

September/October 2013

# BARBEAT

Genesee County Bar Association



**Alaskan Adventures**  
Dawn and Ron Crichton

Words from the Prez  
Meet Your Board of Directors  
Urban Farming—A Regulated Industry  
or a Free-For-All  
Senior Attorney Update  
Mobile Computing Opportunities  
and Threats  
Who's on the Bench?  
William H. Crawford II, 68<sup>th</sup> District Court  
Business Court Basics  
Criminal Law Seminar Update  
Alaskan Adventures

# Protecting your health. Today.



You plan every detail of your practice to ensure its success. Nothing is left to chance.

Don't take chances with your health insurance. You and your staff deserve a quality Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Michigan health plan.

- Group plans
- Individual plans
- Recognized worldwide
- Solutions tailored to your needs

To learn more about the affordable BCBSM plans, contact Member Insurance Solutions.

Call **800.878.6765** or visit [memberinsurancesolutions.com](http://memberinsurancesolutions.com) today.

**Protecting tomorrows. Today.**



A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



*Member Insurance Solutions is a marketing name of MDA Insurance & Financial Group.  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.*

## Genesee County Bar Association

### 2013-2014 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT – Erwin F. Meiers III  
VICE PRESIDENT – Jeffrey J. Himelhoch  
TREASURER – Michael A. Kowalko  
SECRETARY – Shayla D. Blankenship  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – James J. Wascha

### Specialty Bar Board Members

Young Lawyers Delegate – Jessica J. Hammon  
Women Lawyers Delegate – Vacant  
Mallory, VanDyne, Scott Bar – Torchio W. Feaster  
Flint Trial Lawyers Representative – Michael P. Parillo

### Board Members

Leo P. Carey '14	Morgan R. Cherry '14
Craig L. McAra '14	R. Paul Vance '14
Jade J. Edwards '15	Richard S. Harris '15
Lynne A. Taft '15	Hon. Joseph J. Farah '15
James N. Bauer '16	Sherri L. Belknap '16
Kyle R. Riem '16	Angela Watkins '16

### Staff

Tatilia Y. Burroughs, Executive Director  
Eileen M. Harris, Office Manager  
Starlynn J. Estep, LRIS Specialist

### Bar Beat Editor

LindaLee Massoud  
BarBeat@gcbalaw.org

### Genesee County Bar Association

315 E. Court St., Flint, Michigan 48502-1611  
(810) 232-6012

For editorial information, call (810) 232-6000.

Published bimonthly by the State Bar of Michigan,  
306 Townsend St., Lansing, MI 48933, for the  
Genesee County Bar Association. For advertising,  
call (517) 346-6315.

No material in *Bar Beat* reflects the opinion or endorsement of the  
Genesee County Bar Association, unless otherwise stated.

# Table of Contents

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>4 Words from the Prez</b>  | by Erwin F. Meiers, III  |
| <b>4 Meet Your Board of Directors</b>   |                          |
| <b>6 Urban Farming—A Regulated Industry or a Free-For-All</b>                       | by Leon J. Letter        |
| <b>7 Senior Attorney Update</b>   |                          |
| <b>8 Mobile Computing Opportunities and Threats</b>                                 | by LindaLee Massoud      |
| <b>9 Who's on the Bench? William H. Crawford II, 68<sup>th</sup> District Court</b> |                          |
| <b>9 Business Court Basics</b>  | by Roberta J.F.Wray      |
| <b>10 Criminal Law Seminar Update</b>   | by Amy K. Harris         |
| <b>11 Alaskan Adventures</b>  | by Dawn and Ron Crichton |

## Advertisers

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan  
inside cover

Larry Day  
Mediation, Arbitration & Umpire Services 3



Cover photo by Ron Crichton

Robert M. Ransom, Private Judging 5

Jakeway, Jakeway & Jakeway, PC 6

Dale R. Ellery, CPA 10

Yeo & Yeo  
CPAs & Business Consultants 10



**Larry Day**

*Attorney & Mediator*

**(810) 603-3400**

[www.mediationday.com](http://www.mediationday.com)

