

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
GENERAL PRACTICE-SOLO & SMALL FIRM SECTION  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Bar Year: 2010-2011

**Section Name: General Practice-Solo & Small Firm Section**

The name of the Section was changed from General Practice to General Practice-Solo & Small Firm Section to better represent the types of practitioners and law firms predominately engaged in the general practice of law. The Section name change was approved at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

**Mission Statement:** The Section provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, its website, public service programs and publication of a newsletter six times a year.

**Officers and Council Members:** See attached

**Council Meeting Schedule:**

The Council meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Sea Grille Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. There are no monthly meetings in July and August. The September meeting is currently scheduled to be held at the State Bar Annual Meeting, September 15, 2011, at 1:00 p.m.

**General Budget Information:**

The General Practice-Solo & Small Firm Section generates approximately \$20,000.00 per annum from Membership dues. The Section also derives additional income from seminar fees. Currently, the largest expense of the Section consists of its Annual Sponsorship of the ICLE Solo & Small Firm Institute 2 day seminar held simultaneous with the State Bar of Michigan's Annual Meeting.

**Events and/or Seminars:** See attached

**Legislative Issues:** None of note for the Section this year.

**Recommendations for next Council:** Continue to work to provide educational and networking resources to our membership both via programs and our e-newsletter. Continue efforts to coordinate with other sections to increase our membership and to increase participation in programs and opportunities of interest to our members.

| Name                   | Position    | Address  | Telephone #  | E-mail Address                    | Term Expires |
|------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Elizabeth A. Silverman | Chair       | 30500 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills, MI 48334        | 248-538-1177 | asatty@aol.com                    | 9/30/2011    |
| Maury Klein            | Chair-Elect | 17000 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075                | 248-423-9333 | maurykleinatty@sbcglobalnet       | 9/30/2012    |
| Lynn Carlino           | Secretary   | 34950 Little Mac Avenue, Clinton Twp, MI 48035             | 586-790-2841 | lynn.carlino@baker.edu            | 9/30/2011    |
| Bill Cataldo           | Treasury    | 1 S. Main Street, Fl. 4, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043             | 586-469-5362 | bill.cataldo@macombcountymtmi.gov | 9/30/2012    |
| Tanisha Davis          | Council     | 17373 W, 12 Mile Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076           | 248-569-7776 | tanishadavis777@yahoo.com         | 9/30/2013    |
| Stuart Sandweiss       | Council     | 18930 W. 10 Mile Road, Ste. 2000, Southfield, MI 48075     | 248-559-2400 | stuart@sandweisslaw.com           | 9/30/2011    |
| Lesley Hoenig          | Council     | 300 S. University Ave., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858             | 989-773-0900 | lesley@hoeniglaw.com              | 9/30/2013    |
| William Roy            | Council     | 36700 Woodward Ave., Suite 205, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 | 248-540-7660 | roy@rsmv.com                      | 9/30/2013    |

| Event or Seminar Title  | Date      | Location                                    |
|---|-----------|---|
| Family Secrets, Tips for Winning with Family Law Judges, Referees and Clients           | 21-May-11 | Amway Grand Hotel-Grand Rapids              |
| Secrets of Short Sales and Foreclosures-How to Rpresent your Client's in Today's Market | 5-May-11  | Ginopolis on the Grill-Farmington Hills, MI |
| Medical Marijuana-The Law is Evolving-What you Need to Know                             | 9-Jun-11  | Ginopolis on the Grill-Farmington Hills, MI |
| Misdemeanors and Felonies   | 14-Jul-11 | Ginopolis on the Grill-Farmington Hills, MI |
| Social Networking and Marketing   | 11-Aug-11 | Ginopolis on the Grill-Farmington Hills, MI |

