

MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

Volume XXIII

MSBA is pleased to present its membership with a brief overview of the year 2013/2014, highlighting its many activities, events, and accomplishments.

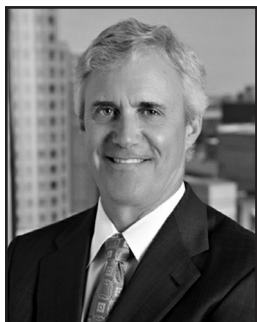
W. Patrick Tandy, *Director of Communications*
Bryan M. Nichols, *Editor*

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Cover: MSBA Headquarters Conference Room
Mural depicting an artistic rendition of the
Maryland State flag.

2013/2014 MSBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Michael J. Baxter
President



Debra G. Schubert
President-Elect



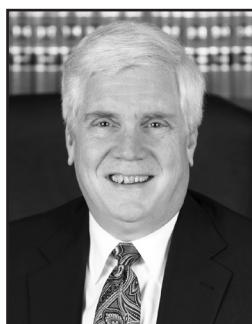
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Sara H. Arthur
Treasurer



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Sixth District



Hon. Danny B. O'Connor
Eleventh District



John M. Quinn
Sixth District



Gregory Kirby
*Chair, Young Lawyers
Section*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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ALL IS WELL WITH THE MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION. HOW COULD IT NOT be? In a time when other associations struggle for relevancy, the membership of the MSBA continues to grow. Benefitting from the steady fiscal hands of prior Bar leaders, we maintain a modest dues structure and a healthy reserve. With 30 Committees and 29 Sections, member involvement is available and meaningful for anyone wanting in. Our core missions – access to justice, professionalism, and advocacy for Maryland lawyers – are well served, indeed.

While tradition remains a strong guidepost for the MSBA, there is room for innovation. This year for the first time we implemented the Section Governors policy on our Board of Governors, creating seats for the Business Law Section, the Criminal Law Section, and the Administrative Law Section. The change ended long-standing concerns about Section participation in MSBA governance and brought new expertise to the Board. Next year, the seats will pass to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, the Family and Juvenile Law Section, and the Estates and Trusts Section.

Also looking to the future, we began the work of the Special Committee on Maryland Law Graduates. Our newest lawyers face obstacles most of us never had to confront. With the help of our two Maryland Law Schools, we have joined a national conversation on the radical changes buffeting our profession. The Special Committee will continue through next year in its effort to make sure our newest members have the same opportunities we all have had.

We welcomed a new Committee and a new Section this year. The Agriculture Law Committee debuted and quickly attracted members from across the state. The Veterans Affairs and Military Law Special Committee achieved Section status and is expected to be at the center of several important initiatives next year.

With strong finances we were able to complete several technology initiatives. Video conferencing at Bar Headquarters is now a reality. Any MSBA member with a smartphone or camera-equipped tablet or laptop can participate from anywhere in the state. The long-awaited new MSBA website will debut in early summer of 2014. We are a voluntary organization, and we constantly strive to deliver new value to our membership. These investments in technology will ensure our long-term success.

We welcomed a new Chief Judge on the Court of Appeals, and she welcomed us. Whether testifying together in Annapolis or securing long-sought funding for our Bates-Vincent Foundation to help Maryland lawyers and judges in need, the Maryland bench-bar bond has never been stronger. Thank you, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, for continuing and enhancing this special relationship.

Under the just-for-fun category, Team MSBA, led by our Young Lawyers Section, again braved the chilly waters of the Chesapeake Bay in the Polar Bear Plunge, raising more than \$13,000 to benefit Special Olympics Maryland, a record sum for our team. I enjoyed visiting many local Bar Associations during the year, from Wicomico County on the Eastern Shore to Washington County in Western Maryland. Each Association was unique, but on every stop I was welcomed with warm collegiality and genuine friendship. Finally, every month I was given the opportunity to author a President's column. Some were better than others, but all brought me great enjoyment. I appreciate you listening, and letting me hear from you.

Of course, no President's Message can be complete without a tip of the hat to our Executive Director, Paul Carlin. MSBA Presidents come and go, but one constant - Paul - remains. Whether whispering advice to the President, cultivating a staff of truly dedicated Bar employees, or just bringing joy and wisdom to everything we do, Paul Carlin is why the MSBA continues to thrive.

Being MSBA President will always be one of my career highlights. Thank you for this wonderful experience.



Michael J. Baxter

2013/2014 MSBA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Michael J. Baxter
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Secretary

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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TO SAY THAT CHANGE IS IN THE AIR IS STATING THE OBVIOUS. TO SAY THAT CHANGE IS the only constant is passé. The change seems to be greater in the practice of law rather than the law itself, *e.g.*, online legal resources, e-discovery specialists, virtual law firms, and the use of mobile devices to capture information to allow you to practice anywhere. MSBA is addressing change and constantly making its own changes in so many ways, which I will mention below. Perhaps, for some, we are not changing quickly enough, but even trying to pick all the low-hanging fruit is a challenge. Hopefully, we have not been on the “bleeding edge” and prefer to be more cautious by staying behind even the “cutting edge”. But even that is difficult, because if you blink, you fall behind.

I find the changes in each day's headlines fascinating. Questions about how soon Bitcoin (Bit Con?) will be replacing the U.S. Dollar or gold in usage and value? How soon will the Amazon strategy of “anticipatory sales” be adopted to deliver items we regularly use even before actually ordering? We perhaps have also become too nonchalant about businesses and the government now knowing so much about us in every way, though much of which we voluntarily supply to the world ourselves through social media. I understand that Facebook now has software that allows for personal face recognition in photos, even without our knowledge. And multiple uses of drones are right around the corner – capturing news, making deliveries, and other unimagined uses.

