



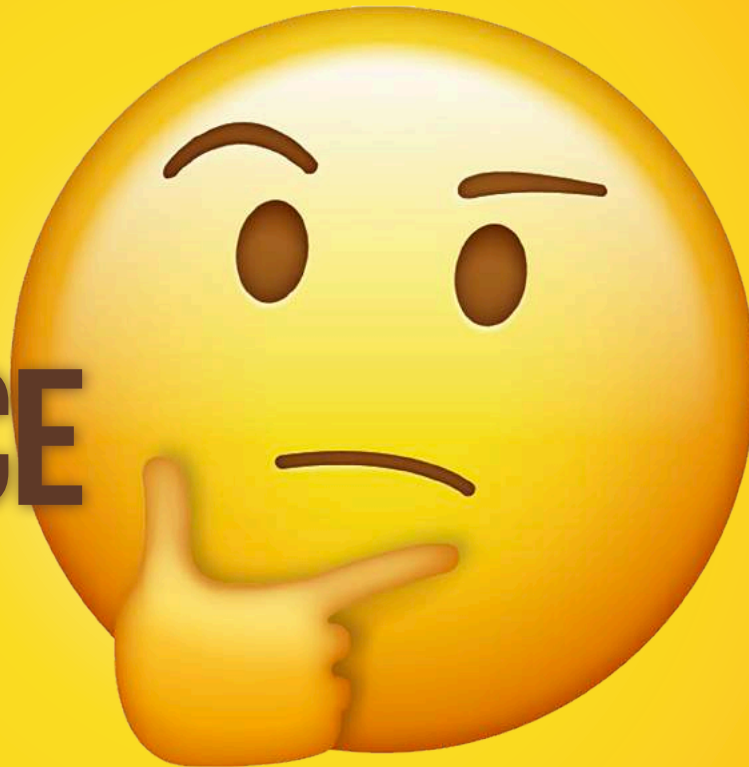
INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

# BRIEFS

MAY 2018

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@ICBALawyers



## New ICBA Logo And Letterhead Policy

At the February 2018 ICBA Board of Directors meeting, a new policy was adopted regarding the use of the ICBA logo and letterhead. If you are currently using or are planning to use the ICBA logo, we ask that you become familiar with and abide by the revised policy. You can read the full policy [here](#).

## ABOUT ICBA

Founded in 1895, the Ingham County Bar Association continues its longstanding tradition of service to the legal profession and the greater Lansing community, bringing lawyers together to join in a strong organization that works to achieve objectives that transcend the individual.

### INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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Awards: Lindsay Dangl/  
Charles Lawler

Annual Dinner: Mary  
Chartier



**Annual Meeting:** Mary  
Chartier

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Shane Hilyard

**Barristers:** Judge Hugh  
Clarke, Alexander Rusek

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**BRIEFS:** Jordan Leaming

**Education:** Sandra Lake,  
Patricia Scott

**Meet the Judges:** Jamie  
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Karen Poole

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Amato, Jessica Zimbelman

**Nominating Committee:**  
Mark Kellogg

**Past Presidents:** Mark  
Kellogg

**Shrimp Dinner:** Robert  
Refior, Elias Kafantaris

**Sponsors:** Steve Sinas, Jim  
Dalton

**List Serve:** Josh Ard

**Social Media:** TBD

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# President's Message

by *Jessica Fox*

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It is hard to believe it is May already. That means my term as your President is almost over.

It has been my honor to serve the Ingham County Bar Association. I hope that I have continued the tradition and legacy of those ICBA Presidents before me.

2017-2018 has been an exciting time for the Association in many ways:

- BRIEFS was relaunched with a new editor and a new design.
- Starting in November 2018, lawyers who are Veterans or active service members will be recognized in BRIEFS every November.
- We are keeping up with technology by creating new procedures for dues notices, event registrations, credit card processing and more.
- Our Sections continue to provide quality content to their members through important educational events.

I would like to thank the fabulous people in my life who have helped me every step of the way.

Thank you to my fellow attorneys Lawrence P. Nolan, Gary G. Villas and Michael W. Thomsen, and our amazing staff.

