

September/October 2006

BARBE AT

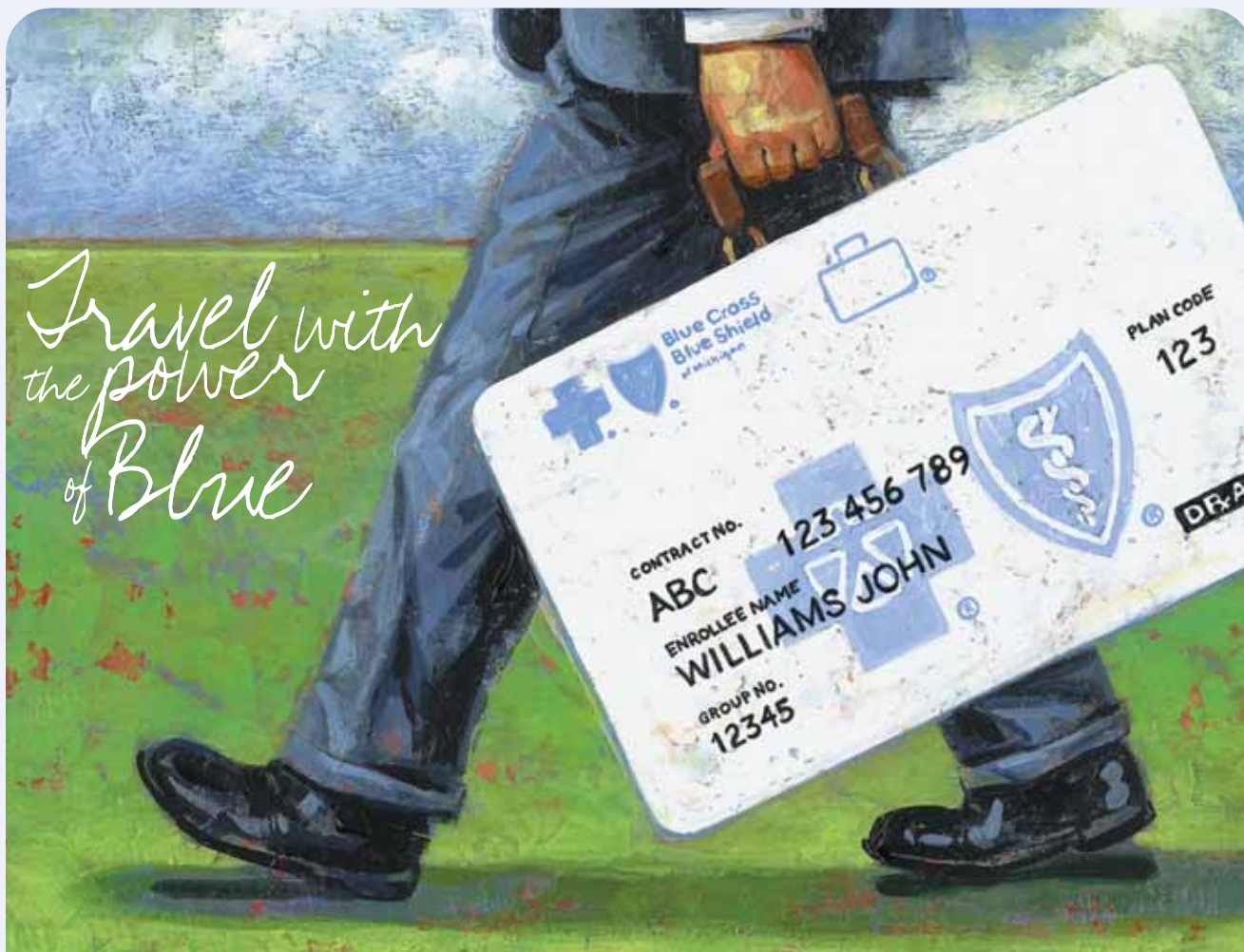
Genesee County Bar Association



The Summer Cottage

The Right of Self-incrimination in a
Civil Case

My Remarkable Brother, Otis
Honorable John L. Christensen
Constitutional Rights



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On the Cover

The summer cottage you intended to paint this year, but the children wanted to swim
 and many friends visited. Maybe next summer...

