These are challenging times for all of us. We want to keep you informed and engaged. Please observe the recommended guidelines for staying safe and healthy.

See information regarding remote notarization and witnessing on page 6. Local courts’ websites for updates on policies and procedures can be found on page 11.

Photos courtesy of Jinan Hamood, Nicole Mackmiller, and Callan Munzel.
Just because it’s legal for some people to use and possess it, the process of how people can still run into issues in Michigan. The ballot initiative was passed in Michigan to allow adults over the age of 21 to use and possess marijuana legally. This means that a person can legally obtain the substance from a licensed vendor. However, buying and selling recreational marijuana, a person will still be prohibited from exporting it to other places even if it’s legal in that place.

5. Lastly, driving while high is still illegal in Michigan. Currently, Michigan has no per se limit for driving under the influence of marijuana. However, driving for recreational marijuana users. This area of criminal law will likely change as the state continues to adapt to the new reality of legal marijuana.

6. It’s important to note that just because recreational marijuana is legal in Michigan, it doesn’t mean that it’s legal to have more than the amount allowed. The amount of marijuana one can possess is limited by law. If one possesses more than those amounts, then they are violating the law.

An estate planning lawyer can help you navigate the complexities of personal jurisdiction in a court of law. Mr. Hermanowski is a Director of the Michigan Corporate Lawyers Association and a member of the State Bar of Michigan’s Corporate and Securities Law Section. He can be reached at alexherm@umich.edu or (734) 971-3900.

Mr. Hermanowski also runs his own practice called Hermanowski Law focused on business formation and litigation. He can be reached at alexherm@umich.edu or (734) 971-3900.

The Supreme Court’s Recent Clamp Down on Consent-by-Registration in Michigan

The Supreme Court’s recent clamp down on consent-by-registration in Michigan is significant for businesses that operate in multiple states. The court has limited the use of consent-by-registration to cases where the defendant is “essentially at home” in a state, in which case that state’s courts have general jurisdiction over the defendant. This means that businesses must register with the state in which they are doing business if they wish to avoid personal jurisdiction in that state.

The court’s decision in Brown v. BMW of North America, Inc. (E.D. Mich. 2016), where the court considered its own exercise of personal jurisdiction, is particularly relevant. The court found that personal jurisdiction over the defendant was not warranted because it did not have general jurisdiction over the defendant. However, it did arise in federal court in Michigan, which was the defendant’s home state. The court’s decision in Brown is significant because it limits the use of consent-by-registration to cases where the defendant is “essentially at home” in a state.

The court’s exercise of personal jurisdiction must comport with both the Due Process Clause and the state’s long-arm statute. The Due Process Clause protects a defendant’s right to due process of law, which includes a right to have personal jurisdiction exercised only if it is proper. The state’s long-arm statute provides that personal jurisdiction may be exercised if it is not contrary to the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The discord surrounding “continuous and systematic” contacts was largely due to a lack of clarity in the law. The Supreme Court’s recent clamp down on consent-by-registration in Michigan is significant for businesses that operate in multiple states. The court has limited the use of consent-by-registration to cases where the defendant is “essentially at home” in a state, in which case that state’s courts have general jurisdiction over the defendant. This means that businesses must register with the state in which they are doing business if they wish to avoid personal jurisdiction in that state.
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Victims of sexual abuse are litigating. Among the most prominent defendants are schools, medical professionals, entertainment industry tycoons, politicians, coaches, and clergy. Often, if the case has value, a settlement can be reached, with plaintiffs taking their award as a one-time lump sum or as a structured settlement (a series of payments collected over a period of time). The decision to select a lump-sum payment or a structured settlement will depend upon many factors. These include:

- The nature of the damages suffered, and whether any part of the award should be set aside and reserved for future use;
- The pace at which the money will likely be spent;
- Tax considerations. Sexual abuse lawsuits often result in both taxable and tax-free damages;
- Whether the plaintiff may want or need assistance in managing the award; and
- The size and schedule of the payments.

The laws and regulations for structured settlements of this type are significantly dictated by the Periodic Payment Settlement Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-473), which was designed to recognize the use of structured settlements in applicable personal injury and wrongful death cases. The Act allows structured settlements made up of current and/or future payments to be excluded from gross income. If the settlement is well-structured, it will allow for growth of the award over time while eliminating some or all of the tax burden associated with future growth.

