

SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Message from our President....

Alexis De Tocqueville once stated that:



"When one visits Americans and when one studies their laws, one sees that the authority they have given to lawyers and the influence that they have allowed them to have in the government form the most powerful barrier today against the lapses of democracy."

Lawyers fill an important role that no other professional fills: we are the guardians of the rule of law; we insure that all people stand equally before the law and neither expect nor receive special treatment from it. We have the potential to become the great equalizers between the powerful and the less so. But guarantees of the right to counsel in criminal matters, government funded legal aid for the poor, and pro bono activities of private lawyers, all combine to create some promise that the most important matters affecting the poor and the powerless will also be served by lawyers and the legal profession.

I believe that lawyers need to do a better job of informing the public of the significant contributions our generous GTLA members make everyday performing pro bono services, serving on various local boards, coaching sports teams, and informing the public in countless ways on matters central to the rule of law. The positive role of lawyers in the community and as defenders of our participatory form of government should lead to a genuine sense of pride in what we do. And of course we can do more.

Few among us exemplify that commitment to the rule of law and to helping the powerless more than Suttons Bay attorney Dean Robb. Most of you know Dean, and many of us will recall that he received a lifetime achievement award at our fall 2012 dinner. The award was presented to Dean by well-known attorney Jeffrey Feiger, who traveled here from Detroit to honor Dean with this well-earned award. Dean is currently traveling with a group of high school students from the Traverse City area on the Freedom Tour of historic locations in the south where the civil rights movement was born. The tour is sponsored by the Michigan Council on Human Relations and most of the participants are inner city high school kids. Having worked in Dean's office for the past several years I can attest to his bigheartedness, his love of the law and his tireless commitment to fighting for justice. Dean has always been committed to supporting outstanding local organizations such as the Third Level Crisis Center, Conflict Resolution Services, Legal Services of Northern Michigan, and the Women's Resource Center. Thank you Dean!

I want to also thank the outgoing Bar President, Deborah Rysso, for her dedication, wisdom, common sense, and hard work to move the Bar in a positive direction. Because of her constant focus on making our organization financially stable, I anticipate the Bar will become considerably more effective for its members and even more involved in helping to strengthen the fabric of our community. The coming year will be a time of building upon the changes Deborah has forged.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jim Saffell and I am the current Board President. I was born in Birmingham, Michigan and lived there until high school when my father was transferred to Denver, Colorado. I have practiced law for 27 years. About 10 years ago my wife and I decided to make Leland our home. We have been pleased with our decision to raise our children in this amazing place. Traverse City has been widely recognized as one of the most desirable small towns in the country. Most of us feel quite fortunate to live here.

I look forward to meeting with you this year and working with you to move the GTLABA toward a brighter future.

James W. Saffell
GTLA Board President

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APPEALS

Sondee, Racine & Doren, PLC attorney Maurice A. "Mike" Borden handles civil action appeals in state and federal courts. He has successfully represented individuals, businesses and insurers in the Michigan Court of Appeals and Supreme Court and in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Maurice A. Borden