## MEDIATION, ARBITRATION & UMPIRE SERVICES

- ◆ **Mediation Training**—Harvard University, Nova University, State Bar of Michigan and ICLE
- ◆ **Experience**—Practicing mediator since 1995; selected to mediate, arbitrate and umpire hundreds of cases. Practicing lawyer more than 30 years.
- ◆ **Chairperson**—Genesee County Circuit Court Civil Mediation Committee, 2004 and 2012
- ◆ **Publications**—“Private Mediation,” *Bar Beat*, July 1995; “Facilitative Mediation,” April 1996 and “Michigan Mediation Update,” June 2004, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*
- ◆ **Mediation Methods** – Facilitative. Evaluative, only with consent of all parties. Minimal use of joint session.



# Words from the Prez

By Erwin F. Meiers, III, President



Erwin F. Meiers, III

The economic impact on the business of providing legal services and obtaining public defender court appointments in our community has been huge over the last couple of years. The decline in population, the loss of quality jobs, cuts in budgets and changes in the law have left our business income at “barely running” levels.

As president of the Genesee County Bar Association, I want to learn what I can do to protect what we do have and prevent further loss. I further want to put in place programs and an energy to build on for our future.

In our community we must thank our clients who stay local when retaining services from within our ranks. We must emphasize our knowledge of the Genesee County legal landscape and our ability to get things done in our legal system while providing the best legal service possible.

We must be community activists and leaders in our non-profits, our schools and other community based organizations where we can create positive energy for Genesee County and the Genesee County Bar Association. We need to spread the word that we are best equipped to provide legal services for our community needs.

The Genesee County Bar Association needs your help and support. Ideas and actions are welcome from our members to promote the GCBA to the Genesee County Community as a whole, from Montrose to Goodrich and Otisville to Argentine. We must be all-in for educating the residents here to “hire your local attorney.”

## Meet Your Board of Directors



Leo P. Carey



Morgan R. Cherry



Craig L. Mc Ara



R. Paul Vance



Torchio Feaster

### Leo P. Carey - 2014

**Family:** Wife, Rhonda; two sons, Patrick and Connor  
**Undergraduate school, degree and grad year:** Michigan State University, BA Political Science, 1980  
**Law school and grad year:** Thomas M. Cooley, 1984  
**GCBA member since:** 1985  
**Areas of practice:** Criminal law and juvenile offenses, personal injury, premises liability  
**Contact Info.:** 2305 Stonebridge Dr., Flint MI 48532; (810) 732-0188; careylaw@att.net  
**Past committees and activities:** Board member, GCBA; FTLA (now MAJ); Former president and board member, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flint, Michigan  
**Reasons you believe in service to the GCBA:** I think it is important to support the GCBA as it does so much for our legal community and the citizens of Genesee County.

### Morgan R. Cherry - 2014

**Family:** Husband, Mark; daughter, Evelyn  
**Undergraduate school, degree and grad year:** Western Michigan University, Bachelor of Business Administration, 2003

**Law school and grad year:** MSU College of Law, 2010  
**GCBA member since:** 2010  
**Areas of practice:** Personal injury, no-fault law  
**Contact Info.:** Behm & Behm, PC, 209 Schwartz Dr., Flint, MI 48503; (810) 234-2400; morgan\_cherry@ameritech.net  
**Past committees, and activities:** Holiday Dinner; executive committee member of the Centennial Inns of Court; Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ)  
**Reasons you believe in service to the GCBA:** Involvement in the GCBA provides an opportunity to be engaged with members of the legal profession and the community at large. I appreciate the camaraderie of our local bar and the natural mentoring that develops.

### Craig L. Mc Ara - 2014

**Family:** Wife, Heidi; children, Bernard and Alice. Grandson of Hon. Harry B. Mc Ara  
**Undergraduate School, degree and grad year:** University of Notre Dame, BS Microbiology, 2000.  
**Law School and grad year:** Emory University School of Law, 2003

**GCBA member since:** 2007

**Areas of practice:** General litigation, landlord-tenant, real estate, collections, appeals, personal injury, and product liability.

