

Inaugural Issue 2013

RAISING THE BAR

In Genesee County

**INSIDE EVERY ISSUE: COMMUNITY NEWS, LEGAL NEWS,
TASTE OF GENESEE COUNTY AND GCBA NEWS**



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Letter From the President

KNOW THE GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

This inaugural issue of "Raising the Bar" will be the first of many. Its aim, in part, is to "reintroduce" the Genesee County Bar Association to our community, both businesses and individuals. The Genesee County Bar Association is privileged to have a membership consisting of the finest attorneys in the state. Our judges are second to none on any judicial standard.

In times of vast TV advertising, like selling soap, catch phrases consume legal commercials, and like political campaigns, he who spends the most on TV ads attracts the most attention. Massive advertising does not necessarily equate to the "best attorney" or legal service.

Attorneys in our community have consistently provided legal and community services matched by none. The Genesee County Bar Association gives back to our community. There are multiple programs such as "Ask the Lawyer" dealing with a variety of legal topics and then a continued video series. "Law Day" is a multi-day program involving the local schools and provides interactive instruction on the legal process to hundreds of students. Judges and lawyers mentor students in various areas of law, including trial tactics and courtroom debate, usually culminating in a luncheon for all and periodically a notable speaker.

"Lawyer Referral Service" provides guidance to individuals needing assistance in locating knowledgeable attorneys in the area of their specific issue.

The "Speakers Bureau" provides talented attorneys to speak to groups on any topic of their interest or choice. Attorneys prepare and give presentations without costs to any community organization.

The Annual Community Christmas Dinner may be one of the paramount activities of the Bar Association. Each year for many years, the Association has provided to our citizens, free of charge, a full Christmas meal (this year over 1,200). Full families have participated and the children each are provided a gift from Santa. An unmatched Christmas spirit is experienced by all participating, including the families as well as the Bar Association attorneys.

Notwithstanding talented TV actors, snappy catchphrases and stories of success from outside law firms, Genesee County has the most talented attorneys in the state. They are knowledgeable of the law, court systems, very competitively priced and local. We would hope that you would think of Genesee County first. You may need an excellent attorney; not a soap salesman.

By James J. Wascha, President,
Genesee County Bar Association



Directed and
Managed By
Ace Publishing

Executive Sales
Allison Joslin

Graphic Design
Lisa Tobias

Photography
Lorine Molosky
Ronald R. Campbell

Contributing Writers

Yvonne Sova
Lou Lobsinger

Hon. Duncan M. Beagle
Dayne Walling

Joanie O'Sullivan- Butler

Dave Crabill

Francine Cullari

Lynn M. Sorenson

Genesee County Bar Association
315 E. Court Street • Flint, MI 48502 • 810.232.6012

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CHANGES IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM



Duncan M. Beagle
Genesee County Circuit Judge

As a public official and a third generation attorney, I have seen significant changes in our legal system since I was sworn in as an attorney in 1975. Here are a few changes that have impacted us locally.

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS (MADD)

Since its inception in 1980, MADD has worked hard to make a difference. It went from a handful of mothers with a mission to stop drunk driving, to one of history's greatest grassroots success stories which has helped save thousands of lives along the way.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV)

Support for victims of DV grew in numbers and became stronger in the early 1990's. The high profile O.J. Simpson murder case in Los Angeles in 1995, gave increased attention to the issue, even though Simpson was acquitted in the death of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown.

In 1994, 1995 and again in 2000, Michigan changed the laws that deal with DV to make it easier for the victims of abuse to get protection, such as personal protection orders. Judges and prosecutors across the country are better educated and trained as to DV.

CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS (CVR)

Since the 1970's, the crime victims' rights movement in the U.S. has worked to give victims a more meaningful role in criminal proceedings. These include the right to restitution, to not be excluded and to speak at criminal justice proceedings.

Certain specified rights became law in Michigan in 1985. On December 24, 1988, CVR became a State Constitutional Amendment as set forth in Article 1, Section 24.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, about seven months after I suffered a significant disability. The ADA is a comprehensive civil rights law which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in several areas including employment, government programs, public accommodations and transportation.

Genesee County is fortunate to have The Disability Network, whose mission is to promote freedom, choice, opportunity and equality for people with disabilities.

CHILD ABUSE (CA)

Child abuse has been given more attention and become a higher priority in Michigan since the passage of the "Binsfield Legislation" in 1998. The laws were to strengthen investigations of child abuse and neglect by state social workers and law enforcement.

On the local level, the Weiss Advocacy Center was established with a mission to prevent CA and help survivors become children again. Six dedicated lawyers in Genesee County are part of the Child Advocacy Center (CAT), which provides legal and advocacy services to children involved in the legal justice systems.