Thank you to Madelyne Lawry, Executive Director, and her staff at Shared Resources, Inc., for the incredible support to the Association and to me during my term as President.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for the continuous encouragement and for the dedication to Ingham County lawyers. You are all rock stars!

I hope that you all had a wonderful time at the Annual Meeting/Shrimp Dinner, where I announced the new members elected to the Board of Directors.

Here's to another great year!





# On The Docket

For additional information on ICBA events, call 517-627-3938, email [info@inghambar.org](mailto:info@inghambar.org) or visit [ICBA on Facebook](#) or the [ICBA website](#).

JUNE 3	YLS Paper Chase 10 AM	Meridian Township Complex
JUNE 21	Monthly Deliberations 5 PM	Spartan Brewpub Mason
JUNE 28	ICBF 14th Annual Memorial Golf Classic	Hawk Hollow Golf Course

## Attention ICBA Members Who Are Veterans

In November, we will be publishing a special edition of BRIEFS dedicated to Veterans. If you're an ICBA member who is also a Veteran, please submit the following information to ICBA:

- Name
- Branch of the military
- Active or inactive status
- Years of service

Please send the above information as soon as possible to [info@inghambar.org](mailto:info@inghambar.org) or submit it through your upcoming ICBA dues invoice.



# Raising The Bar



So

## Kester So Elected President Of U.S. Law Firm Group

Kester So has been elected President of the Board of Trustees of the United States Law Firm Group at its annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. The U.S. Law Firm Group is comprised of 17 large law firms located throughout the United States, whose leaders serve on the Board of Trustees.

So is a member of Dickinson Wright's Management Group, where he specializes in municipal finance. He has served as bond counsel or underwriter's counsel on a wide variety of bond issues, including bonds for health care, public power, higher education, student loan, transportation, unemployment insurance, tax increment financing, state revolving fund, environmental, school bond loan fund, state and local building authorities, airports, water and sewer, solid waste disposal and economic and industrial development bonds.

So received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan with high distinction. He earned his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.



Meagher

## Thomas Meagher Inducted As ABF Fellow

Thomas R. Meagher, a litigation attorney at Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC, has been inducted as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (ABF).

The Fellows of the ABF are a global, honorary society made up of lawyers, judges and legal faculty whose careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and to the welfare of society. Membership is limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction.

Meagher practices in Foster Swift's Lansing office and has more than 30 years' experience in employment and civil rights litigation, commercial litigation and appellate law. He is also a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, the Michigan Supreme Court Advocates Guild and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.



Rusek

## Alexander Rusek Receives "10 Within 10 Award"

Alexander Rusek has been honored with Oakland University's "10 Within 10 Award" for his dedication to improving and impacting the legal profession and his community.

Rusek graduated from Oakland University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He is an associate attorney at White Law PLLC and the President of the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.



By  
Thomas Woods  
517-487-0800

[tewoods@cumminswoodslaw.com](mailto:tewoods@cumminswoodslaw.com)  
Thomas Woods is an attorney at Cummins Woods in Lansing. He is a Fellow of the Ingham County Bar Foundation.

The Ingham County Bar Foundation, formed in 2002, is an IRC 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that enables lawyers and others in the community to join in an effort to provide access to justice, expand legal services to the public, promote legal education and safeguard the honor and integrity of the legal profession.

The Foundation is funded through contributions, memberships, sponsorships, the Annual Golf Outing, bequests and the occasional judges' retirement events.

The Foundation has made more than 55 grants to worthy nonprofit organizations with a common thread: each shares the Foundation's goals of improving the administration of justice, ensuring that legal services are made available to the public in nondiscriminatory ways and educating members of the public about their legal rights and obligations.

# Where Does The Money Go?

Among the organizations receiving grants from the Foundation in 2017 are the following.