Change is not easy, and humans usually do not adopt change until the pain of the status quo requires it. At the most recent meeting of the National Association of Bar Executives, the plenary session was devoted to the topic of change, using the bestseller *Who Moved My Cheese?* as the theme. We heard how humans are inclined to stay with the status quo until we enter a zone of disruption (pain), which hopefully stimulates innovation. Perhaps the legal profession is even more resistant to change since lawyers are trained to be risk-adverse while the business community learns to “eat risk at breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus snacks!”

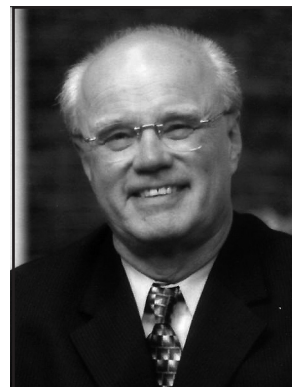
Of course, almost all the change is coming at us via technology. MSBA has made progress in that regard. MSBA has now installed video-conferencing via fiber optic cable in our Conference Room on two large 70-inch screens and has begun expanding its usage to our Committees and Sections, especially for members beyond the central Maryland area. For the last two years, we have been experimenting with video conferencing through the generosity of Merrill LAD at its multiple offices. The technical functionality and configuration for this video conferencing has been achieved by Lawrence Hicks, our IT Director, and Patrick Tandy, our Communications Director. It is anticipated that members will be able to use this system for their practice needs, once policies are in place.

An additional technological effort involves the redesign and upgrade of our MSBA website, MSBA.org. Since its launch in 1996, most of its 14,000(!) pages had been added to our website in a non-systematic fashion. MSBA first needed to choose a technical service company to develop the Request for Proposals (RFP), which was then sent out to website development vendors. That process led to the selection of Figleaf, a company out of Washington, D.C., which had also just completed the website overhaul for the D.C. Bar and the State Bar of Georgia. This work has been a detailed, arduous process which will last about two years total but should facilitate the design, functionality, and navigation of our website. Special recognition for this effort goes to Patricia Yevics, our Law Office Management Director, Lawrence Hicks, Patrick Tandy, and Tanya Roberts, our Website Coordinator.

Lastly, we have had great success with the creation of the MSBA CLE Department, which is now in its fourth year after MICPEL ceased operations in February 2010. The Board realized then CLE is a critical benefit the Bar needs to provide to its members. One of the great developments has been the use of InReach for the technological delivery of online programs and orders. Much credit goes to the Director of the CLE Department, Andrea Terry, who arranges all the CLE Programs, as well as the Associate Director, Joanne Daniels, who arranges all the effort for the production of our numerous publications.

You might have noticed that newspapers and newsstands have had a rough road lately (See *The Washington Post's* recent feature article “Disappearing Ink”). That change will be coming to the MSBA as well, as we begin to contemplate the transition from printing the *Maryland Lawyers Manual* to an electronic delivery. The *Manual* has been one of the MSBA's highest-rated membership benefits, but we can efficiently provide that information for a fraction of the cost online. Moreover, it is clearly recognized how reliant our members are on the use of the *Manual*, since it is the most comprehensive directory of its kind in Maryland and captures so much information within its covers. The world is converting to electronic delivery more and more, and we must do the same.

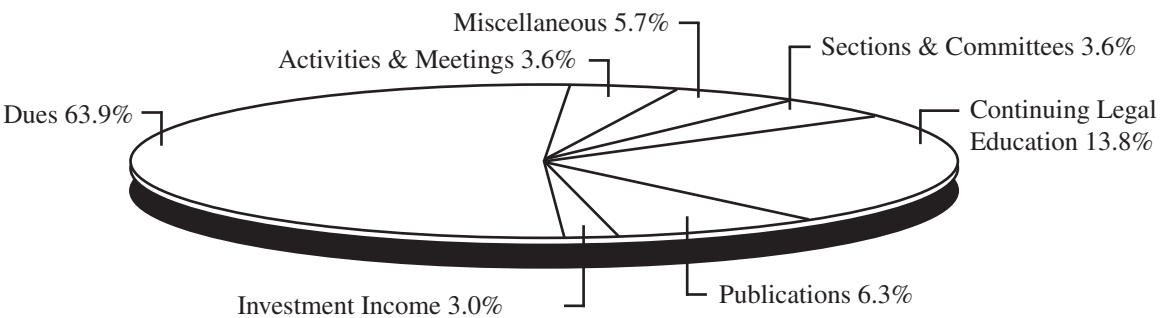
Congratulations to our President, Mike Baxter, who has pressed for many of these changes, and to our Executive Committee and Board of Governors for logging another successful year.