SPECIALITY COURTS (SC)

Specialty courts across the country handle cases where an accused suffers from an underlying problem and will benefit from specialized services directed toward solving the problem. Genesee County is fortunate to have several treatment courts, including drugs, mental health, school attendance, veterans and babies (newborns to three years of age).

Change is inevitable. Look for much more in the years to come.

Duncan M. Beagle, Genesee County Circuit Judge



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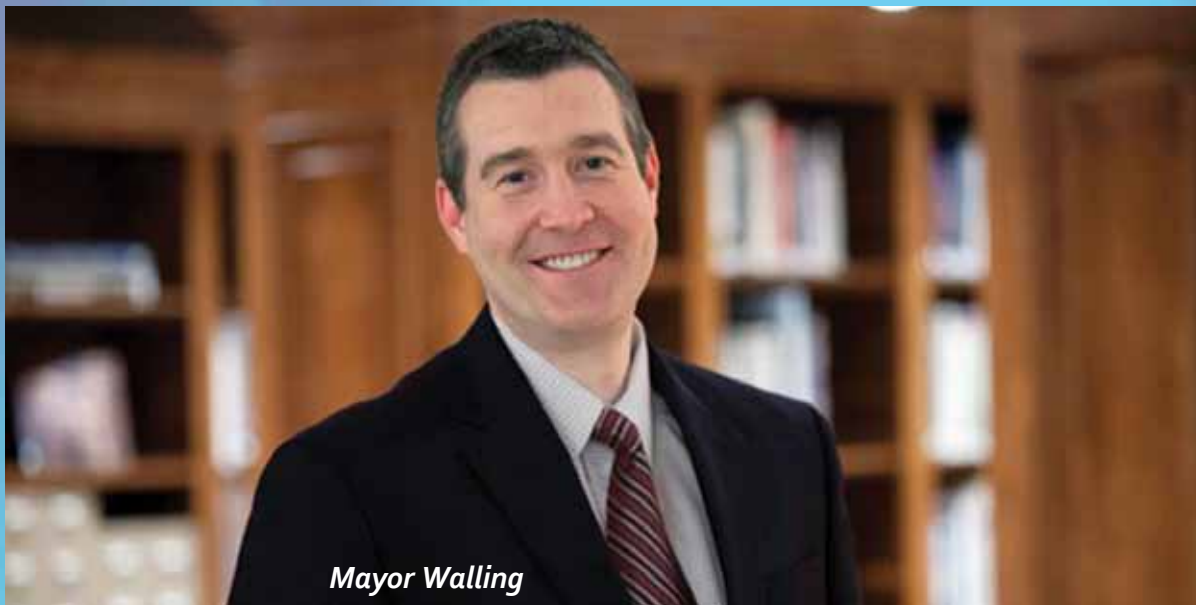
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Legal News



MAYOR DAYNE WALLING — Our country is finally having a serious discussion about violence, crime and guns



Mayor Walling

The relentless cycle of gun violence has to be arrested. Last year there were over 200 people across the country every day who ended up in a hospital emergency room with a gun shot wound. In recent years the rate has been going up, not just here in Flint and Michigan, but all across the nation as we all know too well from recent events.

It is time for a common sense approach to crime and violence, starting with illegal guns. Some say it is not guns that kill people, but people that kill people. The reality is that it is people with deadly guns that kill people. Illegal guns are accomplices to the worst and most damaging violent crimes. We need a national system of background checks that cover all gun sales including online transactions and gun shows to reduce the supply of illegal guns.

Today, only about half of the total sales are covered. The instant background check needs to be expanded so that convicted felons, persons with restraining orders because of domestic violence, and those with dangerous mental illnesses are prevented from getting guns. This is one reform that myself and all of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns are promoting. A super majority of citizens agree with this approach. President Obama has provided

his recommendation to the Congress so it is now up to the leadership in the U.S. House and Senate to act.

We also need to be proactive about addressing gaps in the public safety system. From our own history here in Flint, we know that our kids and communities are safer when there are cops in schools. Not only do they address emergency situations, they also are positive role models for our youth. A number of schools across Genesee County are doing the same thing. I suggest we look at a county wide approach that covers every school. Our current number of school resource police officers would be doubled if the federal government invested in this program with a 50-50 match.

Here's to the hope that together we can make 2013 a happy and peaceful year.

Mayor Dayne Walling is serving his second term in the City of Flint. He also serves on Flint's Downtown Development Authority and the Executive Committee of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. He can be reached at mayor@cityofflint.com or @MayorWalling on Twitter.