Minor or college-aged plaintiffs

Structured settlements are often a good choice for minors or younger plaintiffs. A structured settlement manages all sorts of risks associated with providing a young person with a windfall of easily accessible cash. For example, a structured settlement can be designed to provide lump sum payments in each of the four years following the minor's age of majority. This scheme provides a sum certain for college expenses, if desired.

Another approach may provide a lump sum at around age 25, another at age 30, and even more as the plaintiff ages. This approach assumes that the plaintiff will have certain needs as they approach middle age. This type of structured settlement can provide a down payment on a permanent residence, or perhaps the flexibility to purchase an automobile without taking on significant debt.

Some plaintiffs choose to defer payment and instead receive monthly checks starting at a certain age. This approach anticipates other needs, such as childcare or living expenses. Of course, structured settlements offer much flexibility, and elements of all of the above-described approaches can be incorporated into any structure.

Structures for persons with developmental or cognitive disabilities

Structured settlements are particularly valuable for persons who experience difficulties managing their own affairs or who are vulnerable to exploitation. Building in limits to how much is distributed and when the distributions arrive allows ample time to plan how each distribution will be used. This can also minimize the chances that the individual will be seen as a target for exploitation since there is no time at which they have control of an unusually large amount of cash.

Psychological considerations and future damages

Assuming the settlement involved significant proceeds, it is important to ensure that any settlement adequately provides for future needs. In sex abuse cases, victims can suffer challenges that last a lifetime. Sex abuse can affect victims differently as they age, and particularly as they have children of their own. Having children, and the worry that accompanies having adolescent children, is commonly reported as a significant stressor in victims of sexual abuse who later become parents. A structured settlement can allow for sufficient funds to cover expenses associated with counseling, a psychologist, or even a psychiatrist and medication. It is always important to consider future needs when deciding upon a structured settlement.

Conclusion

Properly set up, a structured settlement can provide guaranteed, stable income for the rest of a client's life. Critically, guarantee periods can be used to protect the income for surviving spouses and families, and can protect the client from predators, including unscrupulous family members and friends. Victims of sexual abuse who are legally due a monetary award may be wise to structure a settlement that ensures the money is available for their greatest benefit and future quality of life.

Daniel Pollack, MSSA (MSW), Esq., is professor at Yeshiva University's School of Social Work in New York City and a frequent expert witness in child welfare cases. He can be reached at dpollack@yu.edu.

Cameron R. Getto is a shareholder with Zausmer, PC in Farmington Hills. He represents individuals and corporations in litigation in a wide range of cases that include health care law, sex abuse, human services organizations, and catastrophic claims. He resides with his family in Superior Township. Cameron can be reached at getto@zausmer.com.
Well, it’s here: my final message. The last chance I have to address the membership of the Washtenaw County Bar Association as your President. I cannot begin to express how much of an honor it has been to lead such an esteemed and valued organization. I am truly humbled.

I recall fondly my first few days of practice in Ann Arbor back in 2007 after spending my first year post-bar admission in Oakland County. I was so excited to have the opportunity to advance my career in my beloved college town and had wanted to establish firm roots in this legal community from the very beginning. I attended as many events of the WCBA as I could that first year and was honored to be elected as co-chair of the New Lawyers Section, with Bonnie Shaw, to further my service. Ever since, it has been a pleasure serving on the Board of Directors in a multitude of capacities, culminating in the presidency this past year. I have had numerous opportunities to serve the bar and the public through the WCBA, and I have honed my leadership skills accordingly (which has translated terrifically to my own practice).

This year has been a journey, to state the obvious. I can honestly say it was not anticipated at all by the Board of Directors that severe action to temporarily throttle down services was on the horizon when we had our planning retreat last June. Alas, circumstances certainly evolved! I think we will make it through stronger as an organization and as professionals when this crisis is all said and done.