**Contact Info.:** Gault Davison, PC, G-4485 S. Saginaw, Suite 2, Grand Blanc, MI 48439, (810) 234-3633; cmcara@gaultdavison.com

**Past committees and activities:** Prior to coming home to Michigan, 2005-2007, Assistant Public Defender, Fulton County, GA; Publications: Product Liability for Lightning Induced CSST Fires; Fulton County Public Defender Motions, Forms and Research Bank CD-ROM (2007)

**Reasons you believe in service to the GCBA:** We (lawyers and judges) are an essential part of this community. The lawyers and judges of a civil society are responsible for maintaining the rights, property and safety of its citizens.

#### **R. Paul Vance - 2014**

**Family:** Wife, Whitney; son, Kellen

**Undergraduate school, degree and grad year:** Michigan State University, BA in History, 2001

**Law school and grad year:** Michigan State University College of Law, 2005

**GCBA member since:** 2003 (as law student), 2007 full membership

**Areas of practice:** Medical malpractice defense, general civil litigation, transactional and business law, contracts and sports and entertainment law.

**Contact Info.:** Cline, Cline & Griffin, P.C. 503 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 1000 Flint, MI 48502; (810) 232-3141; pvance@cgglawyers.com

**Past committees and activities:** GCBA Young Lawyers Chair 2007-2011; MDTC, Young Lawyers Section Chair, 2010-2013; MDTC Board of Directors, 2013-present; MSU Varsity S Club, Ancient Order of Hibernians, President of Genesee County Division; Michigan Ancient Order of Hibernians, Flint Community Schools Athletic Ad Hoc Committee, Flint Sports Council, Flint Community Schools Education Development Plan – Volunteer Evaluator; SBM-YLS Executive Council, 2011-2013.

**Reasons you believe in service to the GCBA:** To promote local attorneys, engage in community service, networking opportunities, professional development and continuing education and mentoring. And most importantly, to help carry on the tradition of excellence of the GCBA which so many members, past and present, worked so hard to establish.

#### **Torchio Feaster - Mallory, VanDyne, Scott**

**Family:** Wife, Dr. Rosalyn Maben-Feaster, MD; daughter, Taylor

**Undergraduate degree and school:** Eastern Michigan

University, BA Political Science/History, 2004

**Law school and grad year:** University of Dayton School of Law, 2007

**GCBA member since:** 2007

**Area(s) of practice:** Criminal defense, family law, general  
**Past committees and activities:** Urban League Board of Directors; Mallory VanDyne Scott-President; State Bar of Michigan Jury Instruction Standard Criminal Committee; Flint National Pan Hellenic Council - Secretary; GCBA Board of Directors - Mallory VanDyne Scott Representative; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity - My Brother's Keeper program (designed to aid elder fraternity members); GCBA Northern High school Mock Trial Coach.

**Contact Info.:** T.W. Feaster Attorney at Law PLLC, 436 S Saginaw St. Ste. 300, Flint, MI 48502; (810) 424-4050; attorneyfeaster@gmail.com

**Reasons you believe in service to the GCBA:** I believe in the bar association because it creates opportunities for attorneys to give back to our community. It allows us to aid the underprivileged and use our education for the best benefit of our community. The bar also trains us and opens doors that allow us to learn and become better attorneys. I love what I do. I am glad to be back home helping the people of the city that raised me!

## **PRIVATE JUDGING**

**Facilitation/Mediation/Arbitration**

**36 Years Judicial Experience**



**Robert M. Ransom**

**810-659-6221**

**Cell 810-813-8090**

**Ransom05@comcast.net**

# Urban Farming—A Regulated Industry or a Free-For-All

By Leon J. Letter



Leon J. Letter

The local food movement has been around for decades and has gained strength as interest in urban agriculture has grown. Consequently, traditional conflicts between rural and urban living have resurfaced.