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SHERIFF ROBERT PICKELL – *Speaks Softly but Gets the Job Done*



by Yvonne Sova

Mayberry, we are not. Our Sheriff has to contend with situations that Andy Taylor could not have envisioned in his wildest nightmare. What would entice a young man, born and raised in cosmopolitan Staten Island, NY, to move to the factory town of Flint, MI? It was 1963, the area was booming and love was blooming. There was an abundance of opportunity here and Robert Pickell's bride-to-be had been offered a position with Carman School District and he would be teaching at Holy Redeemer.

Robert then had first hand experience in law enforcement working 3rd shift in the Flint Police Department. By 1967 he was working on special assignment to the Prosecuting Attorney, a position he held for 22 years until retirement.

Not a 'taking it easy' type of person, Robert moved to Virginia and spent 5 years traveling the world, not as a tourist but working for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

After that, who wouldn't want to return to Flint, MI? With his roots and children here Robert would, and moved back, but not to rest. He founded a private investigation agency working

mainly with insurance companies. In 1999, he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Genesee County Sheriff Department. He was elected to the position of Sheriff in 2000 and has won reelection ever since.

An increase in violence is one of the biggest challenges facing our county. Sheriff Pickell is always analyzing and implementing ways to provide a safe and more secure environment, especially for the most vulnerable – children, elderly and animals. Programs have been implemented in every school in the Genesee Intermediate School District to emphasize respect, anti-bullying and drug prevention. A young paraplegic named Jacob addresses school assemblies as a vivid example of what taking, even your first sample of an illegal drug, can do to your life.

The first Elder Abuse Prevention Program in the country was implemented by Sheriff Pickell and over 300 warrants were issued due to the vigilance of nurses, police and social workers.

Sheriff Pickell's service in law enforcement has earned many Professional Excellence Awards for him plus national recognition on television documentaries and book publications. If they were all displayed he would need a bigger office. We are privileged he chose to remain in Flint.

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RIGHT-TO-WORK



by Francine Cullari, MA, MBA, JD

On December 12, 2012, Michigan joined about half the other states in enacting "right-to-work" (RTW) laws, despite protests and a promise from Democrats to overturn the legislation. Interestingly, the first act was passed in 1947 and most RTW states adopted their laws over 30 years ago.

The concept of right-to-work laws is fairly simple. Some voters misunderstand the name "right-to-work", thinking it means if they are ready and willing to work, they have a right to a job. Nothing could be further from the truth. The laws only address whether workers should be able to choose to join a union. As the federal law stands without right-to-work laws, workers in a "union shop" must pay union dues. They do not have to participate in union activities but they pay dues and reap the benefits of union collective bargaining agreements.

Critics say that what workers really achieve under right-to-work laws is the "right to work" for lower pay, fewer benefits, no contracted grievance rights and union representation, and no collective bargaining power. Some workers have the impression that they will receive the same wages and benefits without joining the union and paying the dues, but the union cannot represent non-members and management is free to pay the non-members as management sees fit - of course, subject to market demand for individuals.

Looking forward, voters should be concerned not only with the impact on their own situations, but with two other issues: (1) the impact on the state's economy and (2) measures which will be proposed to render the law basically ineffective on the employer's control of non-union employees.

Various claims are made about the benefits on the economy the legislation will have. The Economic Policy Institute conducted a study in 2011 that found RTW laws had little or no positive impact on job growth, in spite of a handful of statistics to the contrary which do not account for other economic factors. The study is worth reading as it systematically reveals the pitfalls of the claims.

Perhaps the opponents of the Michigan RTW law will look to other means to protect workers, if workers find that they or the economy have been disadvantaged by the legislation. Perhaps the minimum wage will be increased; perhaps further mandatory benefits will be legislated; perhaps Michigan will move away from being an employee-at-will state, which means that a private employer can fire an employee for any reason or no reason if there is no personal or union contract, as long as the employer does not violate other employment-related laws, such as discrimination laws.

Keep your eye on this ball – no doubt there are more pitches in the works.

The author is an attorney, writer, and editor in Grand Blanc focusing on business law, estate planning and real estate. She teaches Business Law and Labor and Employment Law at UM-Flint. Past President of the Genesee County Bar Association, she has received many awards, including an Athena Award from the Chamber of Commerce and the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award from MSU College of Law.

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The Genesee County Bar Association Speakers Bureau has volunteer attorneys available to address your group on a variety of topics. This is your opportunity to tap into a resource of immeasurable knowledge and experience. You may call your request into the Bar Association or simply call for more information. All you need to do is determine a topic, a date and time when a speaker would be needed and we do the rest. If possible we would appreciate three weeks advance notice. This would accommodate the speaker and topic preparation.

Information on public service programs and other resources from the Genesee County Bar Association can viewed at www.gcbalaw.org. If you have any questions please contact me at (810) 232-6012.