I can assure you the cascade of decisions by the Board of Directors to first cancel section and committee meetings, then to merge the events of the Annual Award Dinner and Election with the Bench-Bar Conference, conduct the business of the annual meeting via a mobile communication format, and finally postpone the Bench-Bar Conference to a later date in 2020 were not made lightly. But in these extraordinary times, special decisions must follow. The Board of Directors carefully deliberated and ultimately made the conclusions unanimously in the interest of safety and good public health. We are confident the decisions were right, and we look forward to an enlightening Annual Award/Bench-Bar Conference in the late summer.

I would like to thank the WCBA Board of Directors for the past year of outstanding service to the bar and to the public: Paul Fessler, Joy Gaines, Sam Bernstein, Jen Lawrence, Elizabeth Jolliffe, Kate Sharkey, Mag. Tammy Garwood, Kristin Davis, Noah Hurwitz, Stephanie Garris, Fawn Armstrong, Alex Hermanowski, Scott Munzel, Shalini Nangia, Jihan Hamood, Kym London, and Sarah Meinhart. Everyone involved worked tirelessly this year to provide the best experience possible under the circumstances for the membership, and I couldn’t be prouder to have served alongside them. The entire Board of Directors answered the call during a difficult time, and their candor and counsel made my presidency much easier, especially when faced with the challenging decisions the COVID-19 outbreak has caused.

These past few weeks have been an education for me on crisis management qualities. It has been inspiring to see so many in our local legal community use the tools they have sharpened from many years of professional service be the first in line to offer assistance and advice throughout this challenging time.

In closing, thank you all so much for all that you do for the WCBA. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as your WCBA President. Paul Fessler will assume the duties of WCBA President on July 1, 2020. I look forward to the ideas and vision he will bring to the position. Finally, a special thanks to Kyeena Slater (our terrific Executive Director) and Kelley Lindquist for being tremendous assets to the WCBA. We would not be half the organization we are without them.

I will definitely see you around Washtenaw County!

Mark

Mark W. Jane
jane@butzel.com

Valued Members:
Are you making the most of our online Member Directory (accessible to the public)?

Make our website work for you! All of our members are listed in our online Member Directory (accessible to the public and searchable by area of law). Also, we are featuring WCBA members on a rotating basis in the “Meet a WCBA Attorney” section located on the right hand side of most of our pages. Please take a few minutes to update your profile (including adding your practice areas, website address, and photo) to make the most of this feature.
Looking back to the beginning of the year, few people could have imagined the COVID-19 pandemic would change our world so quickly and so dramatically. As the health crisis has spread, so too have the legal issues facing the general public and our court systems. As estate planners, we have not been immune from the challenges. The pandemic hit while we were still trying to sort out the legal ramifications of the new federal SECURE Act, which took effect January 2020 and ushered in sweeping changes regarding how retirement assets are inherited. Now we are faced with the challenges of planning estates for clients who are quarantined, or self-isolating. Not only are they not available for in-person attestation, their witnesses are similarly unavailable for in-person witnessing. Our current laws regarding how estate planning documents can be notarized and witnessed have been substantial barriers to providing this important legal service, until Governor Whitmer’s recent executive order regarding remote notarization and witnessing.

On April 8, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-41, encouraging the use of electronic signatures and remote notarization, witnessing, and visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This executive order is largely the result of the tireless work of Probate and Estate Planning and Elder Law and Disability Rights Sections of the Michigan State Bar, which helped propose language for the executive order.

Michigan is not unique. Governors in Massachusetts, Missouri, and New York have proposed or signed temporary executive orders allowing video notarization. See, Massachusetts proposed Bill SD.2882, An Act Relative to Remote Notarization During COVID-19 State of Emergency (allowing a licensed Massachusetts attorney to notarize legal documents using video-conferencing); NY State Gov. Cuomo Executive Order 202.7 (allowing for video notarization); and Missouri Executive Order 20-08 (allowing for audio-video technology to complete the personal appearance requirement for notarization).