## The General Practice - Solo and Small Firm Section

is pleased to present

### *Medical Marijuana—The Law is Evolving—What you Need to Know*

**Thursday, June 9, 2011**

**12:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

GINOPOLIS ON THE GRILL

27815 MIDDLEBELT

FARMINGTON HILLS

Did you know that there are 63,735 patients authorized to legally use marijuana in the State of Michigan and there are over 50,000 applications pending? Did you know there are over 25,000 caretakers licensed to grow marijuana for medical use? Did you know the Medical Marijuana Law provides that no penalty can be imposed, nor any right or privilege affected by medical use of marijuana? Get expert advice on the Michigan Medical Marijuana Law and what's going on with recent cases. Master the nuances of this evolving practice and give your clients the representation they deserve. Come join us for lunch, networking and a valuable presentation of the current state of the law regarding the Medical Marijuana Act of Michigan

#### Presenters:

- o **Matthew R. Abel** has been a criminal defense lawyer with a focus on marijuana cases for more than 20 years. Matthew Abel is the founder and senior partner of Cannabis Counsel, P.L.C., a Michigan law firm entirely devoted to cannabis clients and cases. Mr. Abel's Detroit-based law office capably handles marijuana possession, trafficking, and distribution cases throughout the state of Michigan providing both business advice and counseling as well as criminal defense in marijuana cases throughout Michigan. Since passage of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act in 2008, his practice has rapidly grown to include business clients and issues, as well as employment, drug testing, probation, and domestic issues surrounding cannabis consumption
- o **Dan Korobkin**, staff attorney, ACLU, joined the staff of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan in 2008 and is responsible for litigating cases and participating in advocacy activities, such as public speaking, media interviews, and outreach work to advance civil liberties in Michigan.. The ACLU has suits pending against Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, and Livonia for not allowing the use, sale, or growth of medical marijuana. The ACLU is representing a Birmingham couple who want to use their land in Livonia to grow medical marijuana. The ACLU is also representing a man who was fired from his managerial position at Wal Mart for using prescribed medical marijuana off work and at home to reduce symptoms from an inoperable brain tumor and cancer.

Registration fee: \$25.00 Members of General Practice - Solo and Small Firm Section;  
\$30.00 General Admission

Registration form: [www.michbar.org/general/calendar/cfm](http://www.michbar.org/general/calendar/cfm)

## **The General Practice - Solo and Small Firm Section**

is pleased to present  
**Thursday, May 5, 2011**  
**12:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

GINOPOLIS ON THE GRILL  
27815 MIDDLEBELT  
FARMINGTON HILLS

### **“Secrets of Short Sales and Foreclosures - How to Represent Your Clients in Today’s Market”**

With more residential real estate worth less than the amount of the mortgage, what can you do for your clients? Get expert advice on the foreclosure and short sale process as well as other avenues of relief. Master the nuances of this evolving practice and give your clients the representation they deserve. Come join us for lunch, networking and a valuable presentation of the current state of the law regarding foreclosure and foreclosure alternatives.

#### **Presenters:**

**Aronoff & Linnell** are real estate attorneys that specialize in assisting homeowners and real estate professionals with short sales. With more than 25 years of legal experience in real estate law, Aronoff & Linnell’s complete understanding of the short sale process, attention to detail and skilled negotiation have led to successfully completed sales.

**Craig A. Aronoff, J.D.**, Mr. Aronoff’s focus has been in civil litigation, first working for individuals in consumer protection and contract actions then corporations and banks in contract, foreclosure and real estate related matters. With extensive experience in dispute resolution, contract negotiation, loss mitigation and debt restructuring, he has returned to helping homeowners, business owners and consumers with their secured and unsecured obligations.

**Richard D. Linnell, J.D.**, Mr. Linnell has been involved in real estate since 1996 and has 13 years of experience in commercial and residential real estate as well as corporate law. As both counselor and owner, he has been actively involved in commercial and residential real estate development including acquisitions, entitlements, development, complex financing, syndications and workouts.

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July 14, 2011

12:30–2:30 p.m.