Sincerely,
Tatilia Y. Burroughs, Executive Director
Genesee County Bar Association

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REVOCATION OF PATERNITY

By Lynn M. Sorenson



Further in this new Law, paternity of adult children can also be modified, but only if action is taken timely. This new Law will only allow up to June 19, 2013, to change the paternity of adult children and also within this one year only, children over 3 years of age.

Have you been unfairly titled as the father of a child that is not yours? Unjustly saddled with a Child Support Order, or been denied fatherhood because your baby's mother was married at the time of conception?

The Revocation of this Paternity Act revokes a mistaken Paternity Order, grants the right to file a new Paternity Petition to Modify an Order of regarding the "new" father, including the right for an Order for Child Custody, Child Support, and Parenting Time.

An action under this Law must be filed within 3 years after the child's birth, or within 1 year of this new Law, or after the date that the Acknowledgment of Parentage was signed, whichever is later. This does not apply to an action filed on or before 1 year after the effective date of this new Law.

An action for Revocation shall be supported by an Affidavit signed by the person filing the action that states facts that constitute one of the following:

- (a) Mistake of Fact.
- (b) Newly discovered evidence, that by due diligence, could not have been found before the Acknowledgment was signed.
- (c) Fraud.
- (d) Misrepresentation or Misconduct.
- (e) Duress when signing the Acknowledgment.

If the Court in an action for Revocation under this section finds that an Affidavit under subsection(2) is sufficient, the Court shall Order blood or tissue typing or DNA identification profiling as required under section13(5). The person filing the action has the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the Acknowledged father is not the father of the child. The Court, in rare cases, can ignore DNA results.

In some circumstances, this new law will seem to "open a can of worms." However, if not only for the laws of nature, our changing societal values and definitions of family, the rights of biological fathers, and the rights of the child must be protected. Any necessary correction to rectify the wrongs imposed upon families divided by the outdated Laws is long overdue.

There is a new LAW in marriage and paternity and it is creating a stir in determining who has the rights of the Father! On June 19, 2012, Michigan passed the most significant Law ever regarding families as to Affidavits of Parentage, Rights of the Biological Father, and the Rights of the Husband.

The Revocation of the Paternity Act MCL 722.1437 et.al. has changed the entire rules of the "who is the father of this child" game. Good for some, not so good for others.

This ground breaking Law allows for a boyfriend, the biological father of a child born to a married mother, the opportunity to request the Family Court to identify him as the legal "baby daddy." Likewise, the husband of the wayward wife can also say that baby is not his, but that of the boyfriend.

Mothers can clear the air by confessing their infidelity, allowing revocation of paternity initially assigned to the husband, or ex-husband. As the old Law forced him to pay Child Support following a Divorce regardless of the biochemistry and that the minor child was fathered by a 3rd party during the marriage.

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Community News

FLINT LIVES UP TO ITS NAME



by Yvonne Sovo

The Mayan Calendar may have expired but Flint certainly didn't. Our city is vibrantly alive and planning for a fantastic future. Great expectations produce great results.

The annual Holiday festivals were celebrated as in years past with new ones added. Santa arrived accompanied by bands and marchers in a parade along Saginaw Street. The milder than usual weather enticed hundreds of families downtown for the Flint Cultural Center Holiday Walk and the lighting of a solar powered Christmas tree in the green space on Saginaw and Second St. 2013 New Year's celebrations kicked off at 7am New Year's Eve with the observance of the annual international 'World Healing Day' ceremony at the Life Enrichment Center. Representatives of major world religions offered prayers in their native language to coincide with prayers for peace being recited simultaneously worldwide. Later, the flat parking lot in downtown Flint was transformed into a family festival with our first ever ball drop at 6pm for the children and another at midnight for Flint's version of the traditional Times Square event in New York City. Family events promote family unity.

Flint's heart was evident in the abundance of money, food and presents generously shared with families struggling for basic necessities. Countless volunteer hours were put in by the Salvation Army, Old Newsboys, Toys for Tots, churches and over 80 various charities to provide comfort and happiness for all in the true spirit of Christmas. Volunteers are the heart of a community.

Flint may have a reputation as a blue collar factory town but we have produced the best quality cars designed by the best engineers in the industry. We are proud to be recognized as the birthplace of General Motors. Kettering University, formerly General Motors Institute, is rated a top US school for graduate Electrical and Computer Engineers. Our University of Michigan, Flint was selected as one of the best branch campuses and Mott Community College as one of the top community colleges in the nation. Baker University is rated as one of the fastest growing business schools in the country. Powers High School located in Flint, after considering many other areas. International Academy, a K-12 school, is ranked in 3 of the top 10 state lists of school performances and top county charter on the Michigan Department of Education list. Quality education produces quality citizens.