Many urban areas have prohibited, through ordinances or zoning, residents from engaging in agricultural activities such as keeping backyard chickens or growing crops. In an attempt to avoid local restrictions, some individuals have tried to use a state law protecting farmers as a tool for promoting urban agriculture.

The Michigan Right to Farm Act<sup>1</sup> provides protection for farmers from nuisance litigation.<sup>2</sup> In order for the Act to apply, the farm must be commercially producing, harvesting, or storing farm products.<sup>3</sup> However, the Act does not provide a minimum threshold for how much a farmer must sell to be considered a commercial farm under the Act. In *Charter Township of Shelby v. Papesh*,<sup>4</sup> the township argued that a small flock of backyard chickens was a nuisance. In deciding whether the poultry operation was protected by the Act, the Court of Appeals

defined commercial production as “the act of producing or manufacturing an item intended to be marketed and sold at a profit”<sup>5</sup> and concluded, “There is no minimum level of sales that must be reached before the RTFA is applicable.”<sup>6</sup> Therefore, an urban chicken farmer selling eggs to neighbors could be considered covered under the Act.

If a farm is covered under the Act, the farm is also provided protection from local regulation since the Act provides,

[T]his act preempts any local ordinance, regulation, or resolution that purports to extend or revise in any manner the provisions of this act or generally accepted agricultural and management practices developed under this act. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a local unit of government shall not enact, maintain, or enforce an ordinance, regulation, or resolution that conflicts in any manner



## Jakeway, Jakeway & Jakeway, PC



- ☞ Your Genesee County Personal Injury Referral Connection
- ☞ Accepting Referrals in All Injury Matters
- ☞ Millions Paid Out in Referral Fees

G-8161 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

(810) 694-1211 ☞ [www.Jakewaylaw.com](http://www.Jakewaylaw.com)

with this act or generally accepted agricultural and management practices developed under this act.<sup>7</sup>

The Court of Appeals has interpreted this provision broadly and, therefore, if the farming operation complies with “generally accepted agricultural and management practices” or GAAMP’s, the farm is protected from nuisance litigation and virtually all local control over its operation.<sup>8</sup>

GAAMP’s have been developed by the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development.<sup>9</sup> However, there are different interpretations of how the Right to Farm Act and the GAAMP’s apply to small-scale farms in urban areas.

For example, questions often arise whether a backyard chicken farmer is protected by the Act. Under the current version of GAAMP related to site selection for livestock facilities, the provisions that restrict the location of farming operations only applies to farms with a minimum of 5,000 chickens. Since there is no GAAMP for small chicken farms, the argument is made that no compliance is required since there is nothing to comply with and the small chicken operation can locate anywhere. Therefore, as long as the urban backyard chicken farmer is engaged in commercial activity, the farmer is protected under the Act and from local regulation.

However, opponents to urban farming reference language in the GAAMP that states that “new and expanding livestock production facilities should not be constructed in areas where local zoning does not allow for agriculture uses.”<sup>10</sup> The problem with relying on this language comes in the next sentence of the GAAMP, which provides “any proposed site with more than the maximum number of non-farm residences specified in Table 4 for a new operation, and Table 5 for an expanding operation, is a Category 3 site [making it inappropriate for new or expanding livestock production facility.]”<sup>11</sup> In looking at Table 4 or 5 of the GAAMP, small backyard chicken operations would not be included and, therefore, the argument is again made that the prohibition contained in the preceding sentence does not prohibit small chicken operations.

To counter this argument, opponents argue that the

inability to comply with a GAAMP means that no protection is granted by the Act, since the Act conditions the protection under the Act with compliance with GAAMP<sup>12</sup>. If a farming operation does not comply with a GAAMP (since it does not apply), then the protection must necessarily fail.

There is pending appellate litigation related to the application of the Right to Farm Act to urban farming which will likely resolve these issues. Further, there have been proposals to review and amend the GAAMP’s to address the issues of urban farming which have not yet been acted upon. Therefore, attorneys advising urban farmers should be aware that this is a dynamic area of the law that can have implications for urban farmers, local governments, and residents living with this new reality.

