

Negligence Law Section

E - JOURNAL

Volume 17 #3
Spring

Calendar of Events

May 2 – May 5, 2025 – Spring Meeting – [Email for More Info](#)
August 21, 2025 – Annual Meeting & Awards Reception – [Register](#)

Message from the Chair



Donna MacKenzie

Olsman MacKenzie Peacock & Wallace
[Email](#)

I want to speak candidly about an issue that extends beyond our individual practice areas and speaks directly to our shared responsibility as attorneys and officers of the court...

[Read More](#)

Section Amicus Briefs

On August 11, 2021, the Negligence Council adopted guidelines governing the submission of amicus briefs.

The Michigan Supreme Court routinely requests that the Negligence Section address important matters before it. Every submission to the courts is scrutinized by these guidelines.

In addition, consistent with our mission, our voting requirements mandate consensus among plaintiff and defense council members. This affords a balanced approach to the most critical matters impacting negligence law.

These guidelines are set forth below.

[Full Guidelines Here](#)

Journal Articles

The section encourages authors to submit articles regarding relevant and timely issues. Articles may not reflect the opinions of the section or its council.

Journal editors:

David Shafer
[Email](#)

D. Lee Khachaturian
[Email](#)

Improving Jury Selection



David P. Shafer
Shafer Swartz, PLC
[Email](#)

Prior to trial we occasionally receive motions filed by defendants requesting the trial court prohibit the mentioning of insurance—at any point during the trial process. We have also had defense attorneys object to our questions in which insurance is referenced during voir dire. It's 2025. Do any of us really believe that jurors do not know that insurance is likely covering the claims made against the defendants...

[Read More](#)

Adverse Inferences in Arbitration



Lee Hornberger BA, JD, LLM in Labor Law
National Academy of Arbitrators

[Email](#)

This is an overview of adverse inferences in arbitration. This includes reviewing rules of administering bodies; arbitration awards; case law; St. Antoine;ⁱ Abrams;ⁱⁱ Elkouri & Elkouri;ⁱⁱⁱ and Nolan.^{iv}...

[Read More](#)

Partisan Split in Michigan Legislature Sets Stage for Stalemate



Todd Tennis
Capitol Services, Inc.

[Email](#)

Despite a slow start in January, the Michigan Legislature is back up to full speed as House and Senate committees are hitting their stride. In addition to policy work being done by standing committees, we are also in the middle of budget season so the Legislature's workload is exceedingly high. Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Twp.) has stated that the budget process could go well into...

Call for Young Lawyers!

The Young Lawyers Committee encourages young lawyers to submit articles to be featured in the E-Newsletter! This is a great opportunity for newer attorneys to get their name in front of the members of the Negligence Law Section.

If you are interested, please contact the Young Lawyer Committee Co-Chairs:

Amanda P. Waske: amwaske@gmail.com

Robbie Gaines: robbie@gaineslawyers.com

Past Chairperson Reception and Awards Ceremony

Earl J. Cline & Sherwin Schreier Award for Excellence:

Joseph G. Lujan

Awarded posthumously

Distinguished Service Award:

Vernon R. Johnson

Ven Johnson Law, PLC

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Event and Speaker Recommendations

We're always looking to improve our event selection and give you opportunities for education, networking, and more. Your input is invaluable in helping us plan future events that best serve our members. Please take a moment to share your recommendations for speakers, topics, and locations you'd like to see at our upcoming programs. Your feedback ensures we continue to offer engaging and relevant events that meet your professional needs.

[Survey](#)

PTSD and Trauma Informed Advocacy Webinar Recording

For those who couldn't attend the live session with Jarrad Morgan, DO, JD, Jill Mulder, Kelly Clement, RN, MSN, CPHRM, and Chad Engelhardt, the full recording is available for viewing on the State Bar of Michigan Negligence Law Section YouTube channel or by using the link below.

[View Recording](#)

Succession Planning

Requirements for Michigan private practice attorneys changed effective September 1, 2023. Read the Supreme Court Order [here](#). Required information is being collected during the current license renewal process for the 2023-2024 Bar Year.

[Supreme Court Order](#)

Photo Gallery



[Fall Seminar 2024](#)

Click the links below to view photos from the past events

[Young Lawyers Social 2025](#)

[Annual Meeting and Awards Reception 2024](#)

[Past Chair 2024](#)

[Spring Meeting 2024](#)

[Young Lawyers Rock 'n Bowl 2024](#)

[Annual Meeting and Awards Reception 2023](#)

[Past Chair 2023](#)

[Spring Meeting 2023](#)

[Building Allies 2023](#)

Michigan Lawyers Weekly wants to hear about your verdicts and settlements!

Please submit recent civil cases (within the past six months) where you prevailed - whether in a jury verdict or a settlement -- so MLW may publish them.

Questions about Lawyers Weekly's Verdicts and Settlements policy may be directed to the editor at (800) 678-5297 or editor@mi.lawyersweekly.com.

Be on the Lookout for Phishing Scams

- Emails may appear to come from the Section's leadership, but may be from scammers
- Always verify payments verbally before making them
- Once you have identified a scammer, alert us and delete it
- There is no harm in waiting

Civility in the Courtroom



Civility is extremely important in our courts, and many of these courts have released court orders regarding civility guidelines. Click below to check them all!

US District Court -
Eastern Michigan

US District Court -
Western Michigan

Supreme Court Order

Top Ten Civility Tips

1. Act conscientiously and responsibly in your interactions with others.
2. To the extent possible, always cooperate with others.
3. Do not disparage or attack others.
4. Treat others fairly and respectfully notwithstanding the fact you may have differing perspectives, viewpoints or politics.
5. Always act in good faith.
6. Always accord professional courtesy whenever reasonably possible.

7. Seek to exemplify the best of our profession in all interactions with others.
8. Do not act upon or exhibit bias toward others and seek to reasonably accommodate the needs of those who may require such accommodations.
9. Strive to be the best version of yourself.
10. Be patient with others and seek to follow the Golden Rule.

State Bar Michigan Calendar of Events

Want to see what other events are going on in the State Bar? Check out the calendar below!

[Calendar](#)

Social Media



Negligence Section YouTube



PTSD and Trauma Informed Advocacy

[YouTube Channel](#)

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