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❖ **Publications**—"Private Mediation," Bar Beat, July 1995; "Facilitative Mediation," April 1996 and "Michigan Mediation Update," June 2004, Michigan Lawyers Weekly

Assessing the Past, Looking Forward

by Kraig S. Sippell, President

I look back upon my 13 years of involvement with the GCBA with fond memories, and look forward to many more to come. I have stated, time and again, that the real strength of this association has been, and continues to be, the character and quality of its members. It is "the" characteristic that sets us apart from most other associations. These individuals include the consistently efficient and competent staff, from my early days under Jack Minore to the present day under Ramona, Tatilia, Star, and our new intern, Jessica Davis. It is due to our ability to continue this legacy of quality individuals that I confidently iterate that the GCBA is the "best bar association" in the state.

It has been since the leadership of Walt Griffin that the board has engaged in a board retreat, and even further back to the early 1990s since we have engaged in any meaningful strategic planning. Under the direction of our esteemed past president, Bill Reising, and thanks to Ramona and a few persistent board members, we have decided that now is the time to take stock of our many accomplishments, reflect upon our deficiencies, and focus upon a meaningful process to successfully deliver us into the 21st century a bigger and better association. That said, it is time to look forward!

We have begun the summer of 2006 with a well-designed membership survey in conjunction with, and under the direction of, the American Bar Association. The membership survey was conducted in May, weeks in advance of our June 15th Strategic Planning Session. The intention of the survey is to provide useful information, both good and bad, as a springboard to a frank discussion of how we have been doing and what we can do better. First and foremost, how do we define the GCBA? What is our purpose, and more

specifically, what we are trying to accomplish? With that in mind, the board of directors met for a daylong session to address these issues. The results of that session are now being processed by the ABA facilitator for dissemination to the board.

The application of the lessons learned at the retreat, and information gathered, will be the primary focus of the board and association for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and beyond. The successful implementation of strategic planning not only depends on the bar leadership, but also the involvement of every possible member, from our most senior attorneys to the newest individuals just recently joining our ranks. I welcome and encourage every member with suggestions, compliments, and complaints to stand up and be heard. Now is the time to speak up about how we should move forward. To air your thoughts, simply take a few moments to contact me personally or by e-mail, ksips@gcbalaw.org, or any board member.

It is my goal that no idea, suggestion, or attempt to assist will be ignored. Along these lines, one suggestion from the planning session was to provide a better system of communication between the members and the leadership and staff, to allow for continuing dialogue as to where we are succeeding and where we are falling short.

The first step has already begun. We are off with a bang with the completed membership survey. The survey was disseminated by e-mail to 460 association members, and the response exceeded the goals and projections of the ABA, based upon similar surveys it has conducted. Specifically, 126 individuals, or approximately 27% of those who received the e-mail (and 25% of the total membership) completed the survey. The details of the survey, the



Kraig S. Sippell

report from the board retreat, and strategic planning outcomes will be the focus of an ongoing series of articles to our membership through this publication.

At this time, I would like to thank those whose participation in the survey will be the crucial first step in strengthening this association to meet the challenging times ahead. I urge you again to PLEASE "stand up and be counted" and heard. Now is the time! Don't miss this opportunity to have an impact upon the direction in which we boldly forge ahead.

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Otis M. Smith Tribute

by Ramona L. Sain, Executive Director

For those able to attend the Otis M. Smith Legal Milestone dedication ceremony at the University of Michigan - Flint in June, the event was rich with dignitaries, including Thomas Cranmer, State Bar president; Most Reverend Bishop Carl Mengeling, Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing; Olivia Maynard, University of Michigan regent; Hon. Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court; and keynote speaker Dennis Archer, former Michigan Supreme Court justice, mayor of Detroit, ABA president and SBM president.

Each speaker spoke of Otis Smith's sense of integrity and honesty and shared personal stories on how Smith affected his life personally and professionally. Smith was the first African-American Michigan Supreme Court Justice, and also the first African American to serve as general counsel to a fortune 500 company, General Motors.