- *The Friends of the Ingham County Veterans' Treatment Court* – This 54-B District Court-sponsored organization assists Veterans in the criminal justice system find needed help, including employment, education, stable housing, and substance abuse and mental health treatment, all with the goal of reducing recidivism. The program also provides mentors for Veterans who have been through the system.
- *Legal Services of South Central Michigan* – The grant will be used to provide free legal services to low-income survivors of domestic violence in the Ingham, Eaton and Clinton county area.
- *St. Vincent Catholic Charities* – The grant will help provide information to foreign nationals and refugees in the mid-Michigan area about their rights and obligations under United States laws.
- *Child and Family Charities* – The grant will support the Ingham Teen Court, in which students who violate the school code can opt to participate to avoid school suspensions. They are judged by their peers with assistance from local attorneys.
- *Michigan Community Resources* – The grant will help provide pro bono legal services to nonprofit organizations in low-income communities, strengthening

those entities and, thus, enhancing their efforts in those communities.

- *The Ingham County Sobriety Court Foundation* – This charity supports four Ingham County Sobriety Courts: 54-A District Court in Lansing; 54-B District Court in East Lansing; 55th District Court in the remainder of Ingham County; and the 30th Circuit Court. It helps meet the essential personal needs of participants that are unmet by the courts' limited resources. This assistance is often the difference in a participant completing a program or dropping out.

The Foundation also supports annually the City of Lansing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and sponsors Ingham County Bar Association projects, including ICBA Young Lawyers, and the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association.

Meanwhile, "Extending Your Influence" is the Foundation's ongoing campaign that challenges lawyers and other members of the community to support the Foundation's Endowment to permanently assure the Foundation's ability to achieve its purposes and extend its influence in mid-Michigan.

In addition, the Foundation has a Memorial Fund honoring deceased lawyers that will eventually sponsor lectures, workshops and conferences in their names. The Foundation encourages lawyers to make gifts to the Endowment Fund and to suggest to their clients that they also consider contributing as part of gifting strategies. In this way, we all can "Extend Our Influence."



# ICBF 14th Annual Memorial Golf Classic Set For June 28

The Ingham County Bar Foundation 14th Annual Memorial Golf Classic will be held Thursday, June 28, 2018 at Hawk Hollow Golf Course in Bath Township.

This year's honorary event chairs are Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Amy Ronayne Krause and 30th Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie Aquilina. A share of the proceeds from the event will benefit the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court.

The event schedule is:

9-10 a.m. – Registration and Lunch  
 10 a.m. – Shot Gun Start  
 4 p.m. – Program/Awards Reception

The cost to participate is \$125 per person. After May 25, the cost is \$135. Young lawyers (up to age 35 or five years or less in practice) pay \$100 per person (\$125 after May 25). For those who cannot golf but would like to attend the reception, the cost is \$30. You can [register online here](#). You can download the [team registration form here](#).

Sponsorships are also available (deadline is June 14). Sponsors will receive recognition in marketing before and after the event, and in the e-newsletter. You can download the [sponsorship form here](#).

- General Hole Sponsors – 1 ticket to attend the reception.
- Bronze Corporate Sponsors – 3 tickets to attend the reception.
- Silver Corporate Sponsors – 5 tickets to attend the reception.
- Gold Corporate Sponsors – 10 tickets to attend the reception.

For more information, call Kurt Krause at 517-214-1563 or Jackie Dupler at 517-272-6355.





# ***DID YOU KNOW?***

## **Michigan Supreme Court To Hold May 23 Public Administrative Hearing**

A Michigan Supreme Court public administrative hearing on May 23, 2018, will address the following agenda items.

1. **Proposed Amendment of MCR 6.429** – Whether to provide trial courts with broader authority to sua sponte address erroneous judgments of sentence.
2. **Proposed Amendment of MCR 6.610** – Whether to eliminate an arguable conflict by exempting pleas taken under subsection (E)(7) from the requirements of subsection (E)(4).
3. **Proposed Amendments of MCR 5.125 and 5.409** – Whether to clarify the notice provisions in minor guardianships and financial reporting requirements for guardians.
4. **Proposed Amendment of MRPC 7.2** – Whether to adopt either of the alternate proposed amendments regarding certain lawyer advertisements.
5. **Proposed Amendments of MCR 9.112 and 9.131** – Whether to provide that spouses of the Attorney Grievance Commission or Attorney Discipline Board members or employees be subject to the same procedure for review of allegations of misconduct as the Board or Commission member or employee.
6. **Proposed Amendment of MRPC 1.16** – Whether to adopt either of the alternate proposed amendments to require criminal defense attorneys to inform clients that counsel cannot withdraw without the court's permission under circumstances where counsel intends to withdraw if the defendant does not accept a plea or for any reason under MRPC 1.16(B)(3).
7. **Proposed Amendments of MCR 6.310, 6.429 and 6.431** – Whether to provide a “prison-mailbox” rule for certain post-

sentence motions filed by incarcerated in pro per defendants.