Genesys Health System is investing \$3 million in a Downtown Flint Health Center to provide convenient urgent care to businesses, students, visitors and residents. The facility will include a retail pharmacy, an internal medicine health care clinic and a women's health care clinic. It is scheduled to open later this year or early 2014. Healthy people can produce quality work.

Beautification projects are improving area parks and empty lots have been turned into community gardens, where young people learn life skills and how food is produced. The fresh vegetables are sold to improve healthy eating habits and to support the program.

A new year brings new hope, new plans, new expectations, new determination. Webster describes Flint as a hard stone which produces a spark when struck against steel.

You can't hone steel on velvet and Flint lives up to it's name. Our people are the spark!



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Members of the Flint-Area Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) submitted their favorite Flint buildings. They selected the most appropriate ones for a Flint Architecture guide (these are just a few). It is the hope of AIA Flint that this guide will heighten the awareness of Flint's built environment for resident and visitor alike. The AIA members know that design matters and that good design can and will bring about more livable communities for all.

For a brochure detailing over 30 of Flint's buildings, contact 800.253.5468. Photos by: Robert R. Campbell, AIA

FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

concludes holiday campaign and tops goal-raising 5.5 million meals for people in need



FLINT, MI - - The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is thrilled to report success in topping its goal - raising \$926,000 to help the hungry of our community. This equates to an incredible 5.5 million meals! The \$925,000 goal seemed high at many points during the campaign, but every partner committed to doing more each week to help build momentum throughout the community and the response was great.

This past holiday season held some uncertainty for many non-profits in the area. With the looming prospect of a fiscal cliff and the loss of the Michigan Tax Credit, many strug-

gled to meet their goals unlike any other time. Yet the needs in our community have never been greater. The philanthropic commitment of neighbors and businesses truly lead to amazing results for our community.

Without the businesses, colleges and universities working together with media partners, the campaign simply would not have topped last year. The awareness generated through the campaign will continue to draw people to the cause of hunger through volunteerism and financial support. The following partners participated again this past year: **LISTED BELOW**

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan serves 22 counties through 415 partner agencies, including soup kitchens, church pantries and children's feeding programs. In 2012, the Food Bank increased its distribution to partner agencies by 12 percent and finished the year distributing over 21 million pounds of food. The Holiday Campaign helps procure food and cover transportation for product from national manufacturers, local grocery retailers and other outlets to help our hungry neighbors.

ABC12, MLive - The Flint Journal, Bay City Times and Saginaw News, Big John's Steak & Onion, CBS Outdoor, Citizens Bank, College Town Holiday Food Drive Competition- Baker College of Flint, Kettering University, Mott Community College, and University of Michigan, Hurley Fitness Center, Kroger, Security Credit Union, The State Bank, Spartan Foods and VG's Food Centers

YOUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

"Building a Posse"

by Dave Crabill



Dave Crabill's 87DollarWebsite Mobile Attracts Attention

You need a bigger herd. Attracting that herd is a challenge that requires some thought and strategy. The first step is to identify your ideal target demographic. Consider your best client and how you might define them. The more you focus that definition, the better you can speak to that person. For example, you might discover that your best clients are male, 45 to 60 years old, self-employed, love the outdoors and own a horse. You can speak to that ideal prospect like a "Cow Poke" and get a response quicker than speaking like a Valley Girl. Sure, the 20 something girl that loves the mall isn't going to relate, but she isn't your ideal client, right?

Once you have your target demo, consider the message that you want to deliver to them carefully. To get a great response from your message you should create an "Irresistible Offer" that your target would surely raise his/her hand for. Use words that erase the fear of reaching out, try to guarantee some action or deliverable that you control. Include a deadline, everyone procrastinates; give them incentive to act now. With that message you now want to decide what media to use to deliver the message.

There are a variety of methods to get targeted lists including joint ventures and purchasing a list. I prefer using Direct Response Marketing that provides measurable results. With proper tracking, we can determine our Return On Investment (ROI) and work up a system that is repeatable to build our prospect list or "Posse." Direct mail is a measurable tool, the internet offers many ways to target your audience – many for free. Start by claiming all of your listings. There may be some that have wrong information and need updating.

Then create and brand your social media pages with your unique brand image. Create a website with Search Engine Optimization (SEO) in mind and drive traffic from the social media sites to your website with compelling content. Video is a great tool to communicate your product or service, use it. A well-produced video sells. The challenge is to offer information, resources, tools and ideas to educate and inform without making direct pitches up front. You want to demonstrate your expertise and collect a prospect list to stay in front of with your message.

A properly managed marketing system will deliver a steady flow of followers into your herd which will generate new clients and new referrals. Learn more and gain access to resources for your marketing at www.escmi.com.