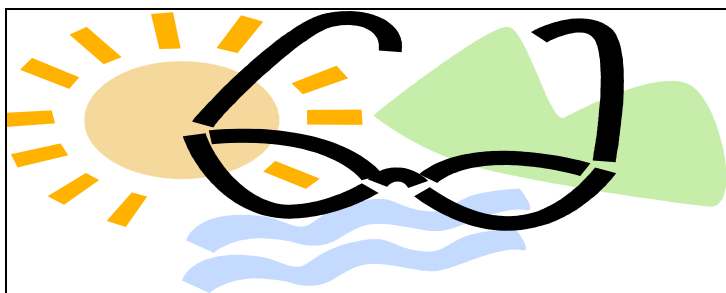
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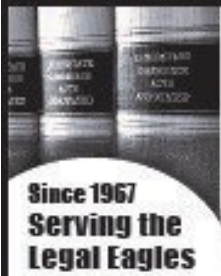
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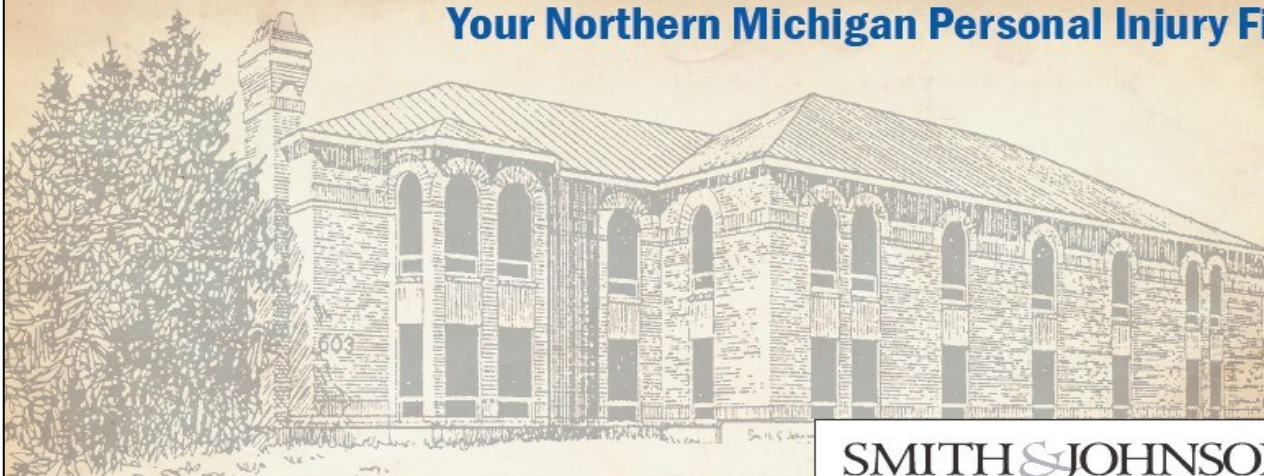
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Message to Members and Legal Community

GTLABA Members:

By way of introduction, I am Jim Saffell, the new GTLA president. I am pleased to let you know about exciting changes upcoming this year.

First, we have turned staffing of the law library over to the county. The GTLA Board felt this was an appropriate step given that the county has the obligation to operate a law library and has the resources to do so.

The Board also decided to eliminate funding for the Traverse Area Referral Service because the costs of staffing were too high when compared to the low revenues received in fees. Moreover, there is a general consensus that the program is not particularly effective.

Finally, we will be hiring a new administrative assistant rather than continue to incur the greater expense of an executive director. Hopefully that new person will begin working soon. April Sala will continue as executive director in the interim.

We expect to better serve the membership and the community by directing more of our resources into bar annual dinners, CLE programs, and other programs our membership has indicated they want us to support, such as the Third Level clinic.

I look forward to the upcoming year and getting to know you.

Sincerely,

Jim Saffell

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Bar Association Newsletter

Editors & Committee Co-Chairs: Lea Ann Sterling and Christopher Carol. Published Quarterly. Kindly mail articles and information to GTLABA by **Friday August 30** for publication in the **Fall 2013** issue. Questions or comments should be directed to Lea Ann Sterling at las@sterlinglawoffice.net or Christopher Carol at CCarol@oneupweb.com

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Heard in the Halls

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JOIN SMITH HAUGHEY

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 22, 2013 — Smith Haughey is pleased to announce that three law school students have joined the firm's Grand Rapids and Traverse City offices as Summer Associates. While at Smith Haughey, Scott Brookens, Rachael Roseman, and Selena Stanski will have an opportunity to work on projects for multiple attorneys and practice areas and will also have opportunities to attend and observe hearings, lay and expert depositions, mediations, client meetings, and trials.



About the Summer Associates

Scott Brookens is pursuing a Juris Doctor at Michigan State University College of Law and a Masters of Business Administration at Michigan State University with an expected graduation date of May 2014. He previously earned a Bachelor's degree in communication studies from Grand Valley State University, where he was the recipient of the Jurisprudence Award for Legal Writing. Brookens' professional experience includes serving as the executive producer for SBTXT Films and interning for the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Counsel. Brookens will be working in Smith Haughey's Grand Rapids office.