8. **Proposed Amendment of MCR 9.122** – Whether to establish a 56-day time period in which a grievant may file a complaint in the Supreme Court after the Attorney Grievance Commission has dismissed a request for investigation.

9. **Proposed Amendment of Rule 15 of the Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan** – Whether to increase the fee for Character and Fitness investigations to more accurately reflect the cost of performing the investigations and update the language to reflect the online application process.

10. **Proposed Amendment of MRPC 7.3 and Proposed Addition of MRPC 1.18** – Whether to clarify the ethical duties that lawyers owe to prospective clients and create consistency in the use of the term “prospective client.”

11. **Proposed Addition of MCR 6.417** – Whether to require trial courts to provide parties with an opportunity to comment on a proposed order of mistrial, state their consent or objection, or suggest alternatives.

The hearing will be held in the Supreme Court courtroom on the 6th Floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street in Lansing. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude no later than 11:30 a.m. If you want to address the Court about matters on the agenda, you will have three minutes to present your views, after which you may be questioned by the justices. To reserve a place on the agenda, notify the Office of Administrative Counsel in writing at PO Box 30052, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or by e-mail at [ADMcomment@courts.mi.gov](mailto:ADMcomment@courts.mi.gov), no later than Monday, May 21, 2018.

## SCAO Garnishment Forms Revised, New FOC Form Created

The SCAO-approved forms relating to garnishments (MC 12, MC 13, MC 14, MC 48, MC 49 and MC 52) have been revised to reflect changes to MCR 2.625 and MCR 3.101. The revised garnishment forms can be used as of May 1, 2018. Click [here](#) for details.

The SCAO has also created a new form [FOC 2b](#), Notice of Contempt Hearing for Failure to Pay Support. The form was developed because of amendments to MCR 3.208 and because the SCAO was mandated to create the form.

## Michigan Court Rules: Recent Amendments & Proposed Changes

The Michigan Supreme Court has amended [MCR 6.310](#), [6.429](#), [6.431](#), [7.205](#), [7.211](#) and [7.212](#). The change clarifies the practices for criminal defendants represented by assigned appellate counsel.

In addition, the Court has offered a proposed amendment of [MCR 7.202](#). The suggested change would clarify what constitutes a final post-judgment order in a domestic relations case for purposes of appeal by right.



### Let BRIEFS Help Spread The Word About Your Upcoming Event!

If your association, organization, law school, etc. has an upcoming law-related event, send it to BRIEFS so we can share it with the legal community.

Please provide us the 1) event name, 2) location, 3) date, 4) time and 5) pertinent information describing the event, and we'll publish it in BRIEFS.

Send items to [briefs@inghambar.org](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org). The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's issue (i.e., April 15<sup>th</sup> for the May issue).



By  
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*Traci Gentilozzi is an attorney who owns and operates 360 Legal Solutions, a legal content development and lawyer promotion company in Lansing. She is also the Editor of BRIEFS and a former publisher & editor of Michigan Lawyers Weekly.*



## YOUR CLIENT'S USE OF EMOJI: IT MATTERS

Emoji are all around us. You've seen them – those tiny (sometimes strange) pictures that people insert in their texts, emails and social media posts. The 😊 or the 😭 or the 🐼

People tend to use these images to reflect their emotions or feelings at the time. Seems innocent enough, right?

Wrong. Unfortunately, emoji are not always as innocuous as they may seem, especially when they're part of evidence admitted in a legal proceeding.

### The Emoji Explosion

More than 70 percent of Americans use emoji (formally called "emoticons") on a regular basis. In fact, there are now upward of 2,600 emoji that people can include in their digital communications, and more are being created every day.

