***MARK YOUR CALENDARS***

1999 R.A.M. BOARD MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/22/99</td>
<td>10:45 A.M.</td>
<td>MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM</td>
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<td>717 West Allegan</td>
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<td>Lansing</td>
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<td>(Lake Superior Room)</td>
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<td>5/28/99</td>
<td>9:00 A.M.</td>
<td>WATERFRONT INN</td>
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<td>Traverse City</td>
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1999 R.A.M. SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE

5/26, 27, 28/99 WATERFRONT INN Traverse City

Look for your conference information and registration forms in the mail by March 15th. Hope to see you all there.

WELCOME!

Charles A. Semarjian and Karen Transit joined the Referee staff of the Juvenile Division of Macomb County Family Court.

Debra Autman has joined the Referee staff at Kent County Family Court.

Congratulations and best wishes from RAM!

R.A.M. WATCH

Deborah McNabb, Chairperson of the Wage, Benefits, Standards and Goals Committee, is compiling a statewide Referee salary information booklet for R.A.M. members. This booklet will be available to R.A.M. members at the 1999 Spring Training Conference in Traverse City, Michigan.
Michigan Granted Pension Rights Project

Legal Hotline for Older Michiganders to provide pension counseling services to retirees

For Immediate Release
Friday, November 13, 1998

Contact: Kate White, Executive Director
Legal Hotline for Older Michiganders
517.372.5959

[Lansing] — The Legal Hotline for Older Michiganders received a grant from the federal Administration on Aging to provide pension counseling services to retirees in Michigan. The project offers basic legal advice and information about pension rights to retirees who reside in the state via the Legal Hotline for Older Michiganders. The Pension Rights Project offers:

- Basic legal information and advice about pension rights, rules and regulations;
- Assistance resolving pension problems;
- Referrals to attorneys who handle pension cases; and
- Information on investing lump sum distributions.

To take advantage of the Pension Rights Project, retirees should call the Legal Hotline at 800-347-5297. The receptionist will ask for the caller’s name, telephone number, date of birth, average monthly income, and the nature of your problem. Please indicate that you have a problem with your pension. An attorney will return your call in 1-2 business days to begin working on your problem.

There is no charge for this service, however donations from individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations would be appreciated. Priority for services will be given to seniors age 60 and older who have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. #
Many men and women have worked diligently throughout the history of the State Bar of Michigan to build effective programs for the benefit not only of lawyers, but of the general public as well. Much of that work has been accomplished through and by State Bar committees.

The size of committees is limited by the Bylaws to make them workable (and working) groups. To keep up a flow of fresh, new ideas and to encourage broad member involvement, the Bylaws also limit the number of terms any member can continuously serve. Hence, there are committee vacancies to fill each year.

The process begins in late spring, when the president-elect reviews and evaluates the work of each committee and its members during the past year. The president-elect makes the appointments for the coming year, since it will be during his or her year as president that the committees will do their work. The appointments will be announced at the time of the Annual Meeting in September.

Take a look at the list of the State Bar committees on this page. For your reference, the jurisdictions of the committees are listed in the Organizations directory bound into your December 1998 Bar Journal.

If you are interested in a particular committee, please send a letter by April 15, 1999, indicating the committee in which you are interested, your experience in that field, and other pertinent qualifications.

Please address your letter to:

Alfred M. Butzbaugh, President-Elect
State Bar of Michigan
Michael Franck Building
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933-2083