Michigan’s executive order helps with the challenges presented under current laws. Specifically, Michigan’s Estates and Protected Individuals Code, MCL 700.1101 et seq., has certain witness and notarization requirements that vary depending on the document being executed and does not explicitly allow for video witnessing or video notarization. For example, Durable Powers of Attorney must be signed “in the presence of” two witnesses (neither of whom is appointed as the attorney-in-fact) or acknowledged before a notary public. MCL 700.5501. Ideally, a testator would have two of their own qualified witnesses sign the document in the testator’s presence, but with the social distancing and lack of ability to visit clients at hospitals, nursing homes, or even in their homes, it is challenging, if not impossible, to meet the requirements. Additionally, there is a significant concern about elderly or hospitalized patients having the capability to print the documents themselves or access a computer or email account. Furthermore, the Designation of Patient Advocate requires that it be executed “in the presence of” two witnesses, who may not be a patient’s spouse, parent, child, grandchild, sibling, presumptive heir, known devisee at the time of the witnessing, physician, patient advocate, an employee of a life or health insurance provider for the patient, an employee of a health facility that is treating the patient, or an employee of a home for the aged. MCL 700.5506(4). As for trusts, Reporters’s Comment to MCL 700.8202 states in part that the Michigan Trust Code “also intended electronic signatures on trusts not be recognized absent the passage in the future of legislation expressly authorizing it.”

The Governor’s Executive Order 2020-41 will certainly help; however, there are very specific requirements that must be met, some of which are noted below:

**Notarization**

- Two-way, real-time audiovisual technology must allow direct interaction between the individual and the notary
- The audiovisual technology must be able to make a recording, and the recording must comply with the Michigan Law on Notarial Acts, MCL 55.286b(7) through (9).
- MCL 55.286b(7) through (9) require, among other things, that a notary maintain a journal cataloging all electronic notarizations, and that the journal and any audiovisual recording be retained for at least 10 years after the performance of the notarial act.
- The individual seeking the notary’s services must provide proper identification and answer certain questions as part of the service.
- The signatures must be affixed in a way that renders any subsequent change or modification of the remote online notarial act to be tamper-evident.

**Witnessing**

- In-person witnessing may be satisfied by two-way, real-time audiovisual technology, which also must be recorded.
- The recording of video-witnessing must be preserved for at least three years, unless the law requires otherwise.
- The signatory must make certain representations regarding where they are located, and they must affirmatively state what document they are executing.
- The document must be shown to the witnesses and every page must be numbered to reflect both the page number of the document and the number of total pages of the document (for example, page 2 of 14).
- The video must be sufficiently close to capture the document up close for the witness to observe what is being signed.
- The signatory or designee must transmit the document by fax, mail, or electronic means within 24 hours to the witnesses, and the witnesses must return it within 24 hours to the signatory.

Although the executive order still does not address technology issues that our elderly and hospitalized clients may have, it is definitely a step in the right direction.

To help address the public need, the State Bar of Michigan is rolling out two new programs (as of April 8, 2020) that provide opportunities for attorneys to offer pro bono or low cost estate planning to first responders via the “First
I did not want to become a product of my environment, by losing my ability to hear what other people were saying to me, and ultimately left that law firm as well.

Another role I play is that of Grandfather. I went for a walk my toddler grandson on a beautiful fall day. He stopped to inspect virtually every colored leaf lying on the warm sun-lit grass. My eyes have seen fifty years of leaves. For my grandson, though, he was seeing them for the first time and it was a day of wonderment and surprise for him. I don't want to miss seeing what he sees because I'm too trained to see flaws and faults. I don't want to not hear what he is saying because I'm too focused on the weaknesses in his logic.

Lately, my practice has embraced Facilitated Mediation. I am getting better at it. I have learned to listen to hear, and to look to see. People will show you and tell you who they are and what they hope and fear, if you let them.

I don't want to put myself out of business, but if more of us spoke with each other (as opposed to at each other) and listened to each other (as opposed to selectively listening for weaknesses in the other's position), we may need a bit less facilitated mediation.

John W. Whitman, Managing Partner of Garan Lucow Miller P.C.'s Ann Arbor office, has practiced insurance defense for over thirty years. He serves as a neutral mediator for private facilitation in cases throughout Michigan and the Midwest. He can be reached at jwhitman@garanlucow.com.

Estate Planning Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic continued from pg. 6

Responders Helpline’ and the “COVID-19 Rapid Response Helpline.” If anyone is interested in finding out more about these programs and how you can help, please contact the State Bar of Michigan directly through Janna Sheppard at jsheppard@michbar.org.