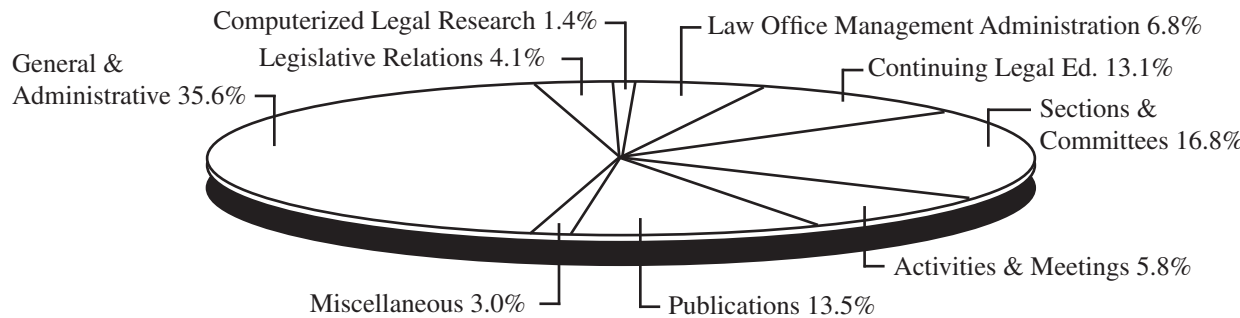
Paul V. Carlin

2012/2013 MSBA FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

6	Revenue	2012	2013	
	Dues	2,821,269	3,369,377	63.9 %
	Activities & Meetings	187,385	190,351	3.6 %
	Sections & Committees	190,023	191,566	3.6 %
	Publications	349,771	334,132	6.3 %
	Continuing Legal Education	815,529	729,074	13.8 %
	Investment Income	88,914	158,977	3.0 %
	Miscellaneous	192,001	302,845	5.7 %
	Total	4,644,892	5,276,322	100.0 %



Expenses	2012	2013	
Activities & Meetings	286,171	282,384	5.8 %
Sections & Committees	817,336	814,242	16.8 %
Publications	609,796	655,612	13.5 %
Legislative Relations	183,295	199,622	4.1 %
Computerized Legal Research	61,283	66,310	1.4 %
Continuing Legal Education	622,302	635,459	13.1 %
General & Administrative	1,736,877	1,727,758	35.6 %
Law Office Management Admin.	276,358	329,772	6.8 %
Miscellaneous	143,333	144,771	3.0 %
Total	4,736,751	4,855,930	100.0 %

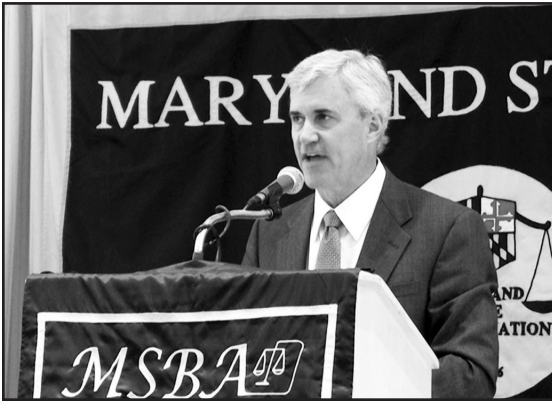


2013/2014 MSBA BOARD ACTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ SECURED funding for Bates/Vincent Foundation for lawyer assistance via surplus generated by Attorney Grievance Commission's annual assessment 7
- ❑ APPROVED creation of Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section and Agriculture Law Section
- ❑ MONITORED the development of the Judiciary's electronic case management program (MDEC)
- ❑ CONTINUED support of the Civics and Law Academy Program in Maryland High Schools
- ❑ APPROVED Annual Audit by Ellin & Tucker
- ❑ SELECTED Board representatives to Legal Aid Bureau, the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, and the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
- ❑ SELECTED recipients of the Sodaro Judicial Civility Award and Presidential Best Section Projects
- ❑ RAISED over \$13,000 for Special Olympics Maryland through participation in the 18th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park

2013 MSBA ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 12-15, OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



MSBA President Michael J. Baxter delivers his installation speech to MSBA members



Attendees stay abreast of the latest law-related goods, technologies, and services in the Exhibitor Hall



The latest appointees to Maryland's Judiciary are honored at the New Judges Reception



Members enjoy a feast of seafood and Eastern Shore specialties at the annual Crab Feast at Hooper's



The Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP) educates children on the importance of the law in their lives with its annual Children's Hour



Then-Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, MD Court of Appeals, speaks during the Annual Meeting, which was his last as Chief Judge. He retired on July 6, 2013.

SECTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Hon. Rachael Barnett, Chair

This Section celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the 50th Anniversary of the Equal Pay Act with a fall event featuring a lecture by Marlene Trestman, biographer of the former Associate Solicitor for Department of Labor, Bessie Margolia. It also presented administrative law panels at the University of Baltimore School of Law and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in March, and will sponsor a program on the Affordable Care Act at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Robert C. Mueller, Chair

This Section monitored legislative initiatives during the 2014 session of the Maryland General Assembly, devoting special attention to proposed legislation that would incorporate provisions from the Uniform Collaborative Law Act into Maryland law. It also continued actively participating in the Mediator Dialogue Group, collaborating on a pilot project in Montgomery County and developing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding mediation referrals to private mediators in that county. The Section produced five webinars and a full day of training at its annual Spring Event, featuring Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, Court of Appeals of Maryland, as guest speaker, as well as the presentation of the Section's annual Chief Judge Robert M. Bell Award to Martin Kranitz. It will present a program, entitled "Making the Most of ADR in the Business Litigation Context: Putting the *Counsel* into *Counselor*", in conjunction with the Litigation and Business Law Sections at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

ANIMAL LAW

Heidi E. Meinzer, Chair

This Section re-affirmed its relationship with the Mid-Atlantic Lyceum, which publishes the *Mid-Atlantic Journal on Law and Public Policy*. It actively commented and testified on proposed legislation during the 2014 session of the Maryland General Assembly, including on the various dog bite liability bills that were introduced to address *Tracey v. Solesky*. The Section hosted the Fifth Annual Animal Law Symposium in April, hosting speakers from across the country and the state. It will present an educational program at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