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Phone: (810) 732-0188
Fax: (810) 732-9104
e-Mail: careylaw@att.net

Web: www.leopcareypc.com

Law school: Thomas M. Cooley
Undergraduate: MSU, BA Political Science
Michigan Attorney License: May, 1985
Practice Focus: Criminal law, municipal law, Plaintiff's personal injury, probate, traffic

Boards: Past President, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flint; Board Member, Genesee County Bar

Association
Personal Achievements: Greatest achievement - marrying his wife Rhonda and raising their two sons, Patrick and Connor, students at MSU; guest lecturer at Mott Community College, instructor at the Law Enforcement Regional Training Academy (Police Academy)

Quote: Only if you have practiced law outside Genesee County do you understand what an unbelievable Bar Association exists here. From the day I arrived, fresh out of law school, I have always been able to count on our members for good advice and friendship. Everyone knows everyone. It's much more like a family than a formal organization. We who practice here are lucky to have it.



Lori A. Tallman
9011 Davison Rd
Davison, MI 48423
Phone: (810) 658-1555
Fax: (810) 658-1557
e-mail: attytallman@charter.net

Web: www.attyloritaltman.com

Law school: Cooley Law School 1990 graduated Cum Laude
Undergraduate: University of Michigan-Flint, Bachelor of Applied Science 1987
Mott Community College, Associates of Applied Science (Paralegal Technology) 1985

Michigan Attorney License: November, 1990
Practice Areas: Wills, trust and estate planning, probate and trust administration, divorce, business law, real estate, civil litigation, landlord/tenant, collection, traffic

Current Boards: Genesee County Specialty/Drug Court Foundation Board, Community Foundation of Greater Flint Board of Trustees, Court Officer/Referee Teen Jury Program, Case Evaluator - Genesee County, Para-Legal Advisory Committee - Baker College Auburn Hills, Davison Educational Foundation Board, Davison Community Fund Advisory Committee (Chairperson 2010-2012), Miss Davison Scholarship Pageant Committee (Director 1983-1997)

Personal Achievements: The Basics of the Freedom of Information Act, Public Corporation Law Quarterly, September, 1996, Comment, Postpartum Psychosis: The Birth of a New Defense? 6 Cooley Law Review 323 (1989); Adjunct Professor Baker College of Auburn Hills - Paralegal Program

Quote: The practice of law is a noble and well-respected profession. Attorneys should strive every day to have their actions do it justice.



Erwin F. (Fred) Meiers III
1034 S Grand Traverse St
Flint, MI 48502
Phone: (810) 238-0900
Fax: (810) 238-0066
e-mail: efmpc@aol.com

Web: www.meierslaw.com

Law School: Thomas M. Cooley
Undergraduate: MSU
Michigan Attorney License: June, 1985

Practice Focus: Bankruptcy, Family, Criminal (including capital crimes)

Boards: PAWS (animal protection); Genesee County Specialty Court Foundation; community activist for downtown Flint development

Quote: I enjoy the practice of law in our community because of the diverse nature of people I meet and their various needs, such as family harmony, credit issues, and civil rights protection.



Amy J. DeNise
Shedd-Frasier PLC
G-5121 Flushing Rd
Flushing, MI 48433
Phone: (810) 732-8500
Fax: (810) 732-8830

e-mail: adenise@sfglaw.net
Web: www.sfglaw.net

Law school: Wayne State University
Undergraduate: University of Michigan-Flint, BA Sociology and Criminal Justice
Michigan Attorney License: November, 1998
Practice Focus: Commercial litigation, Probate administration, trust administration, guardianships, conservatorships, probate and trust litigation
Boards: Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter, Board of Directors, 2009 to present

Alzheimer's Association-Central Michigan, Regional Council, 2008 to present
Walk to End Alzheimer's Committee, Alzheimer's Association, Member, 2008-current (Chairperson 2011 and 2012)

MSU Geriatric Education Center of Michigan-Flint/Hurley, Member, 2011-current
Lapeer County Senior Coalition, Member, 2012-current

Personal Interests: fishing and boating with husband and friends, deep sea fishing, baking lots of sweet treats for grandchildren

Quote: Lawyers are usually the punch line in a joke, but the truth is that we often help people during very difficult times in their lives and that is the most rewarding part of my job.



Robert M. (Bob) Crites
1030 S Grand Traverse St
Flint, MI 48502
Phone: (810) 767-5252
Fax: (810) 767-9220
e-mail: criteslaw@sbcglobal.net

www.criteslaw.com

Law School: University of Michigan
Undergraduate: University of Michigan, B.S. Mathematics and Physics
Michigan Attorney License: December, 1964
Practice Focus: Workers Compensation, Social Security, fire loss, probate

Boards: Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (appointed by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners); Genesee County Library Board; Attorney for Otisville for 30 years

Recreational Pursuits: Sailing, travelling; shooting sporting clays; big game hunting around the world, (Africa, Mongolia, British Columbia), US

Quote: Law sits at the intersection and incorporates numerous disciplines - philosophy, medicine, science, logic, psychology - and by varying the area of practice from time to time, it's easy to keep the work continuously interesting.

