



FBA newsletter

Federal Bar Association - Eastern District of Michigan Chapter - 64 years of service to our Federal Bench and Bar



Kinikia Essix, Court Administrator / Clerk of Court

I have received questions regarding the renovation taking place at the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse. In a previous article, I mentioned that the

Court has been selected to participate in the Capital Security Program, a project that addresses security improvements in the courthouse. For our court, these improvements include a functional sally port in the basement for secure prisoner transport and major redesigns to both the Lafayette and Fort Street entrances. On the Lafayette side, the new redesign will include wheelchair accessibility ramps. Both new entrances will provide more efficient screening practices and create a more protected queuing space. Construction has finally begun! Inside the courthouse, temporary barricades for construction zones have been set up to allow the contractor to perform demolition but these barricades have no major impact on public space. The construction of the exterior wheelchair ramps began in April and, while the Lafayette entrance will remain open, there may be a minor inconvenience when entering the building. The duration of the project is expected to last between 12 and 18 months. We will keep you informed of impacts to the entrances as the project gets underway.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please contact me at: kinikia_essix@mied.uscourts.gov.

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President's Column

George Donnini

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that by the time this article goes to print, I will have less than three months left as President of this fine organization. It has been an absolute privilege to have served in this role. Our organization is strong; our membership is robust – and that is because of YOU! And so I want to take the time to thank each and every one of you personally for all that you do to make us better and make our bar association a place to share ideas, collaborate, and get to know each other on a more personal and professional level.

Since the inception of our chapter more than 60 years ago, our organization has grown and flourished through the collective efforts of many. Each of our organization's past presidents, executive board members, committee co-chairs, firm liaisons, and members (all of whom we hope to consider taking on leadership positions someday in the future) have been integral to our decades-long evolution into one of the most active and engaged federal practice associations in the country. We believe that every one of our partner firms, and especially every one of our members, is integral to: (1) our accomplishments; (2) our ability to deliver the services that we have all come to expect and enjoy; and, of course, (3) our sustainability as an organization. In this issue, I would like to offer a special thanks to the Sustainers of our Chapter. Stepping up to that level demonstrates an extra commitment to the health and prosperity of our fine organization. Of course, not to leave anybody out, I also wish to recognize all of our members (and, in particular, our partner firms who help to drive robust membership) for your continued support. Quite simply, we couldn't do what we do without all of you!

During his chapter presidency, Fred Herrmann often reminded us of the power of an invitation. This was an excellent initiative that helped us to grow from within and remains the lifeblood of our organization. That is precisely how I became a member twenty or so years ago. A simple invitation from David DuMouchel and Laurie Michelson to join them (probably for the Gilman lunch) was how I became involved many years ago. They introduced me to

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President's Column *(from page 1)*

judges, I engaged in conversations with colleagues at other firms and those who worked for the government (and others), and had an all-around positive experience. I quickly became a member and came to more and more events, led committees, served on the board, and then became a Chapter Officer. I dare say that many of us came to this collegial, supportive, and active local bar because some other member encouraged us to do so. So let's keep that tradition alive and going. Together, we have built something to not only be proud of but it ought to be shared with others who don't yet know how great we are as an organization. If we are to continue to fulfill our mission of elevating both bench and bar, then there is clear value in the engagement of all practitioners who regularly practice in the Eastern District of Michigan. Please consider inviting a colleague within your firm, or one that you know in our local legal community, to join us. There are many ways, of course, to get involved – attending events, joining any of our committees, or, if a need exists, starting a new one, serving on our Executive Board, or brainstorming with us on an idea. Whatever your interest, please investigate fbamich.org and/or reach out to us at fbamich@fbamich.org. And you can always call or email me directly at 313-225-7042 or donnini@butzel.com. You are the lifeblood of our organization, and we would love to hear from you!