BUSINESS LAW

Patricia McGowan, Chair

This Section advanced legislation in the Maryland General Assembly that fine-tunes the Maryland General Corporation Law, and provided testimony and comments on legislation relating to the uniform commercial code, securities law, corporate law, nonprofit associations, and other issues. It also developed legislative guidelines for its members and collaborated with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation to implement recent legislation providing for entity conversions; formed a new standing committee, the Committee on Opinion Practices; and maintained its *Business Law Developments* blog, highlighting judicial developments affecting corporate and commercial law. The Section hosted the 2014 Business Law Institute in March, featuring eight continuing legal education panels as well as a keynote address on TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation) and the opportunities it offers. It continued to work with fellows from the University of Baltimore School of Law on matters of business law, and will sponsor a program on "Hot Topics Affecting Business Disputes" at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

CONSTRUCTION LAW

L. Theresa Spradlin-Dahn, Chair

This Section, now in its third year, sponsored a cocktail and dinner program on "An Insider's Look at Recent Developments with the AIA Forms and Key Contract Clauses". It formed a new Women and Diversity Committee and held a joint networking event with the Virginia State Bar's Construction Section. The Section also presented a Mechanic's Lien program in southern Maryland to the 7th Judicial Circuit at its quarterly meeting; teamed with the MSBA Real Property Section for a networking event; and presented on Construction Law and Mechanic's Liens at the Judicial Institute of Maryland. It tracked relevant bills pending in the Maryland General Assembly, as well as annual and quarterly case-law updates, and will present a program on "Construction Contracts, General Conditions, Risks and Damages" at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY

Sari Karson Kurland, Chair

This Section worked jointly with the Bankruptcy Bar Association to draft comments to a proposed Model Chapter 13 Plan; testified and worked with members of the Maryland General Assembly to support passage of bills requiring mandatory financial literacy education as a graduation requirement for Maryland High Schools; and requested a meeting with the Commissioner of Housing Regulation to discuss its proposal that Administrative Law Judges provide information on bankruptcy to struggling home owners so they are informed of their options. It also hosted a joint meeting with the MD/DC Creditors Bar Association, and will hold its Annual Meeting in Columbia, featuring the first in a two-part CLE program.

2013/2014 MSBA SECTIONS AND COMMITTEES

10 CORRECTIONAL REFORM

Booth M. Ripke, Chair

This Section monitored legislation of interest, including efforts to remove children from adult correctional facilities and to reform the parole process. It also hosted various guest speakers, including Secretary Sam Abed from the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, at Section meetings. The Section continued to advocate for passage of legislation that would remove certain children charged as adults from the adult pretrial detention system.

CRIMINAL LAW & PRACTICE

Paul B. DeWolfe, Jr., Chair

This Section focused on educational programs for its members, and co-sponsored a February program on the Fourth Amendment and Litigating Traffic Stops featuring the Honorable George Lipman, Joseph Murtha, Sydney Butcher, Anthony Gioa, and Mary Murphy. It also monitored legislative efforts in the area of criminal law and provided insight and discussion to that practice area's "hot topics", including representation at initial appearances and electronic filing in State Courts. It will sponsor two programs – one focusing on handling of juveniles charged with crimes, the other a cross-examination lecture by Roger Dodd – at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES

Bonnie Alice Sullivan, Chair

This Section relaunched its newsletter to spread the word about current events and pro bono opportunities across the state. It donated funding to publish hard copies of the newly revised *Guide to Legal Services*, Maryland's directory of low- and no-cost legal services, also available online at peoples-law.org. The Section promoted a variety of pro bono and advocacy projects, including the Women's Law Center's Trafficking Victims Post-Conviction Advocacy Project; the Maryland People's Law Library's volunteer Write-In Event; and "All Access: The Law Library Association of Maryland's National Library Conference on Access to Justice" in March. It will co-sponsor the 16th Annual Maryland Partners for Justice Conference, which brings together members of the legal services community to share information about best practices and opportunities for equal access to justice in Maryland, in May.

ELDER LAW & DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION

Lawrence D. Adashek, Chair

This Section updated its By-Laws to include disability rights attorneys, and followed all Maryland and Federal legislation and regulation affecting seniors and disabled persons, testifying where appropriate. It held meetings to apprise its members of issues such as Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) and a Legislative Update. The Section also organized a Law Day program to draft free advance directives for hundreds of seniors throughout Maryland; presented CLE programs on the Affordable Care Act, Veterans' Benefits Certification, Guardianship, and Hot Topics; contributed articles for an "Elder Law" issue of the *Maryland Bar Journal*; and published Winter and Spring editions of its newsletter, *The Elder Law & Disability Rights Extra*. It will host a legal education event at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW

Jason C. Brino and Pamela K. Riewerts, Co-Chairs

This Section devised and pursued membership outreach initiatives to increase its membership base while continuing to provide education and other programming of interest to its existing members. It will publish the first edition of its Entertainment & Sports Law newsletter later this year, and host a program entitled "Hot Topics In Sports & Entertainment" at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Kate Trinward Udo, Chair

This Section presented programs involving the Hudson Farm case and the role of citizen suits in environmental enforcement, stormwater management, and the Maryland rain tax; hosted a dinner featuring Michele Barnes, Chief of the Environmental Crimes Unit for the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland; and sponsored a local networking event at the ABA SEER Fall Conference. It will present an educational program at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

ESTATE & TRUST LAW

Mary Beth Beattie, Chair

This Section, continually proposing, reviewing, and testifying on legislation affecting the practice of estates and trusts law in Maryland, has been working to codify Maryland trust law into a comprehensive trust act, and assisted Maryland legislators with numerous bills addressing the Maryland Estate Tax and the Maryland Inheritance Tax. Its Section Council also meets periodically with the Registers of Wills, Orphans' Court judges, and the Offices of the Comptroller and the Attorney General of Maryland to review common concerns regarding legislative developments, estate and inheritance tax matters, guardianships, and estate and trust administration. The Section continues its educational programs, including its newsletter, the Advance Estate Planning Institute, the Advanced Tax Institute, and numerous CLE and study group programs.

