

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT: LAW STUDENT SECTION

Introduction:

- The State Bar of Michigan Law Student Section (LSS) has remained active in the 2014-2015 academic year. During the year, the section promoted and planned numerous events of interest to and for the benefit of law students in the State of Michigan.

Section Mission Statement:

- The mission of the LSS Governing Council is to represent students of Michigan's law School and to act as a liaison to the State Bar Sections. Moreover, the Section works to increase student involvement in the State Bar of Michigan, as well as to support other State Bar sections in their activities. The LSS strives to strengthen and further professional opportunities among law students and the legal community.

Outgoing Officers and Council Members:

- Chair: Zane Hatahet
- Vice-Chair: Rania Haddad
- Treasurer: Brandon Debus
- Secretary: Aaron Sohaski
- 1L Oral Advocacy Competition Chair: David Hamstra

Incoming Officers and Council Members:

- Chair: Aaron Sohaski
- Vice-Chair: Samantha Jonas
- Treasurer: Brandon Debus
- Secretary: Michael Olcese
- 1L Oral Advocacy Competition Chair: Vacant

General Council Members:

- Armisa Laze
- Chris Atallah
- Daniela Walters
- Deyana Simmons-Howard
- Justin Strayhorn
- Katy DelBene
- Matt Hauser
- Samantha Jonas

- Barb Sheppard
- Will Disessa
- Ryan Jackson

Section Committees:

1L Oral Advocacy Committee:

- The committee assisted the Chair of the Section and the Chair of the Annual 1L Oral Advocacy Competition to put on the successful event. The committee consisted of: David Hamstra, Aaron Sohaski, Samantha Jonas, and Rania Haddad. The committee contacted local practicing attorneys in to judge the competition, which was hosted at the Cooley Law School at Auburn Hills.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP:

- Students posted on SBM Connect regarding issues that affect law students throughout Michigan. Council members also shared events that were beneficial to members from other sections.
- For the first time, students were able to register online for their memberships this year.

SECTION BYLAWS:

- There have not been any revisions or additions to the Section's bylaws.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND SEMINARS:

MEETINGS:

- The LSS holds a conference call every month. During calls, upcoming activities and plans are discussed. The conference call is open only to the governing council and the general council members. In addition, the Chair of the Section has also attended meetings as a member of the governing council with the Young Lawyers Section.

ACTIVITIES:

- Mental Health Day
 - In late 2014 (right around finals), the LSS hosted a mental health day for students at Detroit Mercy School of Law. The LSS created a Stress-Free Zone with healthy foods, access to a nutritionist and 19 volunteer massage therapists. The event was a great success and the LSS hopes to host the same event in all Michigan Law School next year.
- Warren C. Evans Seminar

- On October 16, 2014, the LSS helped sponsor the “Law School to the Real World” seminar that was arranged by the University of Detroit – Mercy’s Black Law Students Association. Warren C. Evans, Wayne County Executive Candidate, was the special guest speaker.
- Silence Equals Death
 - On January 30, 2015, Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills hosted over 150 Michigan law students for a viewing of the documentary entitled *“Silence Equals Death: How the Heroin Epidemic is Driving Change in Perception, Treatment, & the Law.”* The exponential rise in heroin-related deaths over the past several years has received much media attention, not only because of the numbers, but also because of the victims - so many of them are young people in their late teens and early 20s.
- Council Meet & Greet
 - Early in 2015, the LSS met and discussed spring planning at Slows BBQ down in Detroit. At the meeting, highlights of discussion included the 1L Oral Advocacy Competition, mentor jet programming, and other ideas on how to engage law students.
- 1L Oral Advocacy Competition:
 - On March 21, 2015, the competition was held at the Cooley Law School at Auburn Hills. The winner of the competition was Alex Markel of the University of Michigan Law School, and the runner-up was Derrick Bridges of Cooley Law School. The topic of this year’s competition regarded whether a state university’s regulation of concealed weapons violates Michigan law and / or the U.S. Constitution.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- For financial information regarding the LSS, please contact the LSS’s Treasurer, Brandon Debus, at: bdebus@umich.edu.

FUTURE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:

- The main focus of the upcoming year to increase membership to ensure students are aware of the services the SBM offers. With an emphasis on involvement, the LSS hopes to increase student membership and participation.