Because of the emoji explosion, courts across the

United States are being asked to interpret the meaning of emoji in admitted evidence, including text messages, emails and social media posts. According to the Wall Street Journal, emoji were mentioned in more than 30 federal and state court opinions in 2017 – an increase from 25 opinions in 2016 and 14 opinions in 2015.

For instance, a court may grapple with questions like:

- What does >\_< (angry face) mean in a text message in a bitter divorce case?
- In a sexual harassment suit, how should ;- ) (smiley face with wink) be interpreted in an email between a supervisor and a subordinate?
- Does a knife emoji in a social media post show intent or threatening behavior in an assault case?

### Emoji Interpretation By Michigan Courts

Michigan is one state where the courts have tackled the meaning of emoji. To date, Michigan courts have been asked to decipher one emoticon in particular – the



stuck-out tongue, which may look like this in a message: :-P.

In 2015, Judge Robert Cleland of the Eastern District of Michigan was asked to rule on the meaning of the stuck-out-tongue emoticon in a text message. The case, *Enjaian v Schlissel*, involved a male student at the University of Michigan Law School who allegedly harassed and stalked a female classmate. When no charges were filed, the student sued the classmate, the school and the police, asserting the text messages he sent should not have been taken seriously because the messages included a sarcastic emoji, including the :-P.

But Judge Cleland disagreed, finding the protruding-tongue emoji did not “materially alter the meaning of the text message,” wherein the student had said that he wanted to do “just enough to make [the classmate] feel crappy.”

Meanwhile, the Michigan Court of Appeals saw things differently in *Ghanam v Does*, 303 Mich App 522 (2014). In *Ghanam*, a defamation case, one of the statements claimed to be defamatory was this: “the city was ‘only getting more garbage trucks because [the plaintiff] needs more tires to sell to get more money for his pockets :-P.’”

According to the Court of Appeals, the stuck-out-tongue emoji at the end of the sentence could not be taken seriously because it was “patently clear” the user was joking. The Michigan Supreme Court denied leave to appeal in *Ghanam*.

### The Future Of Emoji

Emoji present some interesting legal questions. For example, supporters of free speech are troubled that certain emoji are often viewed as negative or threatening. And defense lawyers sometimes argue that emoji should not be considered at all, or only in limited circumstances.

Given the increased use of emoji in daily communications, it can be difficult to argue that these little pictures do not convey the intent or feelings of the user. In fact, it's pretty much understood that when an emoji is included in a message or a social media post, it reflects the attitude or feelings of the user at the time, whether good or bad.

So, then, why are emoji difficult for the courts to

understand? The answer: because they can be ambiguous in their use.

Although emoji often reflect the user's intent or attitude, they can also undermine it in certain circumstances. For example, does a stuck-out-tongue emoji in an email about the terms of a contract mean the user dislikes the proposal? Or was the emoji inserted to convey sarcasm, although the user is willing to accept the contract terms? Questions like these are what the courts are increasingly facing.

In the meantime, it's clear that emoji are not disappearing anytime soon, which is why the courts must continue to examine them when they are part of admissible evidence. As a result, the courts will keep facing emoji interpretation challenges.

As well as interpretation challenges, another emoji problem is judicial inconsistency. Admittedly, the courts have only begun to interpret the meaning of emoji in recent years. However, it appears that many courts have reached opposite conclusions regarding the use and meaning of emoji. This further muddies the already-murky emoji waters.

For now, though, it seems the meaning of emoji will turn on the specific facts of a particular case.

### Lawyers: Don't Discount Emoji

As more people – including your clients – use emoji in their communications, attorneys must be mindful to not automatically disregard their use and importance.

Lawyers need to know about ... and understand ... their clients' pertinent communications that include emoji. Practitioners need to talk with their clients about why an emoji was used in a text message, email or social media post.

This also means that lawyers need to begin grasping the subtle nuances of emoji. To help in this regard, studies are currently underway that analyze the use and meaning of emoji. In addition, legal conferences are now offering seminars to help lawyers determine what emoji mean and how people (your clients) use them.