FAMILY & JUVENILE LAW

Justin J. Sasser, Chair

This Section, in conjunction with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the University of Baltimore School of Law, presented a two-session “Family Law 101” program for new practitioners, and also presented several CLE programs, including: “Alimony Workshop” to lawyers who practice on the Eastern Shore in October; “QDRO Workshop” in November; and its annual centerpiece CLE, “Hot Tips in Family Law”. It supported legislation to reduce the evidentiary standard of proof in domestic violence cases filed in Maryland from clear and convincing to preponderance of the evidence. The Section also participated, through membership on and presentation before, the Commission on Child Custody Decision Making to study all aspects of custody for the purpose of proposing legislation in this area. It also continued to publish its quarterly newsletter, the *Maryland Family Law Advocate*, and distribute it to the Section’s 1,200 members.

HEALTH LAW

Marie E. Vasbinder, Chair

This Section conducted educational programs regarding medical records privacy, ethics challenges for health care lawyers, and the new Medicare Waiver program and hospital rate-setting. Its members also participated in a mentor/mentee program at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. The Section plans to conduct its usual review of Maryland legislation affecting health care providers.

IMMIGRATION

Mayabanza S. Bangudi, Chair

This Section continued offering monthly educational webinars at no cost to its members. It created the position of Baltimore Immigration Court liaison, which channels important information directly from the court to Section members, who continue to dedicate countless pro bono hours to unrepresented minors in immigration proceedings through such organizations as Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and the Foreign-Born Information & Referral Network (FIRN). The Section is planning its second CLE program, featuring immigration and corporate attorneys as speakers, and will present an educational program on representing immigrants across different practice areas at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Steven C. DeSmet, Chair

This Section, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law, hosted “Bright Ideas Baltimore: A Celebration of Innovation and Creativity with Tech Business Advisor, Investor, and Columnist Art Jacoby”. It continued to maintain its own stand-alone website, featuring previously published articles on IP issues by its members. The Section offered its members the opportunity to connect socially at “Chair’s Happy Hours”. It will present an educational program entitled “Change is in the Air: Developments in Intellectual Property Law 2013-2014” – featuring recent developments in patent, trademark, and copyright law, including an analysis of pending patent reform legislation; a review of proposed copyright reform; and a survey of IP decisions and cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court – at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. Julia B. Weatherly, Chair

This Section focused on its purpose and function and redefined its identity as the MSBA Bench-Bar Section. Its Section Council, composed of judicial officers from multiple benches and attorneys from a variety of practices, launched this year’s goal to provide opportunities for the legal community to engage in activities with the bench to enhance the practice of law. The Section, partnering with local bar associations, held “Meet and Greet” programs in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County, featuring the new Administrative Judges in those locales. It also considered and responded to a number of inquiries that affected judicial administration, including a review of legislative bills, and will present a program entitled “Are You Smarter Than a Law Clerk?”, hosted by the Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia, at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

Jonathan R. Krasnoff, Chair

This Section, in conjunction with the Administrative Law Section, held its annual dinner meeting, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, in November, featuring speaker Marlene Trestman, author of a forthcoming book on Bessie Margolin, a pioneering female attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor who argued more than 30 cases before the Supreme Court. It presented two lunchtime seminars in conjunction with local bar associations addressing recent developments under the Wage Payment and Collection Law. The Section continued its quarterly newsletter and will present a program on the issue of reasonable accommodations for religious beliefs and disabilities in the workplace at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

2013/2014 MSBA SECTIONS AND COMMITTEES

12 LEGAL EDUCATION & ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Alvaro Joseph Bellido de Luna, Chair

This Section reviewed and ruled on Rule 16 applications for supervised law student practice in Maryland courts. Its Section Council appeared several times before the Standing Committee on Rules of the Court of Appeals of Maryland to request a revision to Rule 16 that will expand limited practice for law students beyond a clinical offering, for which the Standing Committee voted favorably before forwarding it to the Court of Appeals of Maryland for final approval. The Section also worked closely with the Clerk of the Court to streamline the Rule 16 process so that all applications through the Section are now completed electronically, reducing long mail delays.

LITIGATION

Hon. Glenn T. Harrell, Jr., Chair

This Section produced two District Court practice programs in co-sponsorship with the Criminal Law Section. It presented a panel of lawyers and judges addressing recent significant opinions of Maryland's appellate courts in March. And in April, it focused its Annual Dinner honoring Maryland judges on the District Court of Maryland and the state's Magistrate Judges; the Dinner showcased the presentation of the Section's third annual Judge of the Year Award to the Honorable John P. Morrissey. The Section also published three editions of its newsletter, *The Maryland Litigator*. It will present a panel of distinguished journalists, scholars, and practitioners reviewing the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent term as well as an updated draft of the Maryland Discovery Guidelines two years in the making at the MSBA Annual Meeting, where it will also co-sponsor a program with the Business Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution Sections.

