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IN THIS ISSUE:

- 4 Belle Époque By Lori K. Smith, President of the Macomb Bar Association
- 6 Commissioners Corner By Sherriee Detzler, State Bar of Michigan Commissioner - District D
- 9 Leaders Breathe Life into Visions By Rick R. Troy, Executive Director of the Macomb Bar Association and Macomb Bar Foundation
- 14 Welcome Hon. Matthew P. Sabaugh to 16th Circuit Court By Michael "Mickey" McCullough II, Sommers Schwartz & Young Lawyers Section Chair-Elect
- 16 Macomb Bar Association and Foundation Annual Meeting Spotlight
- 17 Macomb Bar Association Annual Golf Outing Spotlight
- 18 Classifieds



Macomb Bar Association

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Belle Époque

By Lori K. Smith, President of the Macomb Bar Association

I am both honored and humbled to serve as President of the Macomb County Bar Association. My sincere hope is that I can perform this role in a manner that makes you proud to be a member of the Macomb Bar Association.

The past few years have been unique to say the least with all the massive changes that were thrust upon the legal profession due to COVID. The legal community as a whole rose to the challenges presented and made valiant efforts to ensure that the rights of our clients were protected, and that fairness and justice was preserved. Was it perfect? No, but nothing truly is. The way we practice law has changed. Whether you perceive the changes as good or bad, we as a community are working together to adapt to the ever-changing circumstances. In my opinion, part of the "virtual" world that resulted from the pandemic is a disconnect within the legal community as there has been a decrease in-person interactions between lawyers, the Judiciary, and the staff.

One of my goals for this coming year is to try to re-connect with one another. I am planning the return of the Bench Bar conference in the spring, a fall event that includes membership and their families, and have several other events that I am hopeful will help accomplish this goal.

In addition, I will also be announcing the selection of Committee Chairs next month and I am confident that they will lead the individual committees to great success in promoting educational programs, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

If you have an interest in becoming more involved within the Bar or if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for future events or improvements– I welcome you to contact me. I can be reached via telephone at 586-726-1000 or via email at lsmith@orlaw.com.





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Trial College: Advanced Case Development (In Person) August 14-18, 2022

We are emerging from an unprecedented period in the practice of law . . . where we faced pixels instead of people. And if the gathering has been in a shared, in-person space, the faces have been masked. This year's four-and-a-half-day program will address what it now means to "make an appearance" . . . be it voir dire, laying foundations, making objections, opening statements, examinations, or closing arguments.

Whether remote or live, courtroom communication is interactive, so this intensive program is primarily "on your feet" training to provide attendees a real feel for utilizing the techniques, which cannot happen by just taking notes during lectures. Programming will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to give students the full benefit of training with some of the best and most experienced criminal defense attorneys in Michigan, as well as internationally recognized trial consultant and CLE trainer, Joshua Karton.

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Commissioners Corner



By Sherriee Detzler, State Bar of Michigan Commissioner - District D

New Bar Year---New work to be done!

Congratulations to each of you that has volunteered your time and talents to be part of the many State Bar of Michigan Committees and Sections. One of my very first duties as your commissioner was to go through the selection and appointment process. It was just incredible the number of our colleagues that step up to serve our profession. Apply to

serve on a State Bar Committee by August 7, 2022. Your one - year term will be from October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023. There is room for YOU!

If you've not yet explored the SBM Connect, take time to do it now---you will be AMAZED at the resources available to you!

In addition to the many committees, the various sections have work groups and positions where your contributions are welcome! Why---Why--- is everyone pulling at your time, the only commodity you have to peddle! The benefits to you are immeasurable! From one of my recent reads, these are just a few:

1. Meet New People and Build Community. Everyone loves new friends! Being a part of a team with a common goal will help you form bonds with strangers that can be life-changing.

2. Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Ways of Life. Volunteering might take you to a new part of our profession or your community you have never been to before. Volunteer programs can give you the opportunity to bring people into your social network you otherwise wouldn't get to meet and learn from those who come from different walks of life.

3. Gain a Sense of Purpose and Become Happier. What an amazing reason to do something! Who doesn't want to become happier?! Volunteering has been shown to give you a sense of accomplishment and to increase feelings of happiness.

