



Oakland County Legal News

www.legalnews.com/oakland

Serving the Oakland County Legal Community Since 1927

Volume 83, Number 23

Troy, Michigan

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, ONE DOLLAR

SHORT TAKES

Appellate practice focus of Wolverine Bar forum

The Wolverine Bar Association (WBA) will host an Appellate Practice Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bodman LLP located at 5th Floor of Ford Field, 1901 St. Antoine Street in Detroit. The Forum is being co-sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section.

Featured speakers include Michigan Court of Appeals Judges Kurtis Wilder and Elizabeth Gleicher, Jerome Watson of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC; and Mary Masaron Ross of Plunkett Cooney. These panelists will make an informative presentation about appellate practice and address topics such as: procedural formalities, effective brief-writing and oral advocacy techniques.

The audience members will also have an opportunity to ask questions. Contact the WBA office at (313) 962-0250 for additional information.

Bar associations join together in 'Celebrating Our Diverse Bar,' Feb. 18

Several local bar associations have joined together to co-host "Celebrating Our Diverse Bar" on Thursday, Feb. 18, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe in Detroit.

The participating bar associations include: American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (Michigan Chapter); Arab-American Bar; Armenian-American Bar; D. Augustus Straker; Detroit Metropolitan Bar; Federal Bar, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter; Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan; Italian American Bar Association of Michigan; Polish American Advocates Bar; Stonewall Bar; Wolverine Bar; and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Wayne Region.

The evening's guest speaker will be State Bar of Michigan President Charles Toy.

The cost to attend is \$10 per person. A cash bar will be available.

To make a reservation to attend this event, contact Mitzy Sharp Futro at (313) 961-6120 ext. 201 or msharpfutro@detroitlawyer.com; or visit www.fbamich.org.

State Bar of Michigan launches new blog

To keep Michigan attorneys up to date on current news, commentary and issues of interest, the State Bar of Michigan is launching a new blog. SBM Blog will aim to keep a close eye on the blogosphere, the national legal scene, changes in court rules, the Michigan Supreme Court, the state legislature, and the governor's office, as well as local and specialty bars in Michigan.

SBM Blog will also strive to highlight the critically important and urgent efforts of the Judicial Crossroads Task Force, as it works to protect and advance the judicial branch of government in the face of enormous fiscal and transformational challenges in Michigan. The Task Force needs to hear as many SBM members' voices as possible, and SBM Blog will be an important vehicle for members to share their input. The blog will forward all comments pertaining to the Task Force directly to its committee members.

Visit SBM Blog at sbmblog.typepad.com.

"Reason is the life of the law: nay, the common law itself is nothing else but reason. . . . The law which is the perfection of reason."

SIR EDWARD COKE

MORE INSIDE

- Calendar3
- Classified Ads2
- Daily Crossword.....3
- Legal Notices6
- Mortgages Recorded4
- Obituary3



6 56525 10161 8

TAXABLE VALUE

Attorney's career offers plenty of book material

By TOM KIRVAN
Legal News

Before settling on a career in the law, Kerr, Russell and Weber attorney Bob Forrest had some less than savory jobs, several of which must have prepared him well for the oftentimes rough-and-tumble world of civil and criminal tax litigation.

He was a bus boy at a seafood restaurant. He worked rides at an amusement park. He even had a stint, albeit mercifully short, shoveling chicken manure.

With such a rich and varied work background, Forrest says he may have been destined to become a tax attorney, where the legal menu can border at times on all of the above.

Several of his more noteworthy

cases, framed within a 35-year legal career on both sides of prosecution and defense, will serve as the basis of a book he is writing. It will be his first literary effort and he is well into the initial draft in what figures to be a compelling work of legal-based fiction. As of now, it is untitled work, but the book will boast a story line that likely will resonate with readers of all legal persuasions.