### Endnotes

- 1 MCL 286.371, et seq.
- 2 See MCL 286.473; MCL 286.474
- 3 MCL 286.472; MCL 286.473
- 4 704 NW2d 92 (2005).
- 5 *Id.* at 99.
- 6 *Id.* at 99 n.4.
- 7 MCL 286.474(6)
- 8 The GAAMP’s were recently amended so cities with more than 100,000 people can develop their own ordinances for agriculture. See “*Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Order Control for New and Expanding Livestock Protection Facilities*,” Michigan Department of Agricultural and Rural Development, January 2012.
- 9 See MCL 286.474(8)
- 10 “*Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Order Control for New and Expanding Livestock Protection Facilities*,” Michigan Department of Agricultural and Rural Development, January 2012, page 9.
- 11 *Id.*
- 12 See MCL 286.473(1)

---

## Senior Attorney Update

The GCBA Senior Attorney Luncheon was held at noon on June 13, 2013 at Valley Family Restaurant (corner of Miller and Linden Road). In photo seated left to right are Doug Buck, Judge Tom Yeotis, Sally Joseph and Judge Tony Mansour. Standing left to right are Judge Bob Ransom, Ed Henneke, Bob Crites, Rich Barron, and Dick Ruhala. The fall luncheons will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup> at the same time and location. GCBA members, retirees, and guests are welcome. No reservations are necessary. Attendees order lunch from the menu.



# Mobile Computing Opportunities and Threats

By LindaLee Massoud



LindaLee Massoud

We are entering (another) new era in computing devices. Two topics are particularly relevant to attorneys: BYOD (bring your own device) mobile devices and cloud computing. The security and safety of your clients' data depends on your care in using both of these features.

BYOD (bring your own device) refers to using a smart phone, tablet computer or other mobile device rather than a standard work station. The proliferation of these devices has resulted in more and newer types of malware and phishing programs. Some suggestions for securing these devices include:

1. Lock the device with a password.
2. Encrypt all data stored on the device.
3. Establish an authorization form and procedure for remotely wiping the data from a lost, stolen, or misplaced device.
4. Never use a public Wi-Fi. Other options include: using mobile hotspots (tethered to a smart phone or another option), using only secure (https://) sites, and creating a Virtual Private Network (VPN) for access to the main company.
5. Purchase one of the several "Bluetooth leashing" devices that sound an alarm if the device is separated from the alarm by a certain distance.

A second consideration is using the cloud for data storage. This would be instead of, or in addition to,

local hard disk storage. There are numerous companies that currently host such storage. Three cloud options are public, private and hybrid. (More information: "Private, Public or Hybrid Cloud," <http://tinyurl.com/79pjz2e>)

Be aware that some types of data fall under federal regulations or requirements and might not be eligible for cloud storage.<sup>1</sup>

When cloud storage is used, be sure there is a service-level agreement (SLA) The SLA should include a service summary, availability guarantees, security details, disaster recovery expectations, and service-request parameters.

Since it will not be possible to avoid these two considerations for long, it is best to start conversations now about how to safely incorporate mobile devices and cloud storage into your practice.

**Source:** Drew, J. (2012). Managing Cybersecurity Risks. *Journal of Accountancy*, 214(2), 44-48.

## Endnote

- 1 Lawyers should be aware of their ethical obligations to protect the confidentiality of client information MRPC 1.6. Ethics hotline number is: (517) 485-ETHX

## New Member Profile—Richard Hetherington

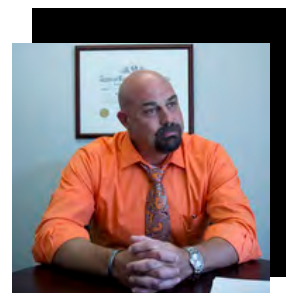
Richard Hetherington is a hometown boy and former Flint police officer. He is engaged to be married to Kim Rock. He has four children, ages 24, 22, 20 and 16.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Michigan-Flint.