4. Boost Your Self-Esteem. That's right! Spending time as a volunteer has been shown to improve your self-esteem! The more opportunities you take to learn new skills and gain knowledge, the more fully you will develop as a person.

5. Advance Your Career by Improving Career Prospects. Gear up! This one's a big one! Volunteering will offer you skills that can be used throughout your professional development.

6. Accrue the Health Benefits of Volunteering. It's true! There are many physical benefits that come from volunteering, and most important is that it can help reduce stress!

7. Increase Your Brain Functioning. Volunteering has been shown to increase your ability for problem solving, increase your long-term and short-term memory, and reduce your risk of developing age-related diseases. So, time to get started! (Credit: Grow Ensemble)

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."-- Winston Churchill

Kindly, Sherriee

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Leaders Breathe Life into Visions

By Rick R. Troy, Executive Director of the Macomb Bar Association and Macomb Bar Foundation

Dear Macomb Bar member,

I invite you to join me in welcoming the 2022-2023 Macomb County Bar Association Board of Directors

Your newly elected directors are:

Erin Freers-Cole

Honorable John Chmura

Sherriee Detzler

The Macomb Bar was the first local bar association in Michigan to imbed a full-fledged seat on the Board of Directors in its bylaws for the chairs of the Young Lawyer Section and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan – Macomb. Welcome Aaron J. Hall, YLS Chair and Alexandra Fedorak, WLAM-Macomb Chair.

Hon. John Chmura -Director

What or Who inspired you to enter the profession of law? My father. It is an interesting story. Throughout high school, I loved science and math, and so I went to Michigan State as a physics major. My aim was to get a



PhD in particle physics. I wanted to smash atoms for a living. Well, after four terms of calculus, I decided I'd had enough. I became a physiology major with the intention of going to medical school. Two terms of organic chemistry wiped out that plan. I didn't know what to do. It was then that my dad suggested law school. I had never thought of that before and was skeptical. My father continued to encourage me, and so I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin not really because I wanted to be a lawyer but because I didn't know what else to do. To make a long story short, I slowly warmed to the idea of being a lawyer and, as they say, the rest is history. What I learned is that your parents often know you better than you know yourself.

If Law wasn't your thing, what would you be involved in? That's a good question. There a number of things. I always thought that I could act or maybe write. Another thing that I think that I would enjoy is being a professor. I've taught some business law classes at Oakland University and derived tremendous satisfaction from that. Finally, I think that I would be good in the business world. I think that I would enjoy building my own company and seeing how big and successful I could make it.

What is your favorite bar program, event, service or project? Today, it's the golf outing. I very much enjoy socializing with attorneys at this event away from the formal atmosphere of the courthouse. It provides a great opportunity for me to get to know them and for them to know me. When I first became active in the Bar Association over 30 years ago, I enjoyed the monthly dinner meetings we used to have. These meetings featured interesting speakers discussing various legal topics of interest to lawyers and, again, provided an informal setting where lawyers and judges could know each other a little better. Perhaps we could bring those meetings back.

Care to share what you like to do for recreational

activities? These days, I really enjoy going to MSU football games. I'm a season ticket holder and make it point to, not only attend every game, but set up a nice tailgate party beforehand. Actually, each game is part of a larger event which begins the at the beginning of each week with the pre-game hype and analysis and concludes with reading about the game in Sunday's newspaper. It's a process which cannot be rushed. Also, I very much enjoy going to Las Vegas. I usually go there three or four times a year. I like the action, night life, restaurants, shows, and everything that it has to offer. And, there's nothing better than a hot craps table. I can't comment on a cold table as I've blocked that out of my mind.

Erin Freers-Cole - Director

What or who was your main motivation or inspiration to enter the profession of law? My main motivation/inspiration for entering law was definitely my father. I remember asking him when I was younger how he



could represent some of the people he represented given what they were accused of. I also remember how noble I thought it was that he was able to represent them and make sure that they were treated fairly regardless of what they may or may not have done. I continue to aspire to that idea, to be that last line of defense for someone regardless of guilt or innocence.

If law wasn't your thing, what would you be involved

in? If law wasn't my thing, I am not really sure what I would be involved in. I have enjoyed politics in the past. I have always wanted to be a philanthropist but I don't have enough money. When I win the lottery, I still plan to be.