The highlight of the service, however, was the presence of Otis Smith's younger brother, Hamilton Smith, from Washington, D.C. Now in his mid-eighties, the spry, self-effacing, down-to-earth sibling of one of Michigan's most important legal historical figures was blunt in his assessment of race politics while growing up, and the changes he and his brother experienced through the years. Faced with adversity and the possibility and fear of failure, Otis Smith never let obstacles stand in his way. In fact, he made a conscious decision to keep himself above the fray by avoiding political allegiance to any person or caucus while on the bench, which at times made it very difficult. But, as Otis Smith stated in his biography, *Looking Beyond Race*: "... you really have to define yourself; do not let other people do it for you."

Hamilton Smith tempered his comments with a wealth of humor and

interesting anecdotes. When I attempted to talk with Mr. Smith after the ceremony, he was surrounded by a gallery of admirers three deep. I recall thinking that if Otis Smith had half the personality and presence of his younger sibling, then he surely was a force to be reckoned with.

Otis Smith served as an inspiration for all attorneys from all walks of life, and our association should be honored to claim him as one of our own. As with most ceremonies, the real story is the one which occurs behind the scene. In this instance, it was Judge Phil Elliott's initial recommendation for Smith to be considered for a legal milestone, and the members of the State Bar of Michigan Legal Milestone Committee selected Smith. One committee member is GCBA Past President Francine Culhari, whom I strongly suspect was instrumental in the selection of Smith.

Seminar Series Kick-off

The ADR Committee of the Genesee County Bar Association and the Centennial American Inn of Court are collaborating on a series of seminars and presentations to improve the negotiation skills of all interested Genesee County lawyers. As Linda Pohly, coordinator for the series, recently wrote, "All lawyers, regardless of specialty, are negotiators. The vast majority of disputes settle before trial, and the settlements depend on the skills and knowledge of the negotiators. There is a large body of practical and academic literature concerning negotiation, and most business and management schools offer full courses in the subject. The series will be designed to help Genesee County lawyers improve negotiated outcomes for their clients and manage difficult negotia-



Ramona L. Sain

tions and difficult negotiators more effectively."

The series will kick off on September 19, 2006, with a Centennial Inn of Court meeting at Kruse and Muer in Grand Blanc, with emphasis on general negotiation skills. The meeting is open to all interested lawyers.

On October 19, 2006, a seminar on case evaluation providing training to evaluators and advocates is scheduled. The goal is to improve the results and settlement prospects resulting from case evaluation.

Many dates and details for future programs are still being finalized, but the November calendar calls for a program in the domestic relations area, providing guidance for negotiating in an emotionally charged setting. The January 22, 2007, GCBA Monthly Membership Meeting will feature a topic on negotiating. In February, a workshop for criminal defense attorneys is scheduled. In March, the ADR Committee of the State Bar of Michigan will make a presentation. The culmination of the series will conclude at the Centennial Inn of Court meeting on April 18, 2007. Further details will be announced as the year progresses.

Mark Your Calendar

2006-2007 Membership Meetings
12:00 PM Masonic Temple, downtown Flint

September	18, 2006	3rd Monday
October	16, 2006	3rd Monday
November	20, 2006	3rd Monday
January	22, 2007	4th Monday
February	26, 2007	4th Monday
March	19, 2007	3rd Monday
April	16, 2007	3rd Monday
May	21, 2007	3rd Monday

The Right of Self-incrimination in a Civil Infraction Case

by Thomas Donnellan

Occasionally, the prosecutor in a civil infraction matter wishes to prove an essential part of his case with the testimony of the Defendant. It is not generally known that Michigan possesses a statute which specifically prevents this approach.

MCCL 600.2154 provides: "Any competent witness in a cause shall not be excused from answering a question relevant to the matter in issue, on the ground merely that the answer to such question may establish, or tend to establish, that such a witness owes a debt, or is otherwise subject to a civil suit; but this provision shall not be construed to require a witness to give any answer which will have a tendency to accuse himself of any crime or misdemeanor, or to expose him to any penalty or forfeiture, nor in any respect to vary or alter any other rule respecting the examination of the witnesses."