About his reason for becoming a lawyer he says, "I aspired to the law early in my adult life. However, once in college I explored the possibility of becoming a police officer. I was employed as a police officer by the City of Flint for 23 years. Toward the end of my career I was becoming burned out and felt I was lacking intellectual challenge. I decided to return to school. I obtained my JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School (2012) to fulfill my early aspirations."

Richard is currently employed at the law firm of Christenson & Fiederlein, PC. He says, "I hope to combine my extensive law enforcement experience with my new legal career and provide incomparable criminal defense. After all, who better to protect you from the police, than the police?"

During his law enforcement career he received the department's highest award for valor, the Meritorious Citation. He also received an award for bravery from the One Hundred Club of Flint.



Richard Hetherington



## Who's on the Bench?

### William H. Crawford II, 68<sup>th</sup> District Court

Being a judge in Flint right now can be frustrating. Judge William H. Crawford, II, of the 68<sup>th</sup> District Court, says the lack of resources seriously hampers his ability to be innovative in dealing with the problems of people trapped by a harsh economy; and helping people was his motivation for ultimately choosing law as a profession.

When he started college young Bill Crawford was headed for a career as an optometrist. He chose Ohio State University because it had one of only 13 optometry schools in the country, and it was "more appealing to me than Ferris State." Somewhere along the way he says, "I realized I was lousy at science, but I was good at English." It probably didn't hurt that his mother, Chris, was an English teacher.

He obtained his BA in English in 1979 and then entered The Ohio State Moritz College of Law, graduating in 1982. To help pay for his education, he worked for General Motors, the Genesee County Parks Department, and Meijers. He also worked in the Franklin County, Ohio, Public Defender Office.

He began his law career by helping open the very first GM/UAW Legal Service Plan office in Flint. He spent time as an assistant Flint City Attorney prosecuting drunk driving and domestic violence cases and researching and drafting many ordinances.

After a period in private practice specializing in complex litigation and employment law, Crawford returned

to the city as its Chief Legal Officer. In 1997, he became Judge Crawford, appointed by the governor.

His advice to young lawyers is, "Prepare, prepare, prepare! It makes all the difference (between success and failure) to know all the potential outcomes of a case." He also said, "Find what you love that you can be paid for and do that."

He finds great satisfaction in being able to help people. He was inspired in that pursuit by his father, a Flint school administrator, who encouraged him to try to "help the less fortunate." He says he tries to "judge and not be judgmental." He also understands that sometimes the laws "are harsh on people without adequate (financial) resources," but he tries to find ways to help them deal with their problems in the least harmful possible way.

Judge Crawford and his wife have three children, ages 23, 21 and 19, to whom he is passing on the advice of his father, "to reach back and help someone else, and don't forget where you came from."

*Photo originally published in The Flint Journal October 30, 2012 and at [http://www.mlive.com/opinion/flint/index.ssf/2012/10/editorial\\_keep\\_william\\_craf.html](http://www.mlive.com/opinion/flint/index.ssf/2012/10/editorial_keep_william_craf.html) © 2012 The Flint Journal. All rights reserved. Used with permission of The Flint Journal.*



William H. Crawford II

## Business Court Basics

By Roberta J.F. Wray

It's too soon to tell how well this is going to work, but since July 1, 2013, Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Judith Fullerton has been the assigned Business Court Judge. Appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court, Judge Fullerton will preside over all cases involving "business and commercial disputes in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.00." (MCL600.8035)

The object is to "improve efficiency and . . . enhance the accuracy, consistency and predictability of decision in business and commercial cases." ([www.gc4me.com/departments/circuit\\_court\\_7th/business\\_docket.php](http://www.gc4me.com/departments/circuit_court_7th/business_docket.php))

As of September 1, 2013, cases in Genesee County Business Court require a notice on the initial pleading that the case involves a business dispute. So far, half a dozen cases have been assigned to the new court.

