcy Court. The Rules Subcommittee is tasked with reviewing

local bankruptcy rules and making recommendations to the Court regarding rules that need revision. Chief Judge Shefferly is inviting members of the Subcommittee to reconvene, review the current rules, and recommend revisions. He has also extended this invitation to anyone who has an interest in serving on the Rules Subcommittee. He has requested that anyone interested in serving should contact him by email at [janice\\_zielinski@mieb.uscourts.gov](mailto:janice_zielinski@mieb.uscourts.gov)

For further information concerning the Bankruptcy Committee and the Walter Shapero Symposium, or any other bankruptcy related

issues, please contact Leslie Berg at (313) 226-7950, David Lerner at (248) 901-4010 or Craig S. Schoenherr, Sr. at (586) 997-6458.

Chief Judge Shefferly's entire State of the Court Address is available on the Bankruptcy Court website at <http://www.mieb.uscourts.gov/>



*Bankruptcy Judge Walter Shapero, Bankruptcy Judge Steven W. Rhodes, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Phillip J. Shefferly, Bankruptcy Judge Marci B. McIvor, Bankruptcy Judge Daniel S. Opperman*

*Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC.*

## "Special Day" for Local Law Students

On March 8, the Chapter's Diversity Committee hosted a "Special Day" at the Courthouse for local law students. The event was very well attended, drawing about 30 law students from Michigan State University College of Law, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and the University

*(continued on page 10)*

## "Special Day" *(from page 9)*

of Michigan Law School. The students began the day with a Courthouse tour. Then they sat in on a criminal motion hearing in front of Judge Nancy G. Edmunds and observed a sentencing in a criminal case before Judge Bernard A. Friedman.

Next, a lunch-panel discussion moderated by Wayne County Circuit Judge Patricia P. Fresard was held with Judge George Caram Steeh, Judge Marianne O. Battani, career law clerk Kimberly Altman, FDO staff attorney Rhonda Brazile, and AUSAs Abed Hammoud and Elizabeth Stafford.

The panelists discussed career options in federal court.

After lunch, the students sat in on the same-sex marriage trial in front of Judge Friedman, who took time to personally welcome the students.

Special thanks to Jonathan Karmo and David King for organizing this event and for making this "Special Day" such a success!

## Celebrating Our Diverse Bar

On March 6, the Chapter and DMBA once again co-hosted "Celebrating our Diverse Bar." It was the fifth annual such event in downtown Detroit to formally recognize (in an informal setting) the importance of diversity in our profession. A wide range of attorneys and judges took the opportunity to network and encourage each other in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

This event, which continues to grow, was attended by more than 180 judges and attorneys this year. It had to be moved to the downtown Buffalo Wild Wings, having exceeded the capacity of Fishbones where it was held for the first four years. Participating affinity bar associations included: Albanian Bar Association; Arab American

Bar Association; Armenian-American Bar Association; Black Women Lawyers Association; Chaldean Bar Association; D. Augustus Straker Bar Association;


Delta County Bar Association; Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan; Italian Bar Association; Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers; Lakshore Bar Association; Michigan Association of Administrative Law Judges; Michigan Muslim Bar Association; National Lawyers Guild, Michigan/Detroit Chapter; Oakland County Bar Association; Stonewall Bar Association; Vanzetti Hamilton Bar Association; Washtenaw County



*L to R: Kathy Ossian, Elizabeth Stafford, Jim Rosenfeld, Jim Feinberg, Alfredo Casab, Marjorie Nanian, Timothy Cordes, Ronda Tate, State Bar of Michigan President Brian Einhorn, Elisa Angeli Palizzi, Elizabeth Jolliffe, and Rita White.*

*Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC.*

*(continued on page 12)*



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## Calendar of Events

- April 29 Leonard R. Gilman Award Luncheon**  
Westin Book Cadillac Hotel  
11:30 AM Reception  
12:00 PM Luncheon  
Speaker: Justice Bridget McCormack, Michigan Supreme Court  
Award Recipient: John R. Minock
- April 29 Veterans Treatment Courts Seminar**  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, Room 115  
Start time: 1:30 PM (after Gilman Luncheon)  
Seminar duration: 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours
- May 1 Law Day 2014: "Why Every Vote Matters"**  
Welcoming your staff, clients and downtown neighbors to visit the Levin Courthouse and the Judges between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.  
Live demonstrations such as bomb-sniffing dogs and tours of the Courthouse;  
"Ask the Lawyer"; hot dogs.  
This year: Special Panel Discussion on voting and the electoral process.  
It's becoming a tradition! Don't miss it this year.
- May 14 The FBA Book Club Presents for Discussion:**  
*"The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind--and Changed the History of Free Speech in America"* by Thomas Healy  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, Room 722,  
12:00 PM  
Admission: Non-members \$5.00  
Lunch: Bring your own, or register in advance for the \$10 lunch provided
- May 21 Pro Bono Counsel - Labor & Employment Training**  
For litigators new to the area of prisoner rights who are willing to accept a pro bono appointment from the Court.  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, Room 115  
8:30 AM to 2:30 PM
- May 22 Walter Shapero Bankruptcy Symposium**  
Westin Southfield, 1500 Town Center, Southfield  
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM  
Speaker: Professor Kara Bruce, 2013 ABI Resident Scholar  
"Breaking Bad: BAPCA and a Fresh Approach To Bankruptcy Reform"  
Tickets now available. Early-bird rate ends on May 15.
- June 9 Bench-Bar Social and Golf Outing at Plum Hollow**  
In addition to an 18-hole scramble, the Bench-Bar Social will have tennis courts and a variety of other activities.  
Plum Hollow Golf Club, Southfield; Afternoon activities and dinner following
- June 19 Rutter Group Seminar: "Federal Practice 2014"**  
A must for practitioners who want a brief, in-depth and entertaining update on Federal pretrial practice  
Panelists: Chief Judge Gerald E. Rosen, Judge David M. Lawson and Thomas W. Cranmer of Miller Canfield PLC  
Registration: 1:30 PM  
Program: 2:00 - 5:15 PM  
Westin Book Cadillac Hotel
- June 19 The 35th Annual Dinner featuring:**
- Election and installation of Officers and Board Members
  - The Seventh Annual Julian Abele Cook, Jr. - Bernard A. Friedman FBA Civility Award to be presented in recognition of a civil practitioner who is an outstanding example of professional excellence and civility. [Nominations for Civility Award open until May 15.]
- Westin Book Cadillac Hotel  
5:30 PM cocktails, dinner following

**Additional details, updates and further developments at  
[www.fbamich.org](http://www.fbamich.org)  
See "Hot News" and "Events & Activities"  
Online registration available for most events.**

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**Diverse Bar** *(from page 11)*

Bar Association; Wayne County District Judges Association; Wolverine Bar Association; and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

The group was welcomed by brief remarks from Stonewall Bar Association President Tim Cordess, with additional comments offered by State Bar President Brian Einhorn concerning the State Bar's Pledge to Achieve Diversity. All proceeds were donated to COTS, the DPS Foundation, and the Ruth Ellis Center.

Thanks to all for another wonderful event.

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**Rutter Group Seminar**  
**"Federal Practice 2014"**

and

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**

**Both Events on June 19, 2014**

See **Calendar of Events** on  
page 11 for details

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**Federal Bar Association**  
**E. D. Michigan Chapter**  
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