Speaking of invitations, I also invite you to nominate someone deserving of any of the four awards that we give out annually. Nominations are rolling, but we will happily take any nomination for any of our awards at any time. Those people nominated but not selected will be considered again in subsequent years. We have so many deserving legal practitioners within our district, but we may not know about the specific contributions someone has made to our community unless YOU tell us. So, please do take a moment and let us know who you think is deserving. Most immediately, we are soliciting nominations for the Cook–Friedman Civility Award to recognize a civil practitioner who is an outstanding example of professional excellence and civility in recognition of the dedication to civility of two outstanding jurists: former Chief Judge Julian Abele Cook, Jr., who, in 1998, constituted the first Civility Committee in the Eastern District of Michigan and fostered the implementation of the Court's Civility Principles; and Chief Judge Bernard A. Friedman who formed the Court's second Civility Committee in 2007, and fostered the implementation of the Eastern District's "Lawyer's Commitment of Professional Civility." This award will be presented at the Annual Dinner on June 11th. For information on this and other awards, please check out the awards section of our website: <https://fbamich.org/about-fba/awards/>

I look forward to seeing you at the Gilman Award Lunch where we will honor and recognize Andrew Densemo, this year's award winner, as well as the Annual Dinner where we will recognize the judiciary of the Eastern District of Michigan and present the Civility Award. Please make a point to join us at those two events. At the Annual Dinner I will also reluctantly relinquish my position to my successor, Andrew Lievens, who will no doubt aptly and ably lead our fine organization for the 2024/2025 term. Our officer group is comprised of stellar practitioners and we will be in good hands as a result for many years to come.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you once more. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your President for the 2023/2024 term.

Sustainers of the Chapter By Melinda Herrmann

Within the Eastern District of Michigan, our bar association is very fortunate to have such an incredibly supportive federal bench and an equally incredible group of local practitioners who are integral to the close-knit legal community that we have built together over the past 60-plus years of our association's existence. Over these past decades, our local bar association has faced many challenges, but throughout it all, our bench, partner firms, and members have remained united in our purpose to elevate the practice of law within the district.

Several years ago, our association faced a financial crisis, and with the tremendous help of our partner firms and all members, we were able to weather the storm and emerge even stronger. One group of individuals, the "Sustainers of the Chapter," were, and remain, particularly instrumental to the well-being of our association. The many practitioners who choose to serve their local legal community as Sustainers assist our organization with an elevated level of fiscal commitment, which we in turn use to support our many educational, professional, and networking activities and events.

Our Sustainers help "fill the gaps," and, for their commitment, our association takes special care to recognize these individuals at each of the four luncheons in our luncheon series, on our website, and once annually in our newsletter. (*see page 9*) Sustainers also proudly wear an engraved name tag at our luncheons, consistent with the key below. If you are interested in becoming a Sustainer of the Chapter, please email fbamich@fbamich.org for additional details.

New Lawyers Seminar Recap By Lauren Mandel

As the Chapter's 48th Annual New Lawyers' Seminar prepared to get underway on January 23 and 24, 2024 in the Detroit Room of the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, organizers and participants were reminded of an old truth from poet Robert Burns: "The best-laid plans of mice and men often goes awry" (translated). Faced with the impending arrival of a winter weather advisory, including a thick layer of ice, organizers, out of an abundance of caution, moved the first day of programming to Zoom. The program, co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Michigan State Bar, moved forward without a hitch.

As it has for the past forty-seven years, the seminar offered new and newer lawyers invaluable and practical advice about practicing in federal and state courts, as well as the opportunity to be sworn in to practice before the federal district court. The first day of the seminar focused on practice in the federal courts and was moderated by Madeline E. Portzline (Hooper Hathaway, P.C.). The first part of the day featured presentations on the key elements of civil cases, discovery practice, and action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, as well as informational overviews of electronic filing & PACER, and pro bono opportunities through the federal district court. Speakers included Richard T. Hewlett (Varnum LLP), the Honorable Anthony P. Patti, Angela L. Jackson (Hooper Hathaway, P.C.), Kevin Carlson (Pitt, McGehee, Palmer, Bonanni & Rivers P.C.), Victoria Lung (Data Quality Administrator, U.S. District Court), the Honorable Kimberly G. Altman, Nolan Moody (Dickinson Wright PLLC), and Jennifer Newby (U.S. Attorney's Office). The morning session concluded with a virtual meet and greet with judges from the federal district court, including District Judges Denise Page Hood, Paul Borman, Laurie Michelson, Linda Parker, Shalina Kumar, Jonathan Grey, Susan DeClercq, and Brandy McMillion, Chief Magistrate Judge David Grand, and Magistrate Judges Anthony Patti and Kimberly Altman.