State Bar Standing Committees

American Indian Law
Appellate Court Administration
Arbitration of Disputes Among Attorneys
Awards
Character & Fitness (State)
Civil Liberties
Civil Procedure
Client Protection Fund
Communications
Constitutional Law
Criminal Jurisprudence
Defender Systems & Services
Domestic Violence
Establishing a Law Practice
Ethics:
  Subcommittee on Judicial Ethics
  Subcommittee on Professional Ethics
Grievance
Insurance Law
Judicial Qualifications
Judicial Selection
Jury Instructions, Standard Criminal
Law and the Media
Law Day
Law-Related Education
Lawyer Referral Service
Lawyers & Judges Assistance
Legal Aid
Legal Education
Libraries, Legal Research & Publications
Local Bar Liaison
Medicolegal Problems
Membership Services
Mental Disability Law
Oil & Gas Law
Pro Bono Involvement of the State Bar of Michigan
Professionalism
Referral Services and Pre-Paid Plans
Scope & Correlation
State Trial Courts Administration
Unauthorized Practice of the Law
United States Courts
Upper Michigan Lawyers
The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is offering a free copy of their booklet "Stepping Back from Anger". This booklet includes the following 10 tips for divorcing parents.

1. Never disparage your former spouse in front of your children. The criticism can batter the child's self-esteem.
2. Do not use your children as messengers between you and your former spouse. The less the children feel a part of the battle between their parents, the better.
3. Reassure your children that they are loved and that the divorce is not their fault.
4. Unless your former spouse was a molester, encourage your children to spend time with him or her. Do everything you can to accommodate the visitation.
5. At every step during your divorce, remind yourself that your children's interests, not yours, are paramount, and act accordingly.
6. Resist the temptation to let your children act as your caretakers. Let your peers, adult family members and mental health professionals be your counselors.
7. If you have a drinking or drug problem, get counseling right away. An impairment inhibits your ability to reassure your children and give them the attention they need.
8. If you are the non-custodial parent, pay your child support. The loss of income facing many children after divorce puts them at a disadvantage that has a pervasive effect on the rest of their lives.
9. If you are the custodial parent and are not receiving child support, do not complain to your children. It feeds into their sense of abandonment.
10. If at all possible, do not uproot your children. Stability in their residence and school life helps buffer children from the trauma of their parents' divorce.

For a free copy of this booklet, write to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 150 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2040, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (www.aaml.org), or call toll-free 1-877-484-3KIDS.

R.A.M. member, Ivy Arbuckle, from Jackson County, has requested some assistance from fellow R.A.M. members. Ivy writes:

"We will soon be consolidating our courts and are scheduled to relocate to the main courthouse in early March 1999.

The Friend of the Court has two full time referees and yours truly makes three in the new "Family Court" system. There are three judges assigned to the family court. ...(I)t will be extremely hard for one juvenile referee to deal with three different judges (dockets and personalities). The question was put to me, "with counties similarity situated (judges to referees), how many and who are they, that assigns one referee to one judge and that referee handles juvenile neglect and abuse, delinquency, and foc matters.

I know this issue has been discussed at meetings and I thought perhaps you might have some information to share."

Please forward your responses to: Ivy Arbuckle, Fax #(517) 780-4756, or telephone her at (517) 788-4450, Extension 270."
DID YOU KNOW?

LOCAL:

Wayne County Friend of the Court, in its efforts to generate compliance with court orders, is working in conjunction with the Michigan Jobs Commission and Family Independence Agency to assist litigants in meeting their support obligations through economic self-sufficiency. The employment and training activities, job search assistance, and supportive services are funded through the Michigan Jobs Commission by a grant from the federal government under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. The program targets unemployed or underemployed (working less than 24 hours per week) litigants who are required to pay support to a custodial parent receiving public assistance. The Wayne County Friend of the Court has agreed to defer its enforcement activity during a six-week period between referral and actual job placement. The Family Division of the Circuit Court will also be announcing, through mass mailings, a bench warrant amnesty initiative that will allow for the dismissal of an outstanding bench warrant with program referral. Once referred to the program, participation is mandatory and failure to comply with the referral or to participate in the program will result in enforcement to the fullest extent of the law.

*** REMINDER ***

R.A.M. dues must be submitted by March 1, 1999. Renew your membership now and encourage a colleague to join.

ATTENTION R.A.M. MEMBERS: Please submit articles, comments, announcements, etc. to Zaira M. Maio, Referee, c/o Macomb County Friend of the Court, 40 N. Main Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043, Fax: (810) 466-8701.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." - Albert Einstein

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - Les Brown

Warmest Regards,

Zaira M. Maio, President