Mara Kent is the co-chair of the Washtenaw County Bar Association’s Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Law Section; a member of the Washtenaw County Estate Planning Council; and a member of the Michigan State Bar Estate Planning and Probate Law, Elder and Disability Rights Law, and Taxation Law Sections. She is an estate planning, probate, and trusts attorney at Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach, Baiteweg & Solomon, PC in Ann Arbor. Mara is a 1993 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1996 graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, summa cum laude. She can be reached at marakent@riissb.com.
Margo E. Edwards

I was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania but moved to Michigan at an early age. I graduated from Belleville High School (Go Tigers!). I attended Michigan State University and completed my bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University. I obtained my law degree from Wayne State. I worked at Michigan Legal Services in Detroit before opening my own office in 1997. In 2010 I formed a partnership with two other individuals creating the Legal Defense Group, PLC. Legal Defense Group handles juvenile defense in Washtenaw County. I can be reached at mcattorney@comcast.net.

Did you always know you wanted to be an attorney? Anything else interesting?
When I was a small child, I wanted to be a police officer or firefighter because it was acceptable to drive fast. There was also a time when I thought driving the car that goes before the “wide load” on the highway would be a nice job because you could drive around and listen to the radio all day.

My parents were very supportive and from an early age told me I could be anything. By the time I was in junior high, I had narrowed it down to law or medicine. My family and friends always said I thought like a lawyer. I continue to believe that is a compliment.

What jobs did you have before you became an attorney?
My first job right after high school was making ham sandwiches and popcorn that people bought at a snack kiosk located in the middle of the Belleville Kmart. Before we were so health conscious, eating while you shopped was considered a convenience.

While I was in college I also worked as a sales clerk at a fabric store, as a pharmacy tech, and at a day care. The day care was super-fun. Where else can you get paid to play all day? Had I not been so close to graduating I might have continued working with children.

What area of the law do you like the best and why?
I was encouraged as a law clerk to pursue children's law which includes abuse and neglect work. I was reluctant because I thought it would be too emotional and draining. Thankfully, one of my mentor attorneys continued to prod me along that path. Now I cannot imagine doing anything else. I was very happy when I was able to start devoting the majority of my time to this type of work.

What is the biggest challenge facing you as an attorney today?
Time is always my biggest challenge. I think the cases have become more complex and time-consuming. Each case is comprised of a family, and most of those families have a lot of needs. My own immediate family consists of my 84-year-old mother and my 18-year-old, Sebastian. In many instances I have no control over the time needed by each event in my day, so balancing everything can be tricky.

What would you be doing today if you were not doing your current work?
When I worked at Michigan Legal Services, I wore many hats and worked with several non-profits, with the Detroit City Counsel (under Maryann Mahaffey - she was a wonderful lady), and with the Detroit Housing Commission. I most enjoyed drafting ordinances and grant proposals in conjunction with Detroit city government. I could see myself working in that area. I also contemplated administrative positions in the non-profit housing and homeless sector.

Any words of wisdom to pass on to new lawyers?
I always pass on the best advice I received as a new lawyer. “When others mess up, be gracious. When you mess up, and you will, perhaps people will be gracious in return.”

I also pass on advice from a now retired 3rd Circuit Judge who called me into chambers after my first appearance in his courtroom. He told me he was sharing with me the secret of a successful law practice. It is so simple: “number your pages.” To be clear, I had numbered my pages, but I think he just liked to reiterate the importance of numbering when he had a captive audience.

What is your favorite movie or book?
I enjoy both movies and books tremendously so picking a favorite of either is difficult. While I like multiple genres, the most enjoyable movies are those that can make you laugh just thinking about them.

If I had to recommend one movie it would be Return to Me because I think it has something that appeals to everyone regardless of age or gender. It has a lot of well-known actors and great music. While it has substance, you can also just sit back and let it wash over you without a lot of complex thinking. After a long day, that's nice.

Every December I also recommend A Muppet Christmas Carol. Gonzo narrates and I find it is quite funny. I don't think that was the intention though.

Describe a perfect day off.
My perfect day is one where I do not have to leave my house. It doesn't matter if I am working or relaxing. I like being home.