The second session featured presentations on the essentials of practicing bankruptcy law, "Tips from the Bench" on motion practice, the "Do's & Don'ts" of practicing in federal court, and the key elements of criminal practice. Speakers included Charissa Potts (Freedom Law, P.C.), Paul Hague (Taft, Stettinius & Hollister), Lauren Mandel (Career Law Clerk to the Honorable Linda Parker), the Honorable Martha Snow (Wayne County Circuit Court), the Honorable Shalina Kumar, the Honorable Matthew Leitman, Jennifer Newby (U.S. Attorney's Office), Jeffrey Crapko (U.S. Attorney's Office), Adam Wenner (Honigman), the Honorable Laurie Michelson, and George Donnini (Butzel; FBA – E.D. Mich. Chapter President).

With weather issues resolved, the second day of the seminar returned to an in-person format in the federal

courthouse and was moderated by Erica Jilek (Miller Canfield). The day began with a trio of representatives from the State Bar of Michigan: Tanya Cripps-Serra, Chairperson of the Young Lawyers Section of the Michigan State Bar (Olympia Entertainment), Michael Goetz, Grievance Administrator with the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission, and Daniel D. Quick, President of the State Bar of Michigan. Each welcomed the participants to the practice of law, discussed strategies to balance the many demands new lawyers face, ways to find mentors and other support systems, and the importance of becoming involved in bar activities. Grievance Administrator Goetz discussed common mistakes young lawyers make that end up before the Attorney Grievance Commission, how to avoid making those mistakes, and how to respond to a grievance.

The second day then focused on various state law substantive areas with speakers providing practical tips gleaned from years of practice. Speakers included Larry Pepper (Law Offices of Larry Pepper) who marked his 30th, and last time, presenting at the seminar on "Practicing in the Michigan Probate & Family Courts," as he also announced that he will be soon retiring. Other speakers included noted criminal defense attorney Todd Flood (Law Offices of Todd Flood) and Jennifer Grieco, Chair of the Michigan State Bar's ADR Council (Altior Law). Other presentations included: Albert Dib (Jefferson Law Center) on "Evaluating and Litigating Personal Injury Claims," Sam Kokoska (Dawda Mann) on "Basic Michigan Real Property Transactions," Sara Aretakis (Woll and Woll, P.C) on "Handling Domestic Relations Cases," Andrea Hamm (Michigan Workers' Comp Lawyers) on "Handling Michigan Workers' Compensation Cases," and Cathrine Wenger (La-Z-Boy, Inc.) on "An Overview of Employment Law." Robert D. Heitmeyer, Associate Area Counsel, United States Internal Revenue Service, presented a new topic "Tax Consequences of Routine Legal Transactions" to raise awareness on the topic and provide a basic primer on dealing with the IRS. Closing out the seminar were Leann Lizza, Shacara Mapp, and Sheri Ward, official court

(continued on page 4)



New Lawyers' Seminar Attendees.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann



New Lawyers' Seminar Attendees View the "Million Dollar" Courtroom.

Photo by Jeff May

New Lawyers' (from page 3)

reporters for the federal court, who discussed rules lawyers should follow to make a clean (i.e., accurate) record of transcribed proceedings. They demonstrated the creation of a transcript in Real Time and educated the participants on when transcripts are needed and how to request them.