WIRED's Julia Greenberg hit the nail on the head when she said this: “*When the digital symbol for a gun, a smile, or a face with stuck-out tongue comes up in court, they aren't being derided or ignored. Emoji matter.*”





By  
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*Karen Phillips is a partner at the Nichols Law Firm in East Lansing. She is a board member of the Michigan Association of OWI Attorneys, a member of the National College for DUI Defense and the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan and is on the Board of the Ingham County Mental Health Court. She focuses a large portion of her practice on driver's license issues.*



## Driver Responsibility Fees Are Dead: What Do I Tell My Client?

The Michigan Legislature recently realized the error of its ways and the Secretary of State (SOS) Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF) program is being eliminated as of October 1, 2018.

The change brings a lot of questions. For anyone who had the fees imposed before the magical expiration date arrives, the questions are:

1. What do we do?
2. Do we pay?
3. Do we not pay and cross our fingers?

On March 1, 2018, Gov. Rick Snyder signed House Bills 5040, 5043, 5044 and 5079. These bills became [Public Act 43 of 2018](#), which carves out many “fixes” and eliminates the DRF program completely.

DRFs were tied directly to the ability to drive. If you did not pay a DRF, your driving privileges were suspended. Several years ago, the SOS worked with the Michigan Department of Treasury to allow those who had the fees imposed to set up a payment plan. So long as the person kept current with the payment plan, it would not affect their ability to drive. But if they fell behind, their license was suspended.

Thousands of people have already paid their fees in full. Still thousands more have accepted the offer extended by the SOS and the Michigan Department of Treasury to set up a payment plan. It is believed that thousands more still owe the full-boat of their fee.

So, what do we tell our clients when the inevitable, “what do I do about this?” question is posed.

### A True Story

One horror story that happened at our law firm involved a client who did not pay her DRF. Her license was suspended. Then she was pulled over and arrested for operating while intoxicated. Seems like an easy fix, right? Just go pay the DRF and get your license reinstated

before we go to court and drive on a 625g permit. (Per MCL 257.625g, this permit is the paper license given to a Michigan-licensed driver by the arresting officer as soon as the driver submits a chemical test over the legal limit.)

Not so. The SOS would not accept her reinstatement fee. The idea was, "Why make one of our citizens pay it twice?" Right. I am from the government and I am here to help you.

The problem is that unless the reinstatement fee is paid, you are not legal to drive. You guessed it: while the OWI was pending and our client thought she was legal to drive after she went to the SOS, she slid off a snowy road during a storm. One misdemeanor ticket for driving without a valid license, coming right up!

It was a nightmare of a winter for this young client ... and her father.

### Typical Questions

Here are some common questions that may arise for clients with DRFs.

#### 1. What will I have to pay between now and the last day of the DRF program?

Beginning October 1, 2018, the DRF will no longer be imposed on any convictions or civil infractions for which a DRF was imposed under the old law. No fees will be collected from any person who still has outstanding fees after September 30, 2018. However, you are still responsible for payment of any DRF imposed until September 30, 2018.

What if you thumb your nose at the SOS? Under the old law, your license was suspended until you cleared up the debt. Now, the SOS has announced it will allow people to get the license cleared. (Click here for the SOS [DRF Cheat sheet](#).)

#### 2. What if I already set up a payment plan?

As long as you are in good standing with a payment plan as of February 1, 2018, the SOS will not pursue any additional fees. You get a pass!

If your license was suspended for non-payment, you will be able to reinstate your license without having to pay the reinstatement fee as of March 31, 2018 so long as there are no other pending license actions.

#### 3. What happens to your license if you are currently suspended for non-payment of DRFs?

If you go to the SOS between September 30 and December 31, 2018, you will not have to pay a reinstatement fee. If you go to the SOS after January 1, 2019, to try and reinstate your license, you will have to pay the reinstatement fee. This is, of course, as long as your driving privileges are not suspended or revoked for any other reason. This only applies if your license was suspended for not paying the DRF.

### New SOS Electronic Filing System

In addition to the DRF process, the SOS implemented an electronic filing system on March 5, 2018. The system is for license appeal hearings and circuit court appeals handled by the SOS Administrative Hearing Section.