What is your favorite bar association program, event, service, project? I love the bar association events that take me some place new and expose me to things I may not have done on my own. I also love any chance to meet with and talk to my colleagues. I want to do whatever I can to make the practice of law better for my fellow attorneys and am open to anything that can accomplish that.

Care to share what you like to do for recreational activities? I spend most of my time working or with my family. I have three young children, 10, 5 and 2 and they take up most of my time. I enjoy travelling with them and watching them grow in their chosen activities.

Sherriee Detzler - Director

What or Who was your main motivator / inspiration to enter the profession of law? My initial motivation to enter the legal profession was as a legal assistant, completing my program through Macomb Community College. As a legal assistant for Joseph E. Mihelich, one of the most prominent



attorneys in Macomb County, not only was I inspired but so fully supported, to pursue my education and become an attorney. In my early practice years, Mr. Mihelich and Judge Mark Fratarcangeli were my two greatest cheerleaders! Through their mentorship, I learned how to walk the walk and talk the talk! I am forever grateful to have learned from the very best!

If law wasn't your thing, what would you be involved in? Anyone that knows me, understands my passion to assist others succeed! In all my years in the bar review industry, I've prided myself on the ability to discover a person's hidden talents and motivate them to fly! It is my hope to continue this path with my focus on leading Michigan law graduates into the bar exam world of the "UBE--Uniform Bar Exam," coming this February 2023!

What is your favorite bar association program, event, service, project? As a "Defense Diva," one would think it would be the Annual Golf Outing, however, my new love is bringing awareness and resources to the Macomb Bar Foundation to support its community programs and scholarships. The Foundation's raffle has been a project I'm proud to promote because of all the good things we are doing in our communities.

Care to share what you like to do for recreational activities? In my downtime, I most enjoy time with my family and friends. We can be doing alot or nothing at all, and that is great. Dinners, golf, beach, 5k walks, I love them all! If you're out and about in the Utica area, don't be surprised to see me riding my bike to work, walking to the ball field, or enjoying a happy hour supporting one of the fine local establishments. Then pull up a chair---all are welcome!

Aaron J. Hall - Young Lawyers Section Chair

What was your main motivation or inspiration to enter the profession of law? Process of elimination. I started undergrad during the Great Recession with the intention of being an English Literature teacher or professor. Quickly, I realized that the economic



uncertainty was not beneficial to the market of teachers. Fortunately, I gravitated to law and never looked back. I'm grateful to be in the legal profession. It is a very fulfilling career because we're always learning while impacting people and society in a positive way.

If law wasn't your thing, what would you be involved in? I'd teach English Literature. If not, the world of finance and business has always fascinated me. Although, I'd have to dust off my calculator.

What is your favorite bar association program, event, service, project? The MCBA Golf Outing and the MCBF Gala are can't miss events. Helping with Bar Briefs is a very rewarding monthly project. Perhaps I'm a bit biased, but the YLS Holiday party is the most celebratory and joyous gathering of the year. **Care to share what you like to do for recreational activities?** My only athletic escape is golf. I'm truly addicted and love our Pure Michigan summers. I've been lucky enough to golf all around the country, but nothing exceeds Michigan's beautiful courses. My miniature schnauzer puppy, Fred, keeps me active with his demanding walk schedule.

Alexandra Fedorak - Women Lawyers Of Michigan -Macomb Region President

Who was your main motivator / inspiration to enter the profession of law? This is an easy one—my dad, Jurij



Fedorak. He has spent his entire career as an Assistant Prosecutor in Macomb County. I grew up admiring him not only for the person he is but also the important work he's done on behalf of victims and their families, especially in homicide cases.

If law wasn't your thing, what would you be involved in? I'd definitely be a high school teacher.

What is your favorite bar association program, event, service, project? The YLS Holiday Party is always a nice time. It's a great opportunity to catch up with people you haven't crossed paths with recently.

Care to share what you like to do for recreational activities? I like to spend time up north and/or on the water. There's no summer like a Michigan summer!