NEGLIGENCE, INSURANCE & WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Danny Robert Seidman, Chair

This Section hosted CLE programs, including the January program "Workers' Compensation New Pattern Jury Instructions", which featured a panel consisting of attorneys for the claimant, defense, Subsequent Injury Fund, Jury Instruction Subcommittee, and a judge. It held an outreach program on the "new" COMAR regulations with the Workers' Compensation Commissioners, followed by a moderated question and answer period. The Section will participate in the educational program "How to Lose a Case in District Court" during Solo Day at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

REAL PROPERTY, PLANNING & ZONING

Nicole Marie Folks, Chair

This Section organized an educational bus trip, "Come Hear It Through the Grape Vine", exploring legal challenges faced by winery and cidery owners in Maryland; held its annual Advanced Real Property Institute; and revived its Mentor/Mentee program pairing law students interested in real estate law with Section members. It also organized an on-site legal education event at a popular mixed-use development, and worked with the Young Lawyers Section to host brown-bag educational lunches, beginning with "Fundamentals of Closing" in February. The Section partnered with the Construction Law Section for a joint networking happy hour in February, as well as with the Family and Juvenile Law Section for an April educational program. It will present its Distinguished Practitioner of the Year Award at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

SENIOR LAWYERS

Rob Ross Hendrickson, Chair

This Section, open to MSBA members 60 and over, held bi-monthly noontime meetings, providing members with lunch, a short business meeting, and an interesting speaker. It will honor its "Senior Lawyer of the Year", an individual whose long career exemplifies the very best of the legal profession, at a special dinner in May.

SOLO & SMALL FIRM PRACTICE

L. Jeanette Rice, Chair

This Section held a networking event with the Young Lawyers Section and sponsored three "Hanging Out a Shingle" programs with a combined attendance of more than 200 new solos. It presented the 14th Solo and Small Firm Conference, featuring a new half-day format culminating with a networking lunch, to a sold-out crowd of 180 attendees in November. It will present its annual David Hjortsberg Award at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Kevin J. Best, Chair

This Section remained committed to exploring opportunities to provide cost-effective educational programs for state and local government attorneys through virtual conferences and live meetings. It continued to review and share concerns regarding legislation potentially affecting state, county, and municipal governments, and attorneys. It looks forward to hosting the International Municipal Lawyers Association Annual Meeting in September in Baltimore.

TAXATION

Paul G. Marcotte, Jr., Chair

This Section continued to staff its U.S. Tax Court Pro Bono Program; provided input on tax legislation pending before the Maryland General Assembly; worked closely with MSBA on tax-related CLE materials; and actively made efforts to recruit younger members. It also provided its members with an opportunity to mingle with tax and accounting colleagues, as well as state and federal tax officials, at the Section's annual Tax Networking Night; co-sponsored the annual Advanced Tax Institute; and completed a project to post decisions of the Maryland Tax Court on the Section's webpage. The Section's Tax Symposium at the University of Baltimore School of Law focused on FATCA, IRS Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program, and offshore summons enforcement. It will host its annual Irving Shulbank Memorial Dinner and program, where it will recognize outstanding lawyers through its Tax Excellence and J. Ronald Shiff Memorial Pro Bono Awards, in May, and will also present a CLE program at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

YOUNG LAWYERS

Gregory K. Kirby, Chair

This Section continued its tradition of community service by participating in the Wills for Heroes program, hosting an event to draft powers of attorney and advanced health care directives for low-income individuals; welcoming home American troops at Baltimore/Washington International Airport; and helping to raise over \$13,000 for Special Olympics Maryland by participating in the Polar Bear Plunge. It also raised a record sum of money at its 23rd Annual Charity Event in support of Melody's Fund of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society - Maryland Chapter. The Section also sponsored and testified on proposed cyberbullying legislation during the 2014 session of the Maryland General Assembly; implemented its "BullyProof" program, aimed at educating students and school staff about the devastating consequences of bullying and how to prevent it, as well as offered resources to attorneys who represent parties in legal action arising from bullying; and conducted the first Section-wide survey of its 6,000-plus membership in a decade, and implementing a long-range strategic plan. It will present "District Court Practice: A Statewide System that Varies County by County", featuring a panel of Maryland District Court judges discussing the nuances of District Court practice, at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE

John J. Murphy III, Chair

This Committee reviews budget requests from the various Sections, Committees, and other MSBA-related programs and submits a final budget for the Board of Governors' approval. It also makes recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding budget amendments, financial policies, and long-range fiscal plans.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Harry C. Storm, Chair

This Committee oversees the operations of the MSBA's CLE Department, working with the Department's administrative team to provide quality CLE programs and publications to enhance the professional development of the legal community and MSBA members. This year, the CLE department delivered educational programming to more than 3,000 lawyers across the state through live seminars, webcasts, online/on-demand programs, and video replays.

ETHICS

Christine Pham, Chair

This Committee issues written opinions on the proper interpretation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which are indexed and available on MSBA's website. It also publishes an opinion in each issue of the *Maryland Bar Journal*. The Committee provides oral advice on the interpretation and application of the Rules through the operation of a telephone "hotline" service, announcing the volunteer names each month in the *Bar Bulletin* and on the website.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Sidney A. Butcher, Donna McBride, and Dennis M. Robinson, Jr., Co-Chairs

This Committee, made up of local and at-large members, receives and reviews a copy of each judicial application for every judicial vacancy statewide, and contacts references; assigns the application to a Committee member for the preparation of a summary and presentation to the Committee; then conducts an in-person interview of each applicant; and votes on the applicant's qualifications. It then submits the Committee's confidential findings to the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and the Governor for consideration (some JNCs request and receive an oral presentation from the Committee Chairs prior to their interviews of the applicants). The Committee provides each JNC with its peer evaluation of each applicant's qualifications, which stands as the MSBA's formal position with regard to that applicant for a period of 18 months.