As part of the New Lawyers' Seminar, attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a swearing-in ceremony to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, which is held in the courthouse's beautiful "Million Dollar" courtroom.

Although originally scheduled as the concluding activity for the "federal day," the ceremony was moved to the second day so it could be conducted in person. Prior to the ceremony, Barbara Radke (Judicial Assistant to the Honorable George Steeh) provided registrants with an overview of the history and notable architectural details of this exquisite space. After the tour, Chief Judge Sean Cox greeted the participants individually and then admitted them to practice in the Eastern District of Michigan upon motion for admission by Jeff May (Bodman) on behalf of the Chapter. Chief Judge Cox then spoke to the participants about the importance of the Chapter and the opportunities and resources it can provide to them in their careers, encouraging them to attend events and get involved. The ceremony concluded with a group photo with Chief Judge Cox framed around the storied bench and marbled backdrop of the Million Dollar courtroom.

The seminar's co-chairs, Christine Dowhan-Bailey, Grant Gilezan (Dykema), Lauren Mandel (Career Law Clerk to the Honorable Linda V. Parker), Jeff May (Bodman), and Cathrine Wenger (La-Z-Boy, Inc.), wish to thank the federal and state court judges who participated in the seminar, and who continuously give their time to this and other Chapter events throughout the year. We also thank all of the experienced and knowledgeable practitioners and court staff for their contribution, and Chapter Executive Director Mindy Herrmann for all the work she does to advertise the event and enable it to run smoothly.

We are already busy planning next year's seminar, which will be March 11 and 12, 2025. As this year's attendees included many lawyers who were not quite "new," but still found the program tremendously informative and worthwhile, we are considering an adjustment to the seminar's name to encourage broader audience participation. The Chapter hopes local law firms, organizations, and government entities will encourage their "newer" lawyers to save the date and join us next year.

Law Clerk Committee Hosts

Resume Workshop

By The Law Clerk Committee

On January 9, the Chapter's Law Clerk Committee hosted its annual panel discussion and resume workshop for current law clerks at the Theodore Levin Courthouse. The Law Clerk Committee, co-chaired by Sarah Resnick Cohen and Jeff Crapko, is comprised of former federal law clerks from both the district court and Sixth Circuit.

Committee members Judge Laurie Michelson, Jeff Crapko, Brittney Kohn, Lauren Mandel, Elyse Lisznyai, and Matt Allen participated in a panel moderated by committee member Jennifer Newby. The panel spoke to law clerks about the transition from clerking to practice. A robust group of law clerks from magistrate judge and district court chambers attended.

The workshop aims to help prepare law clerks for challenges they may face while clerking and as they transition

into practice, based on the personal experiences of the committee members. Because of the practice diversity of the panel, law clerks were able to hear perspectives from both private and government practice. The discussion also included tips on seeking post-clerkship employment. Those law clerks who submitted their resume to the committee received one-on-one feedback from a committee member during the workshop. The committee holds this event annually in January and all current law clerks are welcome to attend.



Wade H. McCree, Jr. Award Recipient Stephani LaBell, pictured center.

John Mieu, Courtesy of Detroit Legal News

2024 Wade H. McCree, Jr. Luncheon Inspired Many

By Melinda Herrmann

On February 7th, 2024, approximately 160 local practitioners gathered at the beautiful Detroit Athletic Club for the 2024 Wade H. McCree, Jr. Award Luncheon for Social Justice. This year's award recipient was Stephani LaBelle, Executive Director of Project Clean Slate (PCS), and the Keynote Speaker was professor Charles B. Dew, Ephraim Williams Professor of American History, Emeritus, at Williams College.

