

2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Section Name:

Criminal Law Section

Mission Statement:

The Criminal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, the State Bar's Website, public service programs, a listserv, and publication of a newsletter. The purposes of the Criminal Law Section are to study criminal law and procedure in Michigan, make recommendations to the State Bar, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the general public concerning improvements to the Criminal Justice System, to promote justice and the efficient administration of justice, and to protect the public and individual rights.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: Graham L. Teall
Chair Elect: Sherrie P. Guess
Secretary: Daniel P. Levy
Treasurer: Matthew P. Smith

Council Members: Steve B. Lockhart
Neil O'Brien
Bruce Timmons
Michael J. Brady
James Shonkwiler
Opolla Brown
Stephen J. Gobbo
Charles H. Marr
Patrick M. O'Connell
Mary C. Pino
Kenneth M. Malkin
Martin P. Krohner
Hon. John T. Hammond
Barbara Levine
M. Jon Posner
Thomas C. Rombach
Ronald J. Schafer
Enid Livingston
Ralph C. Simpson, Ex Officio

Council Meeting Schedule (date and location)

The Criminal Law Section met the second Tuesday of each month at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel, 925 South Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan.

Events and Seminars

2006-2007 was an eventful year for the Criminal Law Section. The year began at the State Bar's Annual Meeting where the Section sponsored a well attended program examining the issue of "How to Fix Michigan's Broken Indigent Defense System?" Our President's Day annual Ski Conference at Shanty Creek Resort saw attendees hearing presentations on the collateral consequences of criminal convictions and learning of the findings from the original research of Judge Donald Shelton regarding the "CSI" effect on juries in Washtenaw County. The Section has scheduled its biennial Mackinac Policy Conference, which this year will address the issues surrounding parole reform in Michigan, for June 15-17. The Section's year will end with its annual meeting at the State Bar's annual meeting in September and a program addressing current legislative issues is planned. In addition its programming, the Section has worked to restore its newsletter services to its membership and has introduced the Section's listserv, which to date has allowed for some "spirited" discussions. The Section's financial health is quite good as the Section seeks to provide value to its membership for what remains one of the lowest Section dues in the State Bar.

Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan

The State Bar provides accounting, mailing and listserv services to the Section. Of note, the section has been increasingly relying on the support of the State Bar's Public Policy resources and personnel.

Future Goals and Activities:

The Section intends on maintaining its current level of programming – offering seminars to its membership, which will enhance their practice skills. Further, the Section plans to continue to offer a substantive newsletter and seek ways to deliver its content in a fashion most convenient to members. Finally, the Section will continue to seek consensus amongst its membership with respect to policy issues affecting the practice of criminal law in Michigan, in all of its forms, and promote that position with policy makers.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham L. Teall, Chair of the Criminal Law Section