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FEATURED?
Please nominate the member you would like to see in an upcoming issue of 'Raising the Bar' @ www.gcbalaw.com in Contact Us.

UPCOMING EVENTS



February 25, 2013
GCBA Membership Meeting featuring Michael Brown, City Administrator, City of Flint
Location: Masonic Temple

February 28, 2013
Lunch N' Learn
Featuring Carl L. Bekofske on Bankruptcy 101: How your client's bankruptcy affects their case
Location: GCBA

March 6, 2013
Affiliate Members Sack Lunch Seminar
Location: GCBA

March 18, 2013
GCBA Membership Meeting featuring Bruce Courtade, State Bar of Michigan President
Location: Masonic Temple



March 19, 2013
"Family Law 2013" – Family Court Seminar
Location: Holiday Inn Gateway

March 28, 2013
Young Lawyers Lunch N' Learn
Hon. Joseph Farah on "Expert Witnesses"
Location: GCBA

April 14, 2013
Ask the Lawyer FREE Community Seminar Focusing on Drivers License Restoration
Location: Flint Public Library

April 22, 2013
GCBA Membership Meeting featuring Alan Kanter, Arbitrator and Mediator
Location: Masonic Temple

April 23, 2013,
Popular SBM iPad seminar

April 26, 2013
Law Day Luncheon
Location: Masonic Temple

Law Day High School Mock Trial Competition
Location: 7th Circuit Court

April 28, 2013
Affiliate Members Sack Lunch Seminar
Location: GCBA

May 2nd & 3rd, 2013
Criminal Law Seminar
Location: Riverfront Banquet Center

May 14, 2013
GCBA Movie Night – Anatomy of a Murder
Location: Flint Institute of Arts



May 23, 2013
Probate Seminar
Location: Riverfront Banquet Center

June 21, 2013
35th annual GCBA Golf Scramble
Location: Captain's Club at Woodfield.

For more information view our website at www.gcbalaw.org

GCBA MEMBERS JANUARY 2013 LUNCHEON



Starlynn Estep, Jeffrey Rocco, and Tatilia Burroughs

Amy Heater, Sandi Brill, and Shannon Huffman



Hon. Robert Ransom, Hon. Mark Latchana, and Dena Altheide

John Mandelaris, Celeste Bell, and Ward Chapman



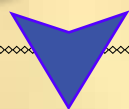
Barbara Hunyady, James Bauer, and Lori Tallman

Past President Timothy Knecht and President James J. Wascha

Lynnmarie Johnson, Jack Tubbs, and Shayla Blankenship

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A GENESEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBER YOU CAN CONTACT US AT 810.232.6012 OR CHECK INTO OUR WEBSITE AT GCBALAW.ORG

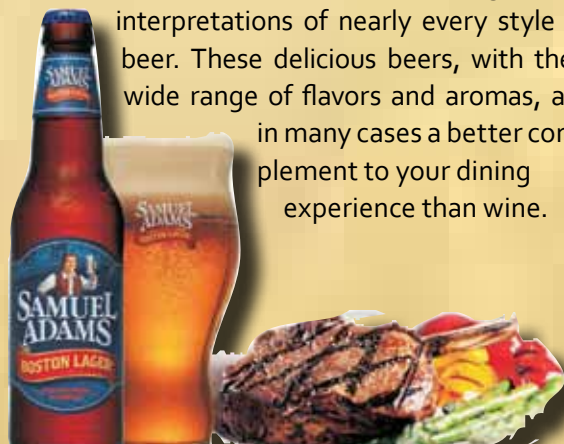
Taste Of Genesee County



FOOD AND BEVERAGE PAIRING

BY JOANIE O'SULLIVAN-BUTLER

Food and beverage pairings were traditionally reserved to the world of wines. However, the huge growth of craft beer over the past decade has resulted in breweries creating unique interpretations of nearly every style of beer. These delicious beers, with their wide range of flavors and aromas, are in many cases a better complement to your dining experience than wine.



But how does the novice begin to experience the wide world of beer and food pairings? Some basic concepts apply when learning how to pair beer with food.

