

## The Washtenaw County Bar – It's Where You Belong

Inquisitive students in packed classrooms. Amiable gatherings at the City Club and Weber's. Tailgaters ranging from infants to 84-year-olds, from teachers to retired general counsel. A judicial poll and candidates forum. Informative lunch meetings. The common denominator to these events is Washtenaw County Bar members leading, learning, and sharing experiences that continue to raise our Bar and the larger legal community. We've had a busy and productive Fall.

If you wanted to meet nearly every judge in Washtenaw County, the place to be was the Pretzel Bell on October 24th. Thanks to the co-sponsorship of multiple sections, we had a great turnout and no shortage of food and conversation. I was fortunate to hear about Judge Charlie Pope's deep belief in the adult drug and human trafficking specialty courts and left our conversation hoping and assuming that those courts will continue to help serve our community for as long as the need is there.

As this *Res Ipsa* goes to print, the Purple Run 5K for SafeHouse Center is still on my mind. On October 27th, more than 200 runners and walkers shook off a dismal grey chill and prevailed on a gently ascending, eventually descending, course on North Campus. The annual run was co-founded four years ago by the U of M's Police Department Division of Public Safety and Security and the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office. The purpose of the run is to raise awareness and support for SafeHouse and to "run domestic violence out of town."

I am proud of the Bar's involvement in the Purple Run this year, and of our approximately 28 members and their families who participated in so many different ways. **Special shout-outs:** Thank you **Joy Gaines**, WCBA Treasurer, for tending our WCBA sponsor table and giving away gavel pencils, Constitution bookmarks and resource cards. Congratulations to **Tom Bourque** on his 6<sup>th</sup> place finish with a blazing time of 22:22! Congratulations to **Nimish Ganatra** who ran an impressive 26:49 while pushing his daughter in her running stroller for the fourth year in a row! Congratulations to **Paul Fessler**, WCBA VP, for tackling the course with his sons, and for his son Chris' 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 15U category and 14<sup>th</sup> overall for males. And last but not least, Washtenaw County's premier all-lawyer band, **Soul Practitioners!** They weren't scared off by 40-degree temperatures, the danger of flat instruments, or cold vocal chords at 8:00 a.m.!

On a different note, thank you to everyone who donated blood in October as part of our "Lawyers Out for Blood" blood drive. Even if you weren't able to participate in the drive, it is never too late to donate blood. The Red Cross is always available to accept blood donations. Your donation can save a life.

In the meantime, best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving and year-end holidays!

Cheers from the Bar,

Elizabeth