The system allows a petitioner and/or an attorney representing a petitioner to:

1. submit hearing requests and required evidence electronically.
2. receive electronic notifications with updates regarding the administrative hearing.
3. submit requests for adjournment or withdraw a request for a hearing electronically.
4. serve the department with circuit court petitions and orders electronically.
5. request, pay for and receive the administrative record including a transcript of the administrative hearing electronically.

Attorneys should be aware that to obtain electronic access to a driver's license appeal, the system will require the attorney to authorize the SOS to contact Experian to view a consumer report. This is required of any petitioner, attorney or staff person for an attorney. Firms are not permitted to create an account; each attorney in the firm must create an individual account.

Ostensibly, the authorization to contact Experian is to verify the identity of the attorney. The SOS indicates that the personal information solicited from the attorney is verified by Experian and only the result of the verification is relayed to the SOS. A hard inquiry on the attorney's credit report is not created.

The SOS also indicates through attorney Colleen Tulloch-Brown that the system has so far worked well, and more than 212 attorneys had logged in as of April 2, 2018.



By  
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*Roberta Gubbins  
ghostwrites articles,  
website content and  
blogs, writes a marketing  
column for the State  
Bar of Michigan and  
is editor of the SBM  
Master Lawyers Section  
newsletter.*

# How Can You Increase Your Referrals?

The oldest, most reliable form of generating leads for lawyers is referrals. In fact, it is probable that your very first client came to you via a referral. In turn, that client likely referred the second client ... and so forth.

A [2017 Legal Trends study](#) conducted by Clio found that 62 percent of people find their attorneys through referrals from family or friends. There are several ways you can grow these referrals. Here are a few.

- **Do good work** – The best referrals come from satisfied clients, and doing good work for those clients is the way to get those referrals. Clients notice the small things: being on time, listening to what they say, explain (and explain again) until they understand, even when they don't get all they want. Those contented clients will remember you and will send others your way.

- **Expand your email list** – Be sure to ask for a new client's email and permission to send information over the Internet. Assuming your website has content, use that content to send a periodic e-newsletter. Your e-newsletter should include great content, images, links and overviews. It doesn't need to be long – it should simply be well-written and attractively formatted. And don't forget to include bits about the daily goings-on in the office to show off your staff's personality. Such content gives a personal touch and makes others feel invested in the people behind your brand.

- **Create and maintain relationships with other businesses** – Forming relationships with businesses that complement your practice, such as accountants, investment advisors, realtors or health professionals, can also lead to referrals. Keep them up to date with an e-newsletter and remember to refer business their way when appropriate.

- **Out-of-office activities** – Lawyers donate a lot of time to their communities. Most find such work gratifying. Report about it in your e-newsletter. Remember that clients and peers who know about your firm are more comfortable making a referral.

- **SBM Lawyer2Lawyer referral service** – The State Bar of Michigan has developed, with the help of Zeekbeek, an easy-to-use referral service: the Lawyer2Lawyer Professional Referral Directory. With this service, you can advertise your niche practice area to the 40,000-plus Michigan lawyers. It is a paid service but is offered free of charge for three months.

- **Show your appreciation** – For clients who refer work to you, show your appreciation. It can be as simple as a hand-written thank-you note to show your gratitude for the effort they've taken to help your business. Even if you don't take the matter and refer it to another lawyer, be sure to thank the client. That client will remember, refer other matters ... and your business will grow.



By  
David Sheaffer  
[drsheaffer1@gmail.com](mailto:drsheaffer1@gmail.com)  
*David Sheaffer is a  
law clerk for Michigan  
Supreme Court Justice  
Richard Bernstein.*

# Running Toward Relaxation

When I say I love to run, I don't mean a short jog. I love hitting double digits on my weekends and spending hours trotting without a care in the world. My passion, however, is not shared by many whom I know. But with warmer weather here, now is the perfect time to pick up a new pair of sneakers and give a new hobby a try.

This article is aimed at those who have wondered whether running is something they could tolerate, or even enjoy. I hope to convince you that exercise is the least important benefit of running. Additionally, I will pass on a few tips to the greenhorns about getting started.