The definitions applying to this new court are found in MCL600.8031. The statute requires assignment to Business Court if "all or part of the action includes a business or commercial dispute." (MCL600.8035) A case that has a business component will be reassigned to Business Court even if it initially did not include such a component, but one was added by a responsive party, or as the result of a cross-claim, counterclaim, third-party complaint, amendment or any other modification. (MCL600.8035(6))

At some point, someone more knowledgeable than this writer will provide us with a report on how the Business Court is working and what unusual or unexpected occurrences have followed from its implementation.



Roberta J.F. Wray

# Criminal Law Seminar Update

By Amy K. Harris, Criminal Law Committee Chair

The Genesee County Bar Association's annual Criminal Law Seminar was held this year at the Riverfront Banquet center on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. With funding provided by the Genesee County Bar Foundation, our criminal law section put together an outstanding seminar themed towards presenting challenges to difficult cases.

Our expert speakers provided engaging insight into their subject areas. Attendees were given advice on analyzing and challenging physical evidence such as ballistics reports, Datamaster tests and blood analysis, and analyzing evidentiary challenges under the confrontation clause and hearsay rules.

A lunch panel reviewed how a youth proceeds through the court system, including the differences between representing clients in the juvenile versus adult systems. Updates were given on changes in criminal law from the past year, and the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction.



Amy K. Harris

Local attorneys from alternative sentencing programs provided information on drug court, mental health court, boot camp, and veteran's court. We received especially positive feedback from our young attorneys on a session which provided advice on what to expect in surrounding counties.

For the second half of our seminar, we teamed with the Michigan Association of OWI Attorneys to provide guidance on handling drug and alcohol cases, including how to build a practice in this area, how to cross examine state witnesses, and how to engage the jury.

Our speakers and panelists included Judges Duncan M. Beagle, Joseph J. Farah, Mark Latchana, and Geoffrey L. Neithercut; Prosecutors David S. Leyton and Timothy Turkelson, Assistant Prosecutors Steve Beatty, Jay Snodgrass, and Michael Tesner; MSP Bridgeport Crime Lab Director Ryan Larrison; Dean Tracey Brame of Cooley Law School; DHS agent Ron Winkler, probation officers Stacey Carter and Rick McElwain; Dr. Andreas Stolz; Court Administrator Jim Bauer; and defense attorneys Jeremy Brehmer, Jeffrey S. Crampton, Matthew McKone, Barton Morris, Michael J. Nichols, James Piazza, Jeffrey Skinner, Major White, and Gary Wilson.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback we received reflects how much the attendees appreciated having a local seminar with excellent speakers. Our thanks go out to all of our speakers, panelists, attendees, and to the Bar Foundation for making our seminar such a success.



## Dale R. Ellery, CPA

Masters degree in Taxation

- Audits/Taxes
- IRS Issues
- Expert Witness
- Prepaid Funeral Exams

**CALL TODAY (810) 653-7979**

Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants



5577 Horseshoe Lane  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
www.drellerycpa.com

## Make the *strongest case* for your client

### An essential piece.

Yeo & Yeo's experienced valuation, fraud and forensic accountants have the *training and credibility* essential for your case. From research and pre-litigation consulting, to case strategy and expert testimony, our professionals provide *quality* advice and support.

- Business Valuation
- Litigation Support
- Economic Loss Analysis
- Divorce & Disputes
- Expert Witness Testimony
- Intellectual Property
- Forensic Accounting
- Fraud Investigation
- Succession Planning
- Estate & Gift Taxes



FLINT | 4468 OAK BRIDGE DRIVE | 800.899.4742



Rebecca A. Millsap, CPA  
Principal, Flint



David W. Schaeffer  
CPA, ABV, CFF, CMAP  
Managing Principal,  
Saginaw



Jeff L. Hauswirth, CPA, CVA, CFF  
Managing Principal,  
Auburn Hills



Amy R. Buben, CPA, CFE  
Sr. Manager, Saginaw

yeoandyeo.com

# Alaskan Adventures

By Dawn and Ron Crichton

Regardless of age or income, traveling opens your mind to new adventures, expands your cultural horizon, and breathes life into your soul. We recently took the trip of a lifetime. We have always been adventurous travelers and frequently took our kids across the country on road trips while they grew up. We saw national monuments, went scuba diving in the ocean, spelunked in Mammoth Cave and even panned for gold in California. But this trip was different. It was just us, on our own time, left to our own devices, to explore, photograph, and enjoy each moment we experienced--together; no kids battling for attention, fighting over the remote, or getting into mischief.