"The book will be a combination of two cases, one of which involved money laundering and conspiracy," Forrest says. "That case had a bit of everything—sex, money, and organized religion. If it hadn't been real, it would be hard to believe in some respects."

Which should make for good reading, especially for those with an abid-

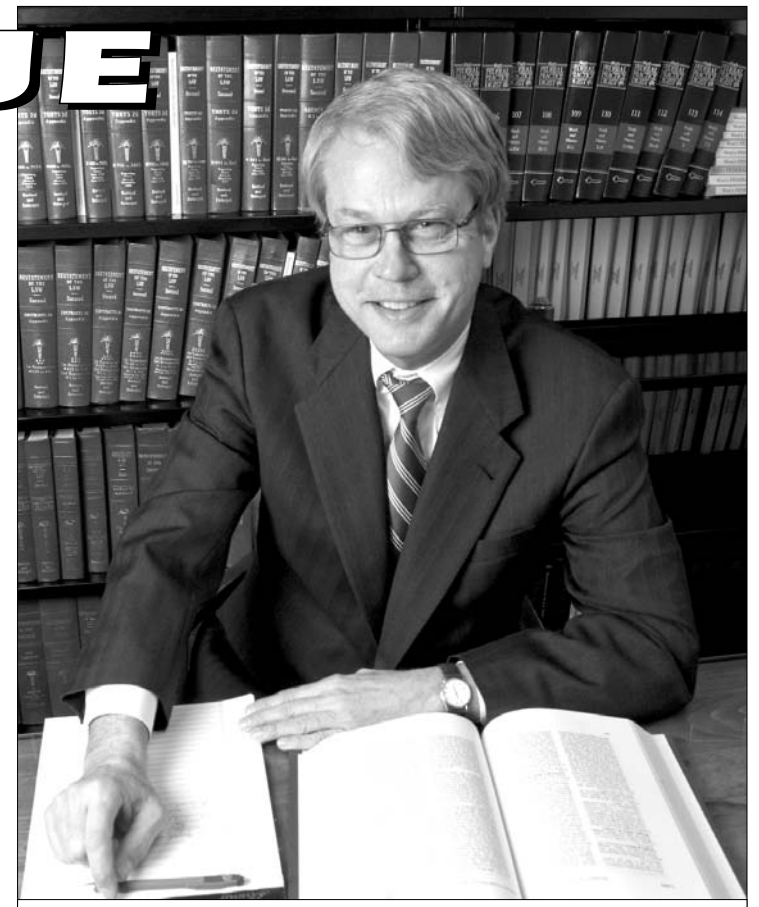
ing interest in all things legal. Forrest's father, Henry, who died in 2002, would have been intrigued. The same can be said for his mother, Jane, now 86 and a resident of Key West, Fla.

His father made a name for himself as an electrical engineer in the infancy of the computer industry, serving in a leadership role with Control Data Corp., the mainframe firm founded in the late '50s.

"He had an incredible, very analytical mind," Forrest says of his father. "He was ahead of his time."

Forrest enrolled at Northwestern University, graduating from the school in 1971 with a degree in political science. From there, he was accepted to Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., serving as editor of

(See FORREST, Page 2)



An attorney specializing in tax litigation, Bob Forrest of Kerr, Russell and Weber earned his law degree from Georgetown after graduating from Northwestern University in Evanston. Photo by Robert Chase

E-discovery explored at WBA seminar

The Women's Bar Association (WBA), Oakland County Chapter of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, featured guest speaker Carol A. Romej (center) of Butzel Long at its Thursday, Jan. 21, Lunch and Learn Seminar at the Iroquois Club in Bloomfield Hills. Romej spoke on the topic of "E-Discovery: What You Don't Know, Can Hurt You!" She co-chairs Butzel Long's Electronic Records and Discovery Practice Group and the firm's Technology and E-Commerce Practice Group. Welcoming Romej to the program were (left to right) WBA President Nicole Wilinski of Plunkett Cooney, Rod Lowe, Stott Matthews of Spectrum Computer Forensics, and WBA Membership Chair Lori Williams of Your Legal Resource PLLC.