What are some of your favorite places that you have visited?
I enjoy family (and extended family) trips back to Pennsylvania and Niagara Falls because we get to spend time together. I enjoyed experiencing the culture in Puerto Rico and Ireland.

One of my favorite travel memories was convincing a courthouse officer...
“Ashley,” a resident of Chelsea, Michigan, was held in the Washtenaw County Jail on an assault charge stemming from an altercation with her sister. Bail was set at $2,000, of which she was required to pay 10% in order to be released. She only needed $200 to be released. $200 may seem inconsequential to most people but, to someone living in poverty, this amount is astronomical. At risk of losing her apartment, losing her social security benefits, and losing her one-year-old daughter, Ashley needed help. The Bail Project stepped in and posted her bond, provided her with transportation to and from court, and provided her with transportation to and from her court-ordered drug testing. Two months later, the charges were dismissed and, with the assistance provided by The Bail Project, Ashley was able to put the ordeal behind her.

So, what is The Bail Project? The Bail Project is a national nonprofit organization that operates in 19 cities across the United States. Detroit is one of those cities, working predominantly in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. It uses a “revolving bail fund” to post bail for those who cannot post for themselves because it strongly believes freedom should be free. Its mission is to reform the cash bail system by using a “community release with support” model. It aims to connect its clients to the resources they identify with and ask for, to remind them of upcoming court dates, and to provide transportation to ensure their compliance with the terms of their bail. At the end of its clients’ cases, it collects data to build public understanding for the increasing need for reform of the bail system.

On any given night in the United States, 450,000 people are locked in cells because they cannot afford bail. These people, who have not been convicted, are at risk. They are in danger of losing their jobs, losing custody of their children, becoming homeless, and being the victim of violence inside those jails. Just a few days in jail can wreak havoc on one’s life. The consequences are devastating. The Bail Project’s goal is to keep people from being locked up pre-conviction simply because they can’t afford bail.

Posting bail through The Bail Project is a three-step process: (1) a referral to The Bail Project originates from the community (family, friends), a public defender, or the incarcerated individual themselves; (2) The Bail Project interviews the potential client at the jail, where a needs assessment is conducted; and (3) an analysis is conducted to determine whether it is appropriate to post bail for this client and whether The Bail Project can provide the support the person has identified as needing post-release.

If The Bail Project deems it appropriate to post the bail, it does and the client gains their freedom back. After a client’s case is disposed, The Bail Project receives the bail money back and is able to put it towards securing the release of another person being incarcerated for lack of the financial resources to post bond.

Currently, the U.S. is adapting to the methods for containing COVID-19. Our jails pose a safety and health risk both inside and outside of the jail. It is important to the containment effort that as many people as possible be released from our County jail. Although posting bail during the pandemic is drastically different from posting bail pre-pandemic, it is still possible and The Bail Project is working with an increased sense of urgency.

The Bail Project strives to bring attention and awareness to the individual’s right to remain free when a lack of financial resources is the only reason they remain incarcerated, and the need for systemic change.

Asia Johnson is a poet, activist, and bail reformist with The Bail Project. She can be reached at asiaj@bailproject.org.

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**Asked & Answered continued from pg. 8**

in the Cayman Islands to let me into the state-of-the-art courtrooms when the courthouse was actually closed. He even called his friend working at the Capital Building who let me in there while it was also closed. That was many years ago so I don’t think they will get in trouble if I share that now.

**When you have a little extra money, where do you like to spend it?**
Starbucks, Starbucks, Starbucks! The Venti Chai Tea Frappuccino (no whipped cream) has the calories of a meal but is definitely worth it.

**What do you like to do in your spare time? Hobbies?**
I read a lot. I usually have a book with me. I try to make time with family and friends a priority. I enjoy “light” household projects. And, when the weather is nice, working in my yard. Again, this requires me to be at home.

I used to be quite crafty making greeting cards, Christmas ornaments, lace, crocheting, and sewing. I don't have time for that anymore but maybe someday. At this point, I seriously enjoy focusing on relationships more. Time invested in others is never wasted and lasts forever.