We knew from past experience that the real trick to taking a six-week trip like this would be to combine luxury with "roughing it." We started out by roughing it for eight days in our travel trailer. Although custom built, it was no Ritz Carlton. We co-habited in 280 sq. ft. driving from Michigan to Vancouver, BC, with stops at Mt. Rushmore and Devil's Tower. Once in Vancouver, we hopped on a cruise ship and headed to Alaska for a little luxury. We visited Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, and ended the cruise in Seward. Spending time at sea was relaxing, and it took the responsibility off our plate for planning where to go and when. The cruise ship picked us up, made the stops, and brought us to each of our destinations.

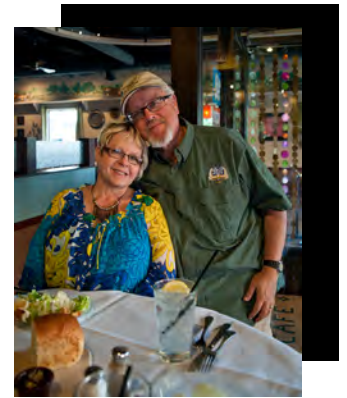
From Seward, we transferred to Anchorage and rented a car to explore more of Alaska for the next ten days. We drove as far north as Fairbanks, as far south as Homer and as far west as Anchorage Point; no set agenda, no hotel reservations, no ties. Each night we landed where we landed--mostly unplanned and spontaneous, and it was great! We are both professional photographers, so being able to see native Alaska was an opportunity we couldn't pass up.



We saw mountains, including all of Mt. McKinley, glaciers, lakes, rivers and waterfalls. We got close to wild moose, bison, elk, badgers, coyotes, wolves, mountain goats and eagles, and we even saw a few black bears from a distance.

We travelled 2,000 miles in that rental car and explored a good part of Alaska. Before we knew it, it was time to turn in the car and fly back to Vancouver. Our truck and trailer were untouched in the airport parking lot where we left them, and our travels eastward commenced. We spent four days at Yellowstone, and stayed another afternoon at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was amazing there--we watched in awe as we spotted two herds of beautiful wild horses. And we snapped numerous photos of hundreds of prairie dogs who appeared to "pose" just for us. We wrapped up our trip with a visit to Minnesota to see old friends before we headed back to Michigan.

We learned to relax and enjoy life on this trip. We mixed things up, embraced spontaneity and even slept in until 9:30 a few times. Times we enjoyed most were simple--lunching in small towns, shopping in villages, and observing animals in their natural habitat. If you have learned anything from this article, and if you can afford it, start your "travel fund" now. You can never travel enough, and you will experience something new with each trip.



Dawn and Ron Crichton



Genesee County Bar Association  
315 East Court Street  
Flint, Michigan 48502-1611

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Flint, MI  
Permit No. 125

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# 25th Anniversary

## of the Genesee County Bar Foundation



**President**  
Walter P. Griffin



**Vice President**  
Hon.  
Duncan M. Beagle



**Secretary**  
Kathleen  
Buckley-O'Neill



**Treasurer**  
Jeffrey D. Rocco



**Past President**  
Carl L. Bekofske

### Trustees:

Carl L. Bekofske  
Francine Cullari

Patric A. Parker  
Randolph P. Piper

Hon. Thomas C. Yeotis  
James J. Wascha, Ex-officio

Tatilia Y. Burroughs,  
Executive Director

# Thank You

for supporting your Foundation for the last 25 years