2013/2014 MSBA SECTIONS AND COMMITTEES

14 LAWS

Hon. Kevin F. Arthur, Chair

This Committee prepares the MSBA Legislative Program, which sets forth the Association's positions on such legislative issues as the regulation of the legal profession, the administration of justice, and the independence of the judiciary, for consideration by the Board of Governors. It reviews all bills filed during the state legislative session, recommends positions on bills of interest to the Association, and presents the Association's positions on bills through written and/or oral testimony during the session. The Committee also assists in amending proposed legislation and securing passage of bills supported by the MSBA.

LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*Hon. William G. Simmons and Jay D. Miller,
Co-Chairs*

This Committee continues to expand its services, offering comprehensive lawyer assistance to help members who are experiencing a broad range of problems and personal concerns such as alcohol, drugs, mental health, stress, family, and wellness issues. It receives more than 100 referrals to assist judges, attorneys, and others in the legal community who have trouble in their professional or personal lives each year. The Committee holds monthly core group meetings and quarterly business meetings to identify, facilitate, and support those experiencing problems.

LOCAL & SPECIALTY BAR LIAISON

Michael W. Siri, Chair

This Committee organized the 54th Annual Conference of Bar Presidents from October 24-26 in Hershey, Pennsylvania, which brought together MSBA's Board of Governors, Bar presidents, presidents-elect, and executive directors from all local and specialty Bar associations in Maryland to discuss issues facing their associations. It also worked on developing a protocol to establish better communication between MSBA and local and specialty Bars.

MEMBERSHIP

William N. Sinclair, Chair

This Committee focused on two major undertakings to bring benefits of the MSBA to the maximum number of Maryland attorneys: an effort to grow Association membership through a non-member mailing to attorneys in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and the second annual Speed Networking Event, held at the Sheraton Columbia.

PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Sara H. Arthur, Chair

The Criminal Pattern Jury Instruction Committee worked on a Supplement to its 2012 Second Edition, to be published this fall. The Civil Pattern Jury Instruction Committee will publish its Fifth Edition, which will include a chapter on employment law, within the next year.

PLANNING

Stanford G. Gann, Jr., Chair

This Committee focused on: evaluating MSBA's strengths and weaknesses; bridging the gaps between new lawyers, young lawyers, and beyond within MSBA through coordination with the new Special Committee on Law School Graduates; the gaps between MSBA and the public with a special focus on military veterans in coordination with the Special Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Military Law; and enhancing communication between MSBA and its members, including technology issues in coordination with the new Standing Committee on Technology. It presented a recommendation to the Board of Governors to create a new Special Committee to Evaluate the Issue of Board Certification and Specialization of Maryland Attorneys, which was approved in February. The Committee will provide recommendations for each of these areas in its Final Report to the MSBA Board of Governors in May 2014.

PROFESSIONALISM & CIVILITY

*Hon. Robert B. Kershaw and Barry M. Nudelman,
Co-Chairs*

This Committee promotes professionalism and civility among Maryland lawyers, judges, and citizens. It collaborated in planning the Maryland Professionalism Center's 2014 Professionalism Symposium, scheduled for October 31, 2014. The Committee also: launched an MSBA Speakers' Bureau to assist local and specialty Bars with planning a presenting professionalism programs throughout the state; contributed to the establishment of the Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., Professionalism Award to recognize a member of the bar or bench who had made outstanding contributions to the promotion of legal professionalism and civility; and jointly sponsored a CLE program with the Ethics Committee at the MSBA Annual Meeting.

PROGRAM

Hon. Barbara Kerr Howe, Chair

This Committee planned educational programs on current topics, which included opportunities for social interaction as well as for MSBA's Mid-Year Meeting, held in February in St. Kitts. It is planning MSBA's Annual Meeting, which will feature substantial law and practice programs in June in Ocean City. The Committee continues to seek opportunities to make all of its programming timely, relevant, innovative, and instructional to address the needs of the various MSBA Sections and Standing and Special Committees.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Jason Hessler, Chair

This Committee enhances the public's understanding of the law through community education and outreach. It presents MSBA's two most successful, ongoing public service projects: its series of 24 public awareness legal information guides, which are disseminated to the public free of charge, and its Speakers' Bureau, through which 250 volunteer attorneys go out into the community and educate the public about the law. The Committee also sponsored its May Law Day program, a lawyer/student/teacher conference highlighting its special Positive Messaging Video and Poster Competition on "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters" in conjunction with the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP).

RESOLUTION OF FEE DISPUTES

Charles O. Fisher, Jr., Chair

This Committee is composed of an Executive Council consisting of a Chairman and seven Vice Chairmen, and includes a membership of more than 100 members, who volunteer to act as Client Representatives and Arbitrators. Its Executive Council meets about four times per year to vote on the disposition of cases.

RULES OF PRACTICE

Phillip Tyson Bennett, Chair

This Committee's principal function is to follow the proceedings of the Court of Appeals' Committee on Rules and to serve as the liaison between MSBA and the Committee on Rules. This year, at least one member of the MSBA Committee attended each meeting of the Court of Appeals' Rules Committee and reported back to MSBA leadership as appropriate.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Keith R. Truffer

This Committee works to further MSBA's electronic services. This past year, this Committee has overseen the installation of videoconferencing at MSBA Headquarters and the creation of a brand-new MSBA website.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE LAW COMMITTEE

Kimberly Anne Manuelides and Kathleen J.P. Tabor, Co-Chairs

This Committee serves as a supportive assembly of legal professionals to those involved in agricultural affairs. It monitors relevant developments in other substantive areas of the law as they pertain to agriculture, agribusiness, and aquaculture in Maryland and disseminates information on those developments.