First, match the flavor of the foods to the flavors of the beers. Delicate dishes work best with lighter beers while heavier, more flavorful foods should be paired with stronger beers. Food and beer combinations always work best when they share a common flavor or aroma. For example, one of the most popular beer pairings is chocolate with the sweet, chocolate malted notes of a stout. If you start off your meal with an appetizer, such as bruschetta, calamari or a mixed green salad, it is best to start with a crisp, light beer. The light, crisp clean feel of Saugatuck Oval Beach Blonde Ale would provide a perfect compliment to these dishes. A lighter main course of chicken and pasta dishes pair well with the light yet hoppy taste of the classic Pilsner Urquell. Seafood dishes pair excellently with a lighter wheat beer like Leinenkugel's Honey

Weiss. Burgers, steaks and roasted meats demand a more flavorful, full-bodied beer. Heartier beers, ranging from darker lagers to porters and stouts balance the robust flavors of the meats. Great examples are Samuel Adams Boston Lager, Batch 19 Pre-prohibition Style Lager, Palm Belgian Ale, and Arcadia London Style Porter.

Spicy foods, such as buffalo wings, Szechuan chicken and Mexican dishes offer unique pairing opportunities. Beer styles with more hops, such as India Pale Ales, help cut the spices in the food. Other pairing opportunities include pairing regional beers with regional foods. A perfect example is drinking Negra Modelo or Modelo Especial with spicy, Mexican foods.

Beer is one of the best matches for cheese, whether it is a cheese platter or even pizza. In fact, where wines can cover up some flavor in the cheeses, the carbonation of the beer creates a lighter acidity and brings out the fats and flavors of the cheese on the palate. Likewise, the nutty characteristics of brown ales such as Newcastle Brown Ale and Arcadia Nut Brown Ale provide an excellent complement to the flavors of cheddar cheese. Fruity beers, such as Blue Moon Belgian White, bring out the flavors of soft ripened cheese like Brie. India Pale Ales blend nicely with the complex flavors of blue cheeses and the bitterness of the hops cleanse the palate.

While matching desserts with the proper wine can be challenging, dessert and beer work beautifully together. Rich, full flavored beers balance out the sweetness of the desserts. Chocolate and dark beers, such as Leinenkugel's Creamy Dark, go wonderful together. Lighter, fruitier beers, such as Samuel Adams Cherry Wheat, pair well with fruity desserts and cheesecakes.

For all courses of your meal, think beer.

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EL POTRERO RESTAURANT

by Lou Lobsinger



and sounds. All I could say was como esta usted, which is all I know how to say. My waitress was not impressed.

As I finished the last of the chips, my waitress Elvia, delivered my check and was nice enough to provide me with more information about El Potrero. The owners have been in business for eight years and have four other locations, on Fenton Rd in Flint, West Main Street in Owosso, South Saginaw in Flint, and another named El Adobe in Mt Morris, and there may be another location sometime soon. She told me everyone who works there are either family or friends and if you go to work there as a friend, you will

soon be considered family. Ellie, (she said I could call her Ellie), recommends the "Special Dinner" and the "El Guero Special" as well as the many lunch specials. In the short time they have been open they already have a list of regulars. Their new downtown location is at 836 S. Saginaw and open everyday. For more information you can call 234-7745. When you get there, if Ellie is your waitress tell her "Lou sent you" and she will say Lou who????

Being a taco lover, I knew it was only a matter of time until I would make it over to the El Potrero, a new restaurant downtown where the Baliwick used to be, you know right across the street from the courthouse. It was last week when I decided this was the day and I have to tell you it was a very pleasant surprise. I was greeted at the door and shown to a booth that had a good view of the flat screen televisions and was very comfortable. My waitress showed up promptly and welcomed me with a smile and some chips and salsa. You need to know the promptness, the smile, the chips and salsa and I knew I was making a good decision. After a quick look at the menu I decided on the three tacos on the soft shell and a beverage, since it was still working hours I ordered a coffee even though they have a very good array of adult beverages for those of you reading this that appreciate an adult beverage.

The tacos arrived and I set aside the chips and bit into my first taco and once again I was pleasantly surprised they were just right. Needless to say I finished them quickly and sat back to appreciate the décor. For a moment I thought I was back in Mexico with the vivid colors, sights



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Their dinner entrees include a 6 oz. Filet of Beef, Cuban Braised Pork Shoulder, Butternut Squash and Hazelnut Lasagna, just to mention a few.

They have over 80 wines to choose from and a full bar selection. If you are not sure of the type of wine you would like, they have a wine-dispensing system that allows customers to taste 1 to 2 ounce samples. In addition, you can learn more about wine in a casual, fun environment and explore the characteristics of wine to help you find your favorites by attending their monthly classes. Then, you can save on your favorite wines by taking advantage of their regular wine sales.

The restored marble building in Downtown Flint is the perfect location for such a quaint place to eat.

They are open for dinner on Tuesday through Saturday at 4pm. Lunch is available on Friday starting at 11am. www.corkonsaginaw.com



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