*Misdemeanors and Felonies*

Speakers: William Cataldo and Elias Escobedo

1.

William L. Cataldo is chief of homicide for the Macomb County Prosecutor Office. Previous to that, he was a criminal defense trial attorney. His teaching positions include staff instructor for the nationally recognized Trial Lawyers College in Wyoming, staff instructor at the Annual Trial College at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, staff instructor for the Police Academy, and as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy. He is also a certified instructor teaching cognitive and analytical interviewing skills. He is a member and past chair of the General Practice—Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He is co-editor and criminal law columnist for the *General Practitioner* newsletter and former co-host of a variety of law related radio shows, including Ask The Lawyer on WXYT-AM. Mr. Cataldo has lectured extensively for ICLE, the Center For Forensic Psychiatry, local police organizations, and local bar associations across the state on topics such as criminal trial tactics and strategy, the insanity defense and Miranda, drunk driving, criminal sexual conduct, and building a criminal law practice.

For the last 25 years Elias Escobedo has had extensive litigation experience with Criminal Law, Juvenile Law, State and Federal Criminal Law and Criminal Defense. He is a former member of the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners, former President of the Oakland County Bar Association, Trustee of the Oakland Bar Foundation as well as of the Oakland/Livingston Legal Aid. Mr. Escobedo has served on the Character and Fitness Committee, President's Advisory Committee, Programs and Services Committees, Access to Justice Campaign Team and Audit Committee for the State Bar of Michigan. Mr. Escobedo is an accomplished speaker and writer and received numerous awards including the Leon Hubbard Award, Sandy Rosenthal Memorial Award, Pro Bono Service Award and the key to the City of Pontiac for service to the Hispanic Community. Mr. Escobedo is an accomplished litigator with a respect to all aspects of Criminal Defense both in the State and Federal Courts. His expertise and experience makes him a perfect choice to address members of the State Bar and offer his advice regarding common errors attorneys commit defending their clients and how to enhance the value of your representation of your client.

August 11, 2011

12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

*Social Networking and Marketing*

Speakers: Julie I. Fershtman and Pria Marwa Doornbos

1.

Julie I. Fershtman is currently president-elect of the 41,000 member State Bar of Michigan and will become its 77th President for a one-year term in September 2011. She is also a shareholder with Foster Swift in its Farmington Hills office. She concentrates her practice in the areas of general insurance defense, insurance coverage, premises liability, business litigation (plaintiff and defense), fraud/bad faith litigation, sporting and recreational liability, agribusiness, intentional torts, and equine law. Her clients range from insurance companies to small businesses and individuals. Her professional distinctions include being named a 2010 Leader in the Law by *Michigan Lawyer's Weekly* and a Michigan Super Lawyer by *Law & Politics Magazine* every year since 2008. The *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* rates her AV preeminent (5.0/5). *Crain's Detroit Business* named her a Woman to Watch in 2010 and one of the Most Influential Women in Michigan business. A frequent speaker and writer, she has authored over 200 published articles and 3 books, the third book of which was published by the ABA in 2009. She has lectured on liability, insurance, and risk management at seminars, conventions, CLE programs, and conferences in 27 states. She will share her expertise in marketing strategies for solo and small firms.

Pria Marwa Doornbos began her practice as a corporate and securities attorney with large law firms in Michigan and Colorado. Currently, she is in-house corporate counsel with a biopharmaceutical company. In the Spring of 2009, she started PMD Legal where her focus was on serving the business and legal needs of start-ups, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofits as a virtual general counsel. In addition to the traditional practice of law, she counsels businesses and individuals on the legal issues in using social media and the importance of social media policies and advises attorneys on the ethics issues in using social media. She teaches media law to undergraduate students at Lawrence Tech University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan, Dearborn, in 1998 with a dual major in political science and economics. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School in 2001. She is admitted to practice law in Colorado and Michigan.