The statute is unchanged from R.S. 1846, Chapter 102, section 84, and the formulation of the evidentiary rule appears to extend back to Tudor times. It became established in every part of the early United States.

The general court rule on privilege, MRE 501, which applies to self-incrimination, states: "Privilege is governed by the common law, except as modified by statute or court rule."

Historically, three privileges allowed a witness to control his personal honor, dignity and integrity, when asked questions which could cause the witness to be incriminated, disgraced, or exposed to a penalty. The most important privilege is the privilege against self-incrimination. The privilege does not apply to civil infractions, because the infractions are not crimes. *People v. Ferency*, 133 MichApp 526, 351 NW2d 225 (1984).

The second is the privilege against self-infamation, or answering questions under oath which would tend to bring disgrace upon the speaker. *Brown v. Walker*, 161 US 591 (1896); see *In Re Vince*, 2 NJ 443, 67 A2d 141 (1949). This privilege is no longer recognized in Michigan. *Jennings v. Prentice*, 39 Mich 421 (1887).

The third privilege protects defendants from answering questions in court that would expose them to a penalty sought by the government. *State v. Burton*, 163 WVa 40, 254 SE2d 129 (1977). The privilege is part of the common law and has been codified in the above cited statute in Michigan since 1846.

Origin of Privilege

The statutory privilege against questions exposing witnesses to penalties has a history similar to the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination in the Bill of Rights. The Fifth and Sixth Amendments, however, which were submitted to the states, were limited to criminal procedure. There is no indication that the Fifth Amendment was intended to abolish other privileges that are not necessarily related to crimes, even privileges that had similarities to self-incrimination privilege.

A self-accusation is not necessarily limited to a self-accusation of a crime. It can also be a self-accusation of infamous behavior, or a self-accusation of something that could cause the imposition of a penalty. While there is a self-incrimination privilege everywhere in the United States, we must look to the law of the various states to determine whether the related privileges have been preserved. The privilege against being required to take an oath in court and being required to expose oneself to a penalty has been preserved in

Michigan by MCL 600.2154.

Only responses subjecting the individual to criminal penalties were included in the Fifth Amendment. However, each of these types of responses was recognized as privileged by common law. See 98 *CJS Witnesses*, 540, p. 513 (West Publishing Co., Minneapolis, 2002) and John H. Wigmore, *A Treatise on the Anglo American System of Evidence in Trials at Common Law*, vol. III (Boston, 1940, 3rd ed.) sec. 987, pp. 572-617.

The statutory privilege against involuntary exposure to penalties goes back to the earliest days of this state. The people may abolish this privilege whenever they want. Until then, the privilege must be recognized and given effect by the courts of the state.

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GCBA 2006 Annual Meeting



(l-r) Lynne Taft, Hon. Judith Fullerton, Ward Chapman, Karen Folks



Edward Henneke, 2006 Distinguished Case Evaluator of the Year



(l-r) Hon. Mark McCabe, Dean Yeotis, Jim Wascha



(l-r) Jeremy Piper, Hon. Archie Hayman, Matthew Lawrence Norwood, and Mike Jablonski



(l-r) President Bill Reising, President-elect Kraig Sippell



(l-r) Gail Shulman accepted the 2006 Herbert Milliken, Jr. Civility of the Year Award from John Siler. The award was given posthumously to her husband Leonard Shulman.

My Remarkable Brother, Otis

by Hamilton Smith

Otis Smith was my only brother and lifetime best friend.

Like Leonardo DaVinci of the famous or infamous *DaVinci Code*, and Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president, he was indeed a renaissance man.

DaVinci was an engineer, scientist and painter, having painted the famous *Last Supper of Christ* as well as the beautiful *Mona Lisa*. Thomas Jefferson was a farmer and an inventor, having invented a plow that won a prize offered by France, and a parliamentarian having authored a manual and *Parliamentary Procedures*, which was used by Congress. He was also a lawyer.

Otis similarly had many talents and was diverse in his interests. He loved philosophy. He and his good friend, Lytell Barrett, would often discuss Socrates, Plato and Aristotle until midnight. He loved the theater, and we would always take in a couple of plays when we were in New York. He loved music, having sung in the Glee School at the Booker T. Washington High School in our hometown of Memphis.