Project Clean Slate is a program created by Mayor Mike Duggan to assist Detroiters who want to work and be part of Detroit's comeback by providing free expungement services to residents. In 2019, Mayor Duggan worked with a bi-partisan group of state legislators to reform

the state's expungement legislation and in that process, Stephani LaBelle testified in support of the legislation in front of the Michigan House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The legislation was signed into law in 2020 more than doubling the number of Detroiters eligible for expungement. Shortly after LaBelle's arrival, PCS adjusted its model and she transformed the expungement program. Stephani's criminal defense experience, effective case management style, and altruistic nature proved to be the key to PCS' success. One PCS expungement beneficiary, Mr. Richard Walker, also attended the luncheon and gave a very moving testimonial about the good work that that PCS organization, led by Ms. LaBelle, is doing.

While the luncheon always features amazing speakers, this was the first time in some time where the luncheon's Keynote Speaker was chosen specifically to talk about the theme of the luncheon. Professor Charles Dew had been the Keynote Speaker for my daughter's graduation ceremony from Williams College and that connection spawned the chapter's invitation, which we were delighted to have had accepted. Professor Dew used his book, "The Making of a Racist - A Southerner Reflects on Family, History, and the Slave Trade" as the basis of his discussion, focusing on his upbringing in midcentury

American South, "in many respects a boy's paradise, but one stained by Lost Cause revisionism and, worse, by the full brunt of Jim Crow."⁽¹⁾ Through his book and his talk, Professor Dew aimed to inform our bar how the South of his childhood came into being, poisoning the minds even of honorable people, and he challenged the audience to be always cognizant and resistant to the hate that still permeates our society.

Attendees of the Wade H. McCree, Jr. Luncheon were inspired by the legacy of Wade H. McCree, Jr., and also by the works of Stephani LaBelle, the writings and discussion of Professor Dew, and the remarkable story of Richard Walker. To take advantage of that collective synergy, the chapter worked with its own Diversity Committee in orchestrating a follow-on event for the next day which included Professor Dew in a round-table luncheon program entitled, "Courageous

Conversations, Part II."

Our bar association within the Eastern District of Michigan is very proud of its commitment to equality of all people. Those interested in working with the chapter's Diversity Committee should reach out to the committee by visiting their page to find out more: <https://fbamich.org/committees/diversity/>

¹. UPress.virginia.edu



Professor Dew.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

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Diversity Committee Spearheads “Courageous Conversations”

By Ki Lee Kilgore

On February 8, 2024, the Chapter’s Diversity Committee hosted a dynamic discussion tackling debates on racial inequality, privilege, and affirmative action. Titled “Courageous Conversations, Part II: Building Bridges of Understanding,” the event continued the Committee’s 2021 dialogue about race and aimed to foster understanding among diverse groups, cultures, and races.

Moderated by Amir El-Aswad of Foley & Lardner, the engaging discourse featured United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Stafford, and United States District Judges Jonathan Grey and Susan DeClercq, as well as Charles B. Dew, Professor Emeritus of American History at Williams College and keynote speaker for the 2024 Wade H. McCree, Jr. Luncheon.

Speaking to the packed room, the panelists candidly explored why conversations about race are considered “courageous” and how to encourage and navigate discussions touching upon uncomfortable topics. They next addressed the effect of *SFFA v. Harvard*—the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling that race-based affirmative action programs in college admissions are unconstitutional—and responded to different perspectives on affirmative action and the recent backlash to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Sharing personal anecdotes and professional insights, the panelists answered questions from the audience and offered actionable takeaways. In the professional sphere, they underscored the importance of having diverse perspectives in every room, creating environments where individuals can raise sensitive issues, and mentoring colleagues from different backgrounds. Firms can also promote access to justice and assist lawyers in meeting community needs by offering billable-hour credit for pro bono work.

For attendees striving to be better allies, the panelists encouraged them to keep open minds, educate themselves on issues like race, and reflect on and challenge their own implicit biases. The panelists also highlighted how humanizing, rather than otherizing, individuals who appear different from us can build bridges of empathy and understanding that transcend racial, cultural, and social divides. As Judge Grey insightfully remarked, “We are much more alike than we are different.”