Rachael Roseman is pursuing a Juris Doctor at Michigan State University College of Law with an expected graduation date of May 2014. Rachael is a member of several student organizations, including the Student Bar Association and the Spartan Youth Advocacy Society. She is also the recipient of the Dean Charles H. King Scholarship. She previously earned a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies from Grand Valley State University. Her professional experience includes serving as a teaching assistant at Michigan State College of Law. In addition, she served as a legal intern for the Michigan Department of Human Services and worked as a law clerk to Judges Murkowski & Gardner. Rachael will be working in Smith Haughey's Grand Rapids office.

Selena Stanski is pursuing a Juris Doctor at Wayne State University Law School with an expected graduation date of May 2014. She previously earned a Bachelor's degree in arts, history, and secondary education from the University of Detroit Mercy. Stanski's law school accolades include serving as Vice President of the Health Law Association and Director of Finance for the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. Her professional experience includes serving as a legal clerk for the University of Michigan Office of the General Counsel. Selena will be working in Smith Haughey's Traverse City office.



Sondee, Racine & Doren, PLC is pleased to announce that attorney **Maurice A. "Mike" Borden** has been elected President of the National Cherry Festival for 2012-2013. He has served as a director on the non-profit organization's board of governors since 2009, and has been a volunteer ambassador since 1995. The festival's mission is to celebrate and promote cherries, community involvement, and the Grand Traverse Region. Since its inception in 1926, the National Cherry Festival has grown to be one of the top festivals in the nation. Mike previously served as President and Treasurer of the Grand Traverse Leelanau Antrim Bar Association.



GTLABA 2013-2014 Membership renewal will start on Monday July the 15th. Please check your e-mails for information or go to our website gtlaba.org.

Heard In The Halls

LAW CLERK PASSES BAR AND BECOMES ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY WITH LAW FIRM

Laura A. Van Hyfte



The Jay Zelenock Law Firm PLC is pleased to announce that Ms. Laura Van Hyfte has become an associate attorney with the Firm, after passing the February 2013 Bar Exam and being sworn in as a member of the State Bar before Grand Traverse Circuit Court Judge Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. on June 3, 2013. Ms. Van Hyfte was originally hired as a law clerk in March 2013 and has now become an associate attorney with the Firm.

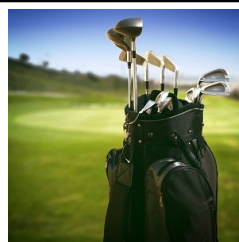
Ms. Van Hyfte grew up in southeast Michigan and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan, where she majored in both English (Language and Literature) and Political Science. She is a 2011 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, where she served as an Executive Editor for the *Michigan Journal of Race & Law* and became a member of the Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity.

Prior to joining the firm in March 2013, Ms. Van Hyfte worked at a major multi-state law firm Frost Brown Todd LLC in Charleston, West Virginia, and as an associate attorney in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she did significant litigation work in products liability, tort and insurance defense. She is licensed to practice law in Indiana's state and federal courts, as well as Michigan's. After more than a year away from Michigan, she decided it was time to return home to be closer to friends and family and move to the beautiful Traverse City area where she traveled nearly every summer when she was growing up in Michigan. Since 2009, Laura has completed three half-marathons in Michigan. She also enjoys practicing yoga several times a week and playing a pick-up basketball game when she can.

The Firm helps people and small businesses with civil matters and litigation, including cases involving personal injury, wrongful death, product liability, employment law, work injuries, wrongful termination, auto accidents, insurance claims, business law, litigation, contracts, real property and probate matters.

For more information, please contact the Jay Zelenock Law Firm, PLC, 160 East State Street, Suite 160, Traverse City, MI 49684; telephone 231.929.9529; www.zelenocklaw.com; www.wecanhelpplawfirm.com; or email [in-fo@zelenocklaw.com](mailto:info@zelenocklaw.com).