He was quite angry with me when he graduated from high school because he bought a ring to marry Boots Bartholomew, his high school sweetheart, and I implored him not to do so, telling him that he was very talented and should go to college instead.

He was quite a football player, having earned a letter in high school, and played a bit of professional football for a team known as the New York Bombers.

The *Detroit Free Press* said of him in an editorial that all of the candidates were certainly qualified for the vacancy on the Michigan Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice, but that Otis stood out as the best. Not only was he recognized as being the best on the Michigan Supreme Court, he was called



(l-r) Tom Cranmer, President of the State Bar of Michigan, Dennis Archer, and Hamilton Smith with the legal milestone plaque honoring Otis Smith on June 21, 2006, Flint

"the greatest general counsel General Motors ever had" by the former chairman of General Motors, Thomas A. Murphy. In doing so, it might appear that he was doing what his favorite poem by Douglas Malloch said: "Be the best of whatever you are."

Years later, after having lost his bid for reelection to the Supreme Court, and subsequently becoming the vice president and top lawyer for General Motors, the largest corporation in the world at that time, he said that he would thank his opponent for the Supreme Court position for having won the election every time he went to the bank.

Otis was what is called "a mama's boy." He worshipped our mother, who went no farther than the fifth grade, who made us go to St. James Methodist Church every Sunday as boys, and

who constantly admonished us to "go to school and be somebody but not get bigheaded."

Going to church every Sunday had quite an impact on Otis. His favorite Biblical quotation was Micah 6:8, which says, "What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to walk humbly with my God." Otis became the best, but he never became bigheaded. He remained quite modest. He always felt that "any job beats no job." This philosophy of life was put to the test when he needed a job one summer after completing two years of law school at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. A circus came to town, and when he applied to the circus for a job, they gave him a shovel and broom, instructing him to follow the elephant. Wow!

My brother Otis was indeed a remarkable fella. Today, a huge portrait



David Collins speaks about Otis Smith's years at GM

of him hangs on the wall of Catholic University Law School in Washington, D.C. because he is recognized as one of its most distinguished, if not most distinguished, graduates. When Otis was a student there, he was the only black American there. Today, the dean is a black American woman. When Otis graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in our hometown, Memphis, his football coach, Julian Bell, said to Otis, "Big Red, go to Chicago or New York and never tell anybody that you went to Booker T. Washington High School. Just say Washington High School." Otis asked, "Why do you say that, Coach?" Coach Bell said, "I cannot escape bigotry because of my brown skin. Jewish Americans often change their names to escape bigotry." Otis told Coach Bell, "Thanks, but no thanks!" Many years later, he saw Coach Bell, and he said to Otis, "I see you did it the hard way, fella!" Wow! What a remarkable man, indeed!

Ed. note: Hamilton Smith prepared the above remarks for the dedication of the State Bar of Michigan Otis M. Smith Legal Milestone, placed on the U of M campus in Flint on June 21, 2006. Other speakers included Thomas Cranmer, SBM president; Most Reverend Bishop Carl Mengeling, Diocese of Lansing; Olivia Maynard, U of M regent; Hon. Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court; and keynote speaker Dennis Archer, former Michigan Supreme Court justice, mayor of Detroit, ABA president and SBM president.

Be the Best of Whatever You Are

*If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley—but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.
If you can't be a bush be a bit of grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass—
But the liveliest bass in the lake!
We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.
If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or fail—
Be the best of whatever you are!*

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Honorable John L. Christensen

by Francine Cullari

How does a judge with approximately 1,400 pending cases cope with the volume? If it is John Christensen, Administrative Law Judge at the Social Security Administration (SSA) in Flint, he schedules 50 or more hearings a month and hopes for help from visiting judges. There are a total of 8,000 cases pending, or an average of 1,400 cases for each of six judges, the full complement of judges for the Flint office. The court covers 15 counties in the eastern half of the Michigan lower peninsula. Last summer, visiting judges helped to decrease the backlog.

The selection of judges follows Federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) rules. A judge must have been admitted to practice for seven years, have experience in administrative procedures, rules of evidence, and trial procedure, written and oral communications skills, analytic ability, decision-making ability, and judicial temperament.