The Diversity Committee expresses its deepest gratitude to all panelists, attendees, and Committee members for contributing to this vital conversation. The Committee especially thanks Jones Day for providing the event space and lunch, Mindy Herrmann for her support, and the generous sponsors—Foley & Lardner, JAMS, Pitt McGehee, Bush Seyferth PLLC, AsherKelly, Deborah Gordon Law, and the Law Offices of Robert June, PC—for making this

event possible. Our work continues, and we look forward to facilitating more meaningful discussions.



Participants at “Courageous Conversations.”

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

Sixteenth Annual Holiday Party

By Elisa Angeli Palizzi

The Chapter threw its sixteenth annual Holiday Party on December 13, 2023, in the Beubien Room of the Atheneum Hotel and Conference Center. Guests enjoyed hor d’oeuvres, spirits, and camaraderie while being treated to a live jazz band. Members of the bench and bar came out for the party. Judicial attendees included U.S. District Chief Judge Sean Cox, and U.S. District Judges Susan DeClercq, Gershwin Drain, Shalina Kumar, Laurie Michelson, and U.S.

Magistrate Judge Anthony Patti. State Bar of Michigan President Daniel Quick also joined the festivities.

The FBA would like to thank the many people who assisted in this year’s event. The event was sponsored by The Miller Law Firm, David Haron/Hoyer Law Group, Deborah Gordon Law, Darrow Mustafa, Honigman, Pitt McGehee Palmer Bonanni & Rivers, O’Keefe,



Annual Holiday Party Attendees.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

Tom McNeill ADR, PLLC, Rosati, Shultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, Kienbaum, Hardy, Viviano, Pelton & Forrest PLC, Miller Canfield, Warner Norcross & Judd, Bush Seyferth, Hale & Hirn, JAMS, Spectrum Computer Forensics and Risk Management LLC, Howard & Howard, Hickey Hauck Bishoff Jeffers & Seabolt PLLC, Brooks Kushman, Nyman Turkish, Dennis Barnes – Barnes ADR, and Freedom Law. Thank you especially to FBA Executive Director Mindy Herrmann, and to event chairs Tom Cranmer and Elisa Angeli Palizzi, for planning another successful event.

A Busy Winter for the Bankruptcy Committee

By Kelley Callard and Paul R. Hage, Bankruptcy Committee Co-Chairs

The Chapter's Bankruptcy Committee continues to be very active, holding two excellent and well-attended events in recent months.

First, on December 14, 2023, the Bankruptcy Committee partnered with the Chapter's Diversity Committee to host a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Allies Conference. The event brought top professionals to discuss what allyship means to them, how it has impacted their careers, and how they have advocated for others and themselves. The 90-minute conference was moderated by Judge Mark A. Randon (U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan). The panelists were Judge Judith Levy (U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan), Saul Green (Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone), Judge Tiiara Patton (U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio), Judge Joel D. Applebaum (U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan), Judge Brandy R. McMillion (U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan), and Andy Vara (United States Trustee in Regions 3 and 9). The conference, which was conducted via Zoom, was well attended. Bankruptcy Committee leadership received a lot of very positive feedback about the stirring and inspirational personal stories shared by each of the panelists.

Second, the Bankruptcy Committee co-hosted the annual State of the Bankruptcy Court dinner on February 1, 2024 at Zehnders in Frankenmuth. The evening featured a networking reception and a traditional Frankenmuth chicken dinner. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Daniel S. Opperman then gave a presentation on the state of the Court, including a discussion of recent bankruptcy filing trends as well as some of the new initiatives that the Bankruptcy Court is working to implement in the coming months. A question and answer session followed. Approximately 80 people made the trip to Frankenmuth for this event.