Photo by John Meiu



From classroom to courtroom Former professor and students reunite

Doctors Falina and Haitham Masri had a special pleasure in watching retired Oakland County Circuit Judge Fred M. Mester swearing in his former student and their daughter Lena F. Masri to the State Bar of Michigan. Assisting with the swearing in was Brenda Beiter, who works in Circuit Court Administration.

Prior to attending law school, Masri graduated from Oakland University's Paralegal Program, where she had Mester as her Torts Professor. Masri and Beiter met in this class and have remained close friends ever since. Together, they completed an internship with Mester, assisting in a three-defendant murder trial.

Beiter graduated from the program in 2008

and works as the Court Clerk Coordinator for Oakland County Circuit Court.

Masri went on to law school at Indiana University - Indianapolis, School of Law, completing her law degree in two years and graduating in 2008. She specialized in international human rights law, and is currently employed as the staff attorney for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

"I could not be more delighted than to have the honor of swearing in Lena Masri to the Bar," said Mester.

"Lena will bring honor to our profession and the society it serves. Lena and Brenda were exceptional students. They have chosen different paths in the law, but each will bring excellence to the choice they have made."



New attorney Lena F. Masri and retired Judge Fred M. Mester.



In attendance at the swearing in were, (left to right) Bethany McAllister, Tahani Zindani, Rania Masri, Lena Masri, Brenda Beiter, Dr. Falina Masri, Shereef Akeel, Dr. Haitham Masri, and retired Judge Fred M. Mester. Photos courtesy of Judge Mester

Journal marks 15th anniversary with symposium

Speakers to discuss broken cities and how to fix Detroit

Finding solutions for the seemingly intractable problems of Michigan's largest city—and by extension, other distressed urban areas around the country—will be the focus of a gathering at the University of Michigan Law School Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5 and 6.

The symposium, presented by the Michigan Journal of Race & Law, will feature an opening keynote by Columbia Law Professor Jack Greenberg, former director and counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Dr. Arthur Johnson, the former director of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP and a former deputy director of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, will appear as a panelist, and Hardy Vieux, an early editor-in-chief of MJR&L, will also make an appearance. The closing keynote will come from noted trial attorney and legal journalist Raymond M. Brown. In between those speakers, the program—"Reinventing the Wheel: Why Broken Cities Stay Broken and New Ways Civil Rights Attorneys Can Fix Them"—will seek to provide concrete suggestions that can help Detroit turn around decades of decline.

Three breakout discussions will include a look at problems overcome by 20th Century civil rights lawyers, how new issues mean old methods no longer work, and how the first two topics can help today's civil rights lawyers analyze and correct systemic problems in Detroit and elsewhere in the country. The discussions will be moderated by Professor Steven P. Croley; Sara Gosman, a Michigan Law lecturer; and Saul Green, Detroit's deputy mayor and a Michigan Law graduate who also teaches at the school.

The goal, organizers said, is to analyze problems plaguing urban areas in general, then hone potential solutions so that they're directly applicable to the issues facing Detroit—with the possibility that those solutions might also apply elsewhere.

"We want to draw attention to these endemic problems that we're all aware of, yet seem incapable of fixing," said Ashley Washington, one of the symposium's organizers. "This is an effort to stimulate a productive dialogue and encourage greater action to enable these broken cities to one day rise again."

Additional information is available on the Michigan Journal of Race & Law Web site at <http://students.law.umich.edu/mjrl/>.



■ Economic Forecast

Fourth quarter's fast economic pace likely to wane.

Page Two

■ Campaign Finance

After ruling, critics raise specter of foreign campaign spending.

Page Three

■ Peak Condition

Law professor and son ascend the 'Stone Sentinel' in South America.

Back Page