OPM reviews the above qualifications and ten cases litigated by the applicant. If the review is favorable, the OPM contacts the judges and opposing counsel for evaluations. If they are positive, the applicant is given a written examination. If s/he passes, OPM interviews the applicant, assigns a numeric score, and places the candidate on an eligibility list.

When there is an opening, the Chief Judge or an agency representative interviews the top three candidates. The interviewer makes a recommendation to the director of the agency. The process from the initial application to appointment usually takes a couple of years.

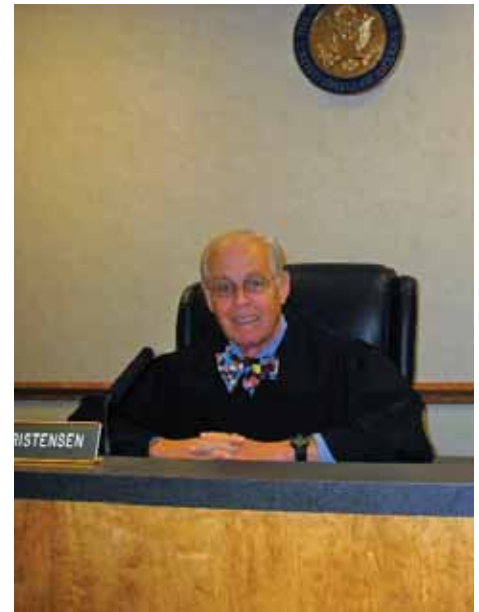
There are 1,400 federal administrative law judges in the country, with 1,200 assigned to the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) of the Social Security Administration. Ninety per-

cent of the OHA hearings are appeals from adverse determinations of disability issues by State Disability Determination service staff. The remaining ten percent relate to overpayments, dependency, paternity, and evaluation of income and assets.

After obtaining a degree in English from Wayne State University and a law degree from Detroit College of Law, Judge Christensen began his law practice as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the 1970s, followed by private practice in personal injury law as a sole practitioner, then with Lopatin Miller. He expanded his fields of practice at Lopatin to medical malpractice, professional licensing, employment discrimination, and construction liability.

Judge Christensen always had a desire to become a judge, but he was a Democrat during Governor Engler's administration, which led him to apply for the federal bench. He received support from the Michigan Trial Lawyers, a number of judges and George Bushnell, the past president of both the SBM and the ABA, but did not make the final cut. At the same time, John hedged his bets, also applying for a federal administrative law judge (ALJ) position. He now appreciates his fate of a lifetime appointment, where he traded prestige and "fishbowl" stress on the federal district bench for a position in which he has a serious impact on the lives of disabled persons.

As an ALJ, Judge Christensen directs his own docket and schedule. He is assisted by a lawyer, a paralegal, and a secretary. The cases are typically not complex and not subject to pressure and scrutiny, so that he is able to make independent decisions. The ALJ decisions are subject to appeal in the federal district courts, and many are appealed, but rarely beyond the district court.



Judge Christensen encourages lawyers to consider a practice in social security law. He believes it is less stressful than a typical law practice, with well-defined substantive and procedural law. Only 10 percent of claimants appear *in pro per*. There are no juries, the hearing is not open to the public, and no special license is required to practice. Attorneys are paid under a contingent fee arrangement of 25 percent of the accrued benefit or \$5,300, whichever is less, unless a special petition is filled and granted. The average favorable decision is in the neighborhood of \$200,000 over the lifetime of an applicant.

The judge provides several tips for administrative law practitioners:

- Be prepared by knowing exactly what is in your file.
- Be clear on whether the client has an impairment (such as a ruptured disk) or a limitation (bending, inability to focus).
- Develop the distinction through specific testimony to show a disability.
- Do not depose expert testimony—medical records are sufficient unless the judge decides he needs an expert.
- In a SSI case, develop clearly the inability of the client to work.
- Review the vocational analysis prepared by the SSA-provided expert before the hearing—the experts are directed to be independent. Their

role is to advise the court if there is work available in the state of Michigan for a person of the same age, education, experience, and disability as the applicant.