The article author Elisa Angeli Palizzi and Magistrate Judge, Kimberly G. Altman.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

The Bankruptcy Committee also has several great events planned in the coming months. On April 10, 2024, we are co-hosting a webinar with the Wolverine Bar Association entitled, "A Bankruptcy Practice: Oh, the Places You Can Go." As the title suggests, the program will focus on how bankruptcy practitioners have used the skills learned in practice

to take on unique and interesting engagements outside of the traditional practice of law. Panelists for this program, which will be conducted via Zoom, include Hon. Mark A. Randon (U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan), Wendy Turner Lewis (Chapter 7 Trustee, Law Offices of Wendy Turner Lewis, PLLC), Lisa Mullen (Community Financial Credit Union) and Paul R. Hage (Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP). This program is a continuation of the collaborative partnership that the Bankruptcy Committee has enjoyed with the Wolverine Bar Association over the past three years. To register, please visit the FBA's website.



Annual Holiday Party Attendees.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

On April 30, 2024, the Bankruptcy Committee is hosting a webinar with the Clerk's Office for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. The program, which will be conducted via Zoom, will

be a collaborative roundtable discussion dedicated to increasing awareness surrounding common issues with court filings. Members of the Clerk's Office, including Todd M. Stickle, Clerk of Court, Jennifer Clark, Deputy in Charge, Laura Hutson, Chambers Manager, and Sam Rakpiki, Operations Supervisor, will discuss best practices and answer questions from attendees. The program is open to all attorneys and legal support staff. To register, please visit the FBA's website.

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Bankruptcy *(from page 7)*

Finally, for the second year in a row, the Bankruptcy Committee is partnering with the Bankruptcy Court and the Clerk's Office to arrange for the Court to hold live court proceedings at Cass Technical High School in Detroit. Actual, in person, bankruptcy court hearings involving real cases and practitioners will be held in the auditorium at Cass Tech. At the conclusion of the hearings, the presiding judge and participating attorneys will discuss the matters argued, and answer questions from students in attendance. The Bankruptcy Committee is working to schedule this event in the early fall.

The Bankruptcy Committee is an extremely active Committee that works closely with the local bankruptcy bench. We meet monthly via Zoom. If you are interested in getting more involved with the Bankruptcy Committee, please reach out to Kelley Callard (Kelley.callard@usdoj.gov) or Paul R. Hage at phage@taftlaw.com.

A "Light for Justice" Film Premiere By Matt Lund

After four years in the making, the Chapter's Court Historical Society held the World Premiere of its documentary "A Light for Justice" on November 1, 2023. The film was shown at the Detroit Historical Museum, and was preceded by a cocktail and dinner reception. The hour-long documentary provides a unique history of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, focusing on the courthouse itself and five cases from the 1940s to the present that have influenced the law in the United States. Told from the voices of the judges themselves, former US Senator Carl Levin, former US Attorney Barb McQuade, Attorney General Dana Nessel, and others, the hour-long film not only acquaints its audience with the Court, but also provides an understandable narrative of how justice system works. The film is narrated by former WDIV-TV anchor Carmen Harlan, whose presence lent a special luster to the

project. "We were incredibly fortunate and honored to have someone of Carmen's caliber involved with the project" said Matt Lund, Court Historical Society President. "She added a touch of class and gravitas to the documentary."

The Chapter's Court Historical Society intends to next take the film into the community and has sought to have it aired on PBS.

Rom-Rakow-Historical Society

On Wednesday, November 15th, 2023, nearly 200 members of our local bench and bar gathered at the Atheneum for our annual Rom - Rakow - Historical Society Luncheon. This year's



Rom-Rakow-Historical Society Attendees.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

Barbara J. Rom Award is Lynn M. Brimer of Strobl Sharp PLLC. The recipient of a \$2000 Edward Rakow Grant was the chapter's Law Day Committee. As Veteran's Day was also near the date of the luncheon, the chapter celebrated our known veterans

by recognizing their service in our program (Dennis Clark, George Donnini, Hon. Bernard Friedman, Erin Gianopoulos, Mindy and Fred Herrmann, Sean King, Hon. Fred Mester (ret.), Hank Moon, Robert Morgan, Mayer



Rom-Rakow-Historical Society Attendees.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

Morganroth, Mike Rataj, Richard Roble, Charles Rutherford, Dan Sharkey, and William Thompson). Additionally, the chapter welcomed Keynote Speaker Major General John R. Ewers, Jr., USMC (ret.) who served as the 19th Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The chapter also invited military personnel from 1st Battalion, 24th Marines to the luncheon, and after the event, Major General Ewers met with those interested to discuss



Rom-Rakow-Historical Society Attendees.