**Why do you choose to be a member of the WCBA? What is the greatest benefit you have enjoyed as a member?**
I joined the WCBA as a young lawyer. I think you need to feed into your local area of practice and joining the WCBA is an easy and convenient way to do that. I have found the interaction with other attorneys beneficial (especially as a new attorney) and have enjoyed the various trainings throughout the years. Kyeea and Kelley, in their designated courthouse space, are extraordinary resources and worth the membership fee in their own right!
Name_______________________________________________ P Number________

Firm Name___________________________________________________________

Firm Address_________________________________________________________

Mailing Address (if different)____________________________________________

Phone____________________ Email Address_______________________________

Area(s) of Practice_______________________________Birthdate_______________

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Annual membership includes a one year subscription to the Res Ipsa Loquitur and the Washtenaw County Legal News.

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Revised March 23, 2020
It’s Where You Belong!

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic has wreaked havoc in our daily lives.

It struck us hard in mid-March...shutting down our schools, shopping malls, restaurants, places of employment, and our economy. We worried about our loved ones and how we would continue to service our clients, but we persevered.

The Washtenaw County Bar Association is resilient.

We learned how to do more than multi-task. Due to the Governor's Executive Order, we had to start working remotely from home. We have been learning and using Zoom and other online video conferencing platforms to service our clients’ legal needs.

We now face a "new normal." To minimize the foot traffic in our courthouses, most hearings will be held virtually. As I write - even the Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments via teleconference.

These are rapidly changing times, so please check the WCBA website often as well as the local courts’ websites for updates.

We look forward to serving our members through new and innovative programs. Our section chairs are preparing to provide you with substantive legal updates and education through section meetings and seminars. These meetings increase your knowledge in your areas of practice and provide great networking opportunities.

We are a strong, close-knit, collegial, and supportive legal community. The WCBA remains dedicated to the success of our members. Reach out and support each other as we face professional and personal challenges moving forward.

Please let me know if we can help you with anything. Your suggestions and input are much appreciated.

Thank you for being a WCBA member and supporting our organization.

Kyeena
Kyeena G. Slater
slaterk@washtenaw.org

AGC Seeks Volunteer Receivers

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission seeks licensed local attorneys to serve as pro bono volunteer receivers pursuant to MCR 9.119(G) to assist in liquidating the practice of lawyers who are incapacitated, deceased, suspended or disbarred. Attorneys who are interested in serving in this type of capacity should contact:

Rhonda S. Pozehl, Senior Associate Counsel
Attorney Grievance Commission
The Buhl Building
535 Griswold, Suite 1700
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 961-6585
Fax: (313) 961-5819
Web: www.agcmi.org

Local Courts’ Websites for Updates on Policies and Procedures

Washtenaw County Trial Court:
https://www.washtenaw.org/991/Trial-Court

15th District Court:

14A District Court:
https://www.washtenaw.org/946/14A-District-Court

14B District Court:
https://ytown.org/14b-court
Member Notes

Bodman PLC is pleased to announce that Joseph R. Morrison, Jr. has been admitted as a member of the firm. Morrison was previously a senior associate with Bodman. Morrison practices in Bodman’s Ann Arbor office and is a member of the Business, Emerging Companies and Venture Capital, Data Privacy and Security, and Intellectual Property practice groups. He represents venture-backable and traditional high-growth companies in an outside general counsel capacity. He also represents high net worth individuals who invest in or actively manage angel or alternative investments. Morrison is active in the Ann Arbor startup community and often guest lectures at the University of Michigan.

Welcome to Our New Members!

Attorney Members

William C. Amadeo (P76194) – Ann Arbor Legal, PLLC
Michelle K. Billard (P81507) – Washtenaw County
Ali Harajli (P76331) – Thomas Degrood & Witenoff
Sydney M. Koch (P79855) – Washtenaw County Friend of the Court
LeAnn Denise Scott (P84053) – Law Offices of Robert June, P.C.

In Memoriam

The local legal community suffered the loss of two of its beloved attorneys:

Alice D. Irani, 84, passed away on February 22, 2020.

Keith E. Preston, 47, passed away on May 3, 2020 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

One of our beloved members suffered the loss of a loved one:

Charles Ladd’s wife, Monica Ladd, 79, passed away at home on April 11, 2020.

Our deepest sympathies are with their families.

Res Ipsa Loquitur

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