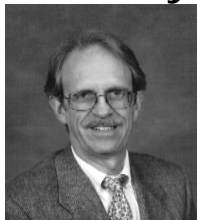
Nationally, approximately 70 percent of claimants prevail. No statistics are kept on individual judges, so judges are not influenced by the proportion

of their cases for or against claimants, and so there is no attempted influence on the judge.

Judge Christensen has been married for 39 years to Joyce, a retired computer professional. He has a daughter in Ohio and a son in Detroit.

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THRIVE.

Letter to the Editor

The purpose of this note is to thank the Genesee County Bar Association for recognizing and demonstrating appreciation for the military service of our members.

I was fortunate. Although I served in Vietnam, I served in a safe location. I was fortunate in war, but negatively affected by the lack of acceptance when I returned home. I can only imagine, and I expect not accurately, the feelings of those who experienced combat, only to return to a hostile community. I cannot imagine the feelings of those who were wounded, or of the families who lost a loved one.

Often people expressed their frustration with the political process by shunning the veteran. Their frustration is misplaced.

Iraq is another controversial military activity. I hope Americans are able to separate their pro and con feelings about Iraq from the respect and acceptance owed those who serve, whether called or volunteer.

Dissent and the expression of dissent is American. Respect for those who serve our country is just as American. For a period, this respect was allocated primarily to those who served in non-controversial conflicts. Respect should never be reserved only for those who serve in popular wars or police actions.

I thank the Bar Association for the recognition. Recognition carries with it a significant element of acceptance. I urge each member to take just a few seconds to reflect on those who served and whose recognition is reflected on the Vietnam Memorial.

Thank you.

Gary J. Piggott

Ed. note: Post-WWII veterans were honored in the May/June issue of Bar Beat and at the May membership meeting.

Constitutional Rights

by K. C. Baran

Pundits would have us believe that the Bush administration is trampling our individual constitutional rights with impunity. Self proclaimed "constitutionalists" advocate the impeachment of the President and are making comparisons to Nixon's Watergate.

In order to objectively analyze the issue before opining whether the President broke the law, a review of the statute is necessary. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), 50 USC 1801 et seq, allows for surveillance with and without court orders. The President may direct surveillance to acquire foreign intelligence through the Attorney General without a court order when the surveillance is *directed at foreign powers*; there is *no substantial likelihood* that surveillance will intercept contents of a communication by a citizen of the United States, and minimization procedures are utilized. Thus, surveillance without a court order is allowed, and contentions that any surveillance without a warrant is unlawful are baseless. More importantly, FISA does not forbid interception of foreign intelligence information without a court order *if the source is a United States citizen*; it only requires that the surveillance is *directed at a foreign power* and there is *not substantial likelihood* that the surveillance will intercept communications of United States citizens.

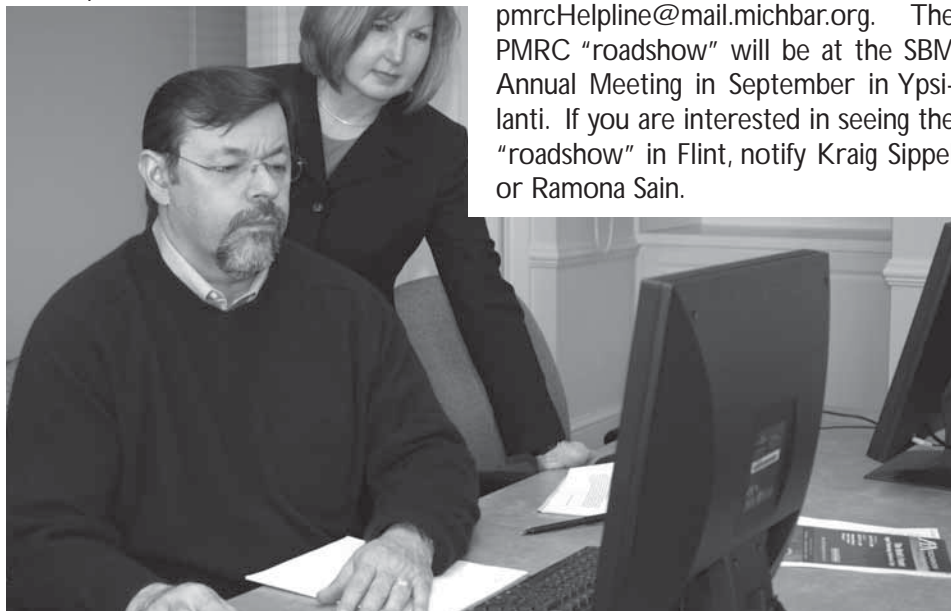
Court orders are required where there may be a likelihood of interception of communications by U.S. citizens. Such precautions are taken. In fact, last year, the government made applications for searches to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court in 2,074 instances to conduct electronic surveillance and 155 times for access to business records. Although many would have us believe that a clandestine effort to destroy the Constitution is afoot, the Department of Justice actually reported these figures to