APPOINTMENTS

Bernard A. Cook, Chair

This Committee publicizes vacancies on the boards of directors for the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, and the Legal Aid Bureau, interviews interested candidates and makes recommendations to MSBA's Board of Governors.

ASIAN-AMERICAN BAR

Ranju Rani Shrestha, Chair

This Committee reaches out to Maryland's Asian-American lawyers and maintains an active electronic discussion group.

CITIZENSHIP/LAW-RELATED EDUCATION

Hon. Diane O. Leasure and Hon. Mark F. Scurti, Co-Chairs

This Committee promotes law-related education in Maryland schools to educate students about the law and legal system and presents the statewide High School Mock Trial Competition, in which more than 56,000+ students have competed; other programs include the Law Links High School Internship, Baltimore City Teen Court, and the Baltimore City Council Page Program. It also provides teacher training and produces curriculum and publications in law-related education, conflict resolution, and bullying/sexual harassment prevention. The Committee, in conjunction with MSBA's Public Awareness Committee, sponsored MSBA's Law Day Conference highlighting the theme "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters", and also partnered with the Civics & Law Academy Committee and the Maryland Judiciary Public Awareness Committee to implement three Civics & Law Academies.

CIVICS & LAW ACADEMY

Alice S. Chong, Chair

This Committee, a partnership between MSBA, the Maryland Judiciary, CLREP, and the Maryland Public School System, engages young people of high school age in learning about law and civil society. It conducted three Civics & Law Academies around the state, in Cecil, Harford, and Anne Arundel Counties, with more than 300 students and teachers from local high schools participating in the sessions. The Academy featured more than 25 lawyers and judges presenting interactive sessions designed to develop civic competency and a deeper understanding of the law and legal rights while providing participants with a minimum of four hours of focused instruction on topics such as Law and Justice; Rights and Responsibilities; Free Speech, School Speech, and Protected Speech; and Power and Empowerment. The Committee also funded additional Academies, through grants provided by the Maryland Bar Foundation, to the Frederick County Bar and the Baltimore County Bar.

2013/2014 MSBA SECTIONS AND COMMITTEES

16 COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Hon. Marcella A. Holland and Hon. Robert B. Kershaw, Co-Chairs

This Committee is addressing some of the numerous problems facing courthouses in Baltimore City. It is assisting the courts in developing plans for an additional, new courthouse to house the Circuit Court's criminal division and some units of the District Court.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY

Courtney A. Blair, Chair

This Committee continues to oversee production of the *Maryland Bar Journal* and the *Bar Bulletin*, updating members on information and timely issues impacting the legal profession. The *Journal*, also available to members online, continues to feature new legal theme issues, while the *Bar Bulletin* continues to offer members a broad range of legal and substantive topics as well as practical information relevant to Maryland lawyers.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Rachel T. McGuckian, Chair

This Committee has not been called upon to take any action this year, but remains vigilant and prepared to do so in the event that it becomes necessary to respond to any unjustified criticisms.

INVESTMENTS

Cleaveland D. Miller, Chair

This Committee oversees MSBA's prudent investment of Association assets. The investment objective is to earn a fair return while ensuring that sufficient funds are always available for the smooth operation of MSBA functions.

LAW REFORM

Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Chair

This Committee is dedicated to promoting reform in the law through a proactive role in the development of laws in Maryland. It also seeks to identify much-needed new laws, problems with existing laws, such as unintended consequences, and laws that have become obsolete.

LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES

Louise Michaux Gonzales, Chair

This Committee, equipped with members of the legal community from both within and outside the MSBA, explores the challenges and problems – and possible solutions – facing recent law school graduates. It studies issues like law school debt, a weak job market, and what roles bar associations, law schools, and the legal establishment as a whole might play in addressing these issues.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Hon. Lisa A. Johnson Hall and William Carl Isler II, Co-Chairs

The Leadership Academy continued with its mission of nurturing and developing diverse groups of young lawyers who have been identified from a competitive pool of applicants as having superior leadership potential. After celebrating its 15th Anniversary last bar year, the Committee recommitted itself to providing superior mentoring and monthly leadership training. This year's Fellows class focused their public service project on raising awareness regarding the importance of environmental law and the impact that environmental issues have on natural resources in Maryland.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Henry E. Dugan, Jr., Chair

This Committee met in the fall and the spring of the bar year. It continues to discuss issues of importance to MSBA, including the future plans for the Bar Headquarters, the recent inclusion of Sections to membership on the Board of Governors, the continued participation of Past Presidents in the American Bar Association House of Delegates, and the National Conference of Bar Presidents.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & MILITARY LAW

John H. Price, Jr., Chair

This Committee installed a full slate of officers and council members, and as of March 1, its membership has grown 70 percent, from 71 to 121. It established a partnership with the Maryland Department of Veterans' Affairs; Maryland Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Edward Chow, Jr., spoke at a Committee meeting, consequently launching a robust veterans lawyer referral program. The Committee collaborated with the newly established Task Force to study the concept of a Veterans' Court; the Maryland General Assembly has asked for a report from the Task Force by December 1, 2013. The Committee is in constant contact with veterans groups, pro bono projects, and other interested individuals, committees, and government agencies involved in military and veterans affairs with a focus on serving the Maryland veteran and military community.

VOIR DIRE

Paul Mark Sandler, Chair

This Committee is composed of more than 40 members, including judges and lawyers from across Maryland, who continue to work on the development of model Voir Dire questions. It has formed the following subcommittees: Tort Law; Business and Commercial Law; Wills, Trusts and Estates; Real Property; Criminal Law; and Style. The Committee expects to report in the near future on proposed final questions relating to tort law and criminal law.