Photo by Melinda Herrmann

any and all facets of military law.

Thank you to the 2023-2024 Sustainers of Our Chapter*

Christine Dowhan-Bailey		Dennis J. Clark	Clark Law Firm PLLC
Dennis Schultz		Charlotte Croson	Croson Taub & Michaels, PLLC
Jennifer Grieco	Altior Law	Joseph Michaels	Croson Taub & Michaels, PLLC
Kenneth Neuman	Altior Law	Adam Taub	Croson Taub & Michaels, PLLC
James Amberg	Amberg & Amberg, PLLC	Christopher	Darrow Darrow Mustafa P.C.
Dean Amburn	Amburn Law PLLC	Deborah Gordon	Deborah Gordon Law
Andrew McGuinness	Andrew J. McGuinness, Esq.	Sarah Gordon	Thomas Deborah Gordon Law
Daniel Klimek	ASG Investigations	Dennis Barnes	Dennis M. Barnes, PLLC
Michael Asher	AsherKelly, Attorneys at Law	Jeffrey Crapko	Department of Justice
Jacqueline Kelly	AsherKelly, Attorneys at Law	Zachary Pelton	Dickinson Wright PLLC
Gary August	August Law, PLLC	Grant P. Gilezan	Dykema Gossett PLLC
Erica Fitzgerald	Autoneum	James Hermon	Dykema Gossett PLLC
Sharon Woods	Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, PLLC	Thomas Schehr	Dykema Gossett PLLC
Rodney Glusac	Bernardi, Ronayne & Glusac, P.C.	Erin Sedmak	Dykema Gossett PLLC
Rachel Selina	Berry Moorman, P.C.	Adam Forman	Epstein, Becker & Green, P.C.
Melinda Buurma	BHMB Law PC	Barry Fagan	Fagan McManus P.C.
John Below	Bodman PLC	Jennifer McManus	Fagan McManus P.C.
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Calendar of Events

May

May 8

Executive Board Committee Co-Chair Meeting

May 17

Nominations of Cook-Friedman Award Due

May 22

Past Presidents' Luncheon

Fishbones
12pm-1:30pm

June

June 11

2024 Annual Dinner

Westin Book Cadillac
5:30pm-8:00pm

Please join us for this important chapter event featuring the presentation of the 2024 Cook-Friedman civility award, recognition and thank you to the members of our amazing bench, election of chapter officers, and a fun time with friends and colleagues! This is an important chapter event and one you won't want to miss! REGISTRATION COMING SOON! Sponsorships Available - Regular Sponsorships based on firm size. Can pay online (subject to 3% processing fee) or via US Mail. LARGE Firm Sponsorships (for firms with 15 or more attorneys) / comes with 8 seats to the Annual Dinner): \$1400.00 MEDIUM Firm Sponsorships

June 19

Copyright Trolls and Image Piracy, and Update on the Copyright Claims Board

ZOOM @ 12:00pm - 12:50pm

Join the Intellectual Property Committee of our chapter along with Assistant Professor or Law Melissa Eckhouse of the University of Detroit Mercy Law School or a lunchtime Webinar entitled: Copyright Trolls and Image Piracy, and Update on the Copyright Claims Board This is a FREE event and open to all. We encourage non chapter members to join our chapter at the home page of our website. Click <https://fbamich.tradewing.com/events/syuoEpopDWs8j4XJSto> to register for this exciting event!

July

July 10

Advanced Trial Training Program (full day)

\$140 members
\$215 for non-members/guests

August

August 8

Bench/Bar Golf Outing
Northville Hills Golf Club

Updates and further developments at
www.fbamich.org

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