Congress as required.

Some fear that domestic political and religious groups are being monitored. Recent developments in Canada demonstrate that aggressive domestic intelligence gathering is effective in thwarting terrorist activity. The Canadian government uncovered a plot to commit acts of terrorism against its government officials, including beheading the Prime Minister, through monitoring communications of its own citizens within its borders. The Royal Mounted Police even monitored the activities of a mosque where fervent terrorists gathered.

Additionally, the recent death of terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was brought about by intelligence gathering techniques with the cooperation of many countries. Such efforts can protect the United States against future acts of terror. More importantly, we may never know how many acts of terrorism have already been avoided and how many innocent lives have been saved by the intelligence gathered by the Bush administration.

Ed. note: The author submitted his comments in response to The Winegarden Letter, Bar Beat, March-April, 2006.



SBM Practice Management Resource Center

The new Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) at the State Bar will assist members to better manage the business component of practicing law. From outfitting an office with the latest software to effectively marketing one's practice, PMRC provides multiple types of assistance. The service is accessible through the State Bar's website at <http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/content.cfm>. In addition, an Educational Center at the SBM Lansing offices is staffed to assist lawyers and/or their staff to "test drive" software.

Online and Lansing PMRC provide access to articles, features, and forms for business development, financial management, and calendar and docket control. The Legal Software Directory contains links to dozens of vendors offering software applications to assist members in the day-to-day management of a law practice. In the near future, a lending library will be available for members to search law practice management publications, tapes, CDs, and other resources, which can then be requested online or at the SBM offices.

For more information or confidential assistance, contact the PMRC Helpline at 1.800.341.9715 or pmrcHelpline@mail.michbar.org. The PMRC "roadshow" will be at the SBM Annual Meeting in September in Ypsilanti. If you are interested in seeing the "roadshow" in Flint, notify Kraig Sippel or Ramona Sain.



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Linda Pohly, a GCBA Board member, also serves on the Flint Children's Museum Board of Directors. Pohly solicited monetary donations from GCBA members to sponsor the month of July at the museum. July's theme was Stars & Stripes and featured a wide range of patriotic activities, including a performance by the Church Street Singers, a Civil War presentation by Greg Branch, and a visit from Randy Spohn of the Michigan National Guard.

Additional money from the GCBA sponsorship purchased free access passes that were used by members of the community to visit the museum during July. The Flint Children's Museum extends its appreciation to Linda and GCBA donors and invites attorneys and their families to enjoy the museum.

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Packages Shipped to Iraq



(l-r) Star Estep and intern Jessica Davis prepare packages for Bob Swartwood

Items and contributions were collected from GCBA members for GCBA member, Col. Robert Swartwood, recently deployed to Iraq. In a recent e-mail, Bob expressed his appreciation for the card and gifts, some of which he used himself and distributed the rest to soldiers and Iraqi friends. Bob wrote, "One single mother in particular works for me as an interpreter. She has three children at home that she supports. When she leaves for work, the children are locked in the apartment and never allowed out due to the violence in Baghdad. To

make matters worse, the power is out at least 50 percent of the time, and they swelter in 120-degree heat. My friends at the Bar feel very proud of the gifts and the joy you brought to those children and that family. Like all third world countries, we have so much, and they have so little. Thank you for your generosity and kindness."



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