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Welcome Hon. Matthew Sabaugh to 16th Circuit Court

By Michael "Mickey" McCullough II, Sommers Schwartz & Young Lawyers Section Chair-Elect

Judge Matthew Sabaugh has had a long and distinguished career of serving Macomb County. He served 8 years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Macomb County, followed by a nearly 14 year tenure as Judge for the 37th Judicial District Court for the cities of Warren and Center Line. Then, in April of

2022, Judge Sabaugh was appointed to the 16th Judicial Circuit Court bench. I think I speak for everyone in the legal community that Judge Sabaugh's appointment was welcomed and welldeserved. Judge Sabaugh has the reputation as a fair and impartial jurist who treats attorneys and the public with respect and decency in his court room – a trait that enshrines trust and confidence for the public and attorneys, alike.

Recently, I had the opportunity to interview Judge Sabaugh.

Circuit Court bring with them an even more careful and considered approach. Complex cases allow us to dig deeper into the law. The judge and lawyers need to be fully prepared in each step of the case. I have been very impressed at the professionalism and quality of the support staff who help our judges do their jobs well. In

> district court, I enjoyed interacting with unrepresented litigants and helping them to understand the legal process. In circuit, almost every party is represented by counsel. In both roles, I have been impressed with the attorneys before me. I'm happy that I get to meet new people and reconnect with old colleagues. My transition has been eased by the comfort of seeing many familiar faces!

Over the course of your career, you have worked with and observed many lawyers. What makes a good and successful advocate? Preparation for

After nearly 14 years of being a District Court Judge, what motivated you to seek appointment to the Macomb County Circuit Court? I thoroughly enjoyed being a district court judge and became quite comfortable in that role. I am proud of my time there and believe I accomplished many of my goals to help improve the court system. I saw the Circuit Court as a logical step in my career path and in continuing to serve the public at a challenging new level.

So far, what is the biggest difference you see between the district and circuit courts? Every court case deserves the full attention of the judge and the lawyers. I have noticed the level and types of cases heard in the

yourself and also preparing your client. Being true to your word and never forgetting your oath as an attorney. I was happy to be part of the recent Macomb Bar swearing in ceremony and it helped to remind me of what a responsibility and honor it is to be a lawyer.

What advice would you give to an attorney appearing before you? Be professional, but don't forget to be yourself. Even though your job requires you to be adversarial, don't take it personally and always be respectful.

What experiences have most influenced your approach as a jurist? I am grateful for my experience as presiding judge of the 37th District Treatment Court. In drug court, we encounter people often at their lowest



moments. The individual participants proved to me that people can change their lives- if they are given the chance. I believe these experiences changed me as a person and helped me to become more compassionate and patient as a judge.

For new lawyers, appearing in court causes some anxiety. What advice would you give to new lawyers to help them ease the tension? First of all, we are all human and you are not alone- judges get nervous too! Being prepared will help with some of that. Be mindful, breathe and take your time. Stay focused on the work, You will learn something new every day and get more and more comfortable with time.

What do you enjoy to do when you are not working?

I enjoy spending time with my wife Rachel and our three children Alex, Sophia, and Gabrielle. Our children's sports schedules keep us pretty busy. I'm not much of an athlete myself, but I enjoy challenging myself by working out and participating in triathlons. We also enjoy camping and going on vacations together. Making memories with family and friends helps to remind me of the important things in life.

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Macomb Bar Association & Foundation Annual Meeting - June 23, 2022



1. Donn Fresard, Dana Chiamp-Litz, Lesia Fedorak, Aaron J. Hall, Melissa Simmons and Danielle Strace celebrating Aaron's Extraordinary Service Award.

2. Rebekah Sellers and Laura Keeth from Friend of the Court enjoying the event.

3. Award Recipients: Aaron J. Hall - Extraordinary Service Award, Keith Cermak - Kimberly M. Cahill Civility, and Janet Welch - Distinguished Public Service Award.

4. Foundation Past President Bill Moore, Foundation Treasurer Sherriee Detzler and Foundation Past President Lynn Davidson.

5. Attorney Chris Metry, Metry Metry & Metry and Grace Crivello, Crivello Law PLLC



Macomb Bar Association Annual Golf Outing - June 20, 2022



Tim Kohler and longest drive

3. Tim Kohler and longest drive for women's contest winner Hon. Suzanne Faunce.



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Installation Celebration September 15, 2022 Packard Proving Grounds

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