**Save the Date Golf Event 2013
Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms
Suttons Bay Michigan
1:30pm Shot-gun Start
Thursday, September 12 2013**



May 2013 FLAC

<u>Counties</u>	<u>Legal Concern</u>			<u>Persons Served</u>
Grand Traverse - 31	custody/visitation/support-2	bankruptcy-1	personal injury-1	38 clients seen
Benzie - 3	divorce-8	miscellaneous-4		Cases assigned to
Antrim – 1	landlord/tenant-5	trust/wills-1		an attorney through
Kalkaska – 1	collections-6	criminal-5		Legal Services Pro
Wexford-2	individual rights-4	contract-1		gram:- 3

Number of persons served: 28 female ,10 male. Age range 18-72. 34 White, 1 Native American and 3 Hispanic.

Attorneys who volunteered: Blake Ringsmuth, Bill Burdette, Dave Cvengros, Chuck Judson, Greg Jenkins, Dave Grunst, Dave Bieganowski, Dean Sheldon

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Top 25 Things about YLA Representative Brace Kern



1. I was born in Hollywood... Florida.
2. Raised in Lapeer, Michigan.
3. Have wanted to be a judge since I was about 10.
4. Got my Sparty on from 95-99.
5. Played on the MSU Men's Club Volleyball Team.
6. Worked midnights loading trailers for Roadway Express Trucking, then went to class, then went to volleyball practice.
7. Gave plasma for cash, but only for the promotional first five visits.
8. Participated in Pfizer's trial for Celebrex during which I unknowingly took either Celebrex, ibuprofen or a placebo to treat a sprained ankle. I needed the money to cover my lost wages from being unable to bartend at Dusty's Cellar until I could stand without crutches.
9. Lived in Cedar Village during the riots.
10. Interned in Sacramento for the Governor of California – Pete Wilson.
11. Graduated with a major in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy from James Madison College.
12. Sued DTN Management and got my security deposit back.
13. Followed the 2000 NCAA Champion Spartan Men's Basketball Team to every venue of their glorious run! (Cleveland, Auburn Hills, Indianapolis)
14. Moved to North Carolina to attend law school at UNC before realizing the South was too slow for me.
15. Gave up working from home (with a company car) as a residential claims adjuster for Auto-Owners on the coast of North Carolina to spend \$100,000 on law school on Long Island.
16. Paid my \$16,000 per semester tuition on my credit card to get the points and to avoid the mandatory \$250 late fee unfairly applied to students who need loans to pay tuition.
17. Spent the best two semesters of law school in Europe.
18. Antonin Scalia taught my class in Nice, France.
19. I clerked for two judges in the City Court of Long Beach (one judge, Roy Tepper, was a Sparty and met his wife at MSU).
20. For the first five years after law school, I defended NYC's physicians and hospitals against claims of medical malpractice.
21. When my lawyers' league basketball team finally won the division and thus the right to play the championship game in Madison Square Garden, it was when the Garden was being remodeled and they didn't give us a rain check.
22. My \$1,400 per month studio on Manhattan's Upper East Side was only 300 square feet.
23. The first time I visited Traverse City was for Father's Day of 2010, and we skied in the 55 degree bay. Unknowingly at the time, I would move here a year and half later.
24. I just bought a 2008 Four Winns (built locally in Cadillac) bowrider and I'm teaching myself to wakeboard.
25. Saving the best for last, I owe my happiness to the love and support of my girlfriend Jessica.

GTLABA Summer News

Do you need space to conduct a mediation or deposition? **Conflict Resolution Services** has rooms available to rent.

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YLA Report by Brace Kern

First, the YLA would like to thank Court of Appeals Judges Amy Ronayne Krause, Elizabeth Gleicher and Mark Boonstra for attending a reception while they were in town for a Panel 9 session.

Second, the YLA would like to thank April Sala for her valuable service as the Executive Director for the GTLABA. We will miss you April.

Finally, the YLA would like to announce that it will be hosting a summertime outing with beach volleyball, sand croquet, cornhole, water skiing and wakeboarding for all young lawyers to attend. Be on the lookout for more details in an upcoming email and on the GTLA Bar Association's Facebook page

The members of the WLA continue to volunteer at the Women's Resource Center legal clinic on the first Wednesday of every month.

The next WLA quarterly meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2013, 12 noon. We will be discussing possible upcoming activities so please come if you are able!

Please notify jkloet@shrr.com by July 5, 2013 if you will be present. Location will be determined once RSVPs have been collected



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