## Why would I run if nothing is chasing me?

Every serious runner is driven by some personal goal or inner inspiration. Obviously, running is an efficient way to burn calories. But you might be surprised to learn that it is also an excellent stress management tool.

We all have days where the workload, our clients or our colleagues push us to the point of snapping. Once you fall into a steady gait, your problems and concerns tend to melt away. It is just you and the pavement. No one can invade that space.

Speaking for myself, I feel a great sense of personal accomplishment knowing that I went a little further and faster each week. A regular running routine also gives me a chance to get in some audiobooks, without feeling guilty about not getting work done. I have also found that running helps me to fend off depression, seasonal or otherwise.

On a lighter note, have you ever been scolded for turning everything into a competition? Well then, running is for you.

Whether you are shooting for a personal record or first place, Michigan has numerous races of various lengths year-round. Moreover, the proceeds of many races are donated to charities. In this way, competitive running also provides great networking and philanthropy opportunities.

## I'm a tortoise with dreams of being a hare, so where do I start?

Intimidation about getting started scares off numerous would-be runners, but it should not. There are a few steps that you can take to ease into the routine.

First, take care of your feet, which means buying some decent shoes that fit. The more miles and harder surfaces you run on, the more support you need in your shoes. Making sure that your shoes fit properly will also help to avoid blisters. I personally like shoes from Brooks, but there are numerous great brands on the market.

Next, set realistic goals. On one end, you don't want to push for too many miles too fast. Doing so will increase the risk of injury in the long run. Starting out with speed walking or an elliptical might be a great choice if joint stress is a concern. Much like honing your legal expertise, getting faster and going further won't happen overnight.

For the competitive types, be realistic about your race goals, too. Shaving two or three minutes off your 5K time in a matter of a few months may not be achievable. If you set the bar unreasonably high, then you are bound to be disappointed. What is the fun in setting yourself up for failure?

Finally, always think about health and safety. Take the time to stretch before and after running. Try not to run during peak commuter hours. Bring your phone. Schedule rest days.

For further guidance, I highly recommend picking up a copy of *Run Less Run Faster* by Bill Pierce, Scott Murr and Ray Moss. This book outlines an effective training program that can be adapted equally well to someone working toward their first 5K as someone training for the Boston Marathon.

Now get running – and relaxed!





## ICBA SECTION NEWS

# Young Lawyers Section

The Ingham County Bar Association-Young Lawyers Section (ICBA-YLS) is aimed at helping young lawyers and those who are new to the practice of law. The ICBA-YLS seeks to further the educational and professional advancement of young lawyers by providing educational, networking and social events that assist young lawyers in Ingham County.

The purpose of the ICBA-YLS is to:

- sponsor and support activities of interest and value to the community and young lawyers in Ingham County.
- cooperate, support, promote and coordinate activities with the ICBA, as well as other local, state and national young lawyer groups.
- establish good fellowship among the ICBA-YLS, the ICBA and members of the legal community.
- contribute to the educational and professional advancement of young lawyers.
- take such other action and perform such other functions as may be deemed appropriate.

The president of ICBA-YLS is Alexander Rusek. He can be reached at 517-316-1195 or at alexrusek@whitelawpllc.com.

### Upcoming Events:

- 5th Annual Paper Chase 5K - June 3 (see page 21 for details).

## Young Lawyers Section, WLAM Take On The Barre



For the second year, the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (YLS) and the Women Lawyers

Association of Michigan Mid-Michigan Chapter (WLAM) joined forces to offer a free fitness class to local attorneys.

Some 20 lawyers participated in the class, held March 24 at Pure Barre in Okemos. The class utilized a ballet barre, pure barre ball, pure barre double tube and small, low-impact movements to create a fun, yet challenging, total body workout.

Attorney Jackie Dupler, ICBA-YLS Immediate Past President, instructed the class. Dupler is a family law

attorney at the Sinas Dramis Law Firm. She also teaches classes at Pure Barre. "I love having these two very different, yet rewarding jobs," Dupler said. "I'm able to help people in very different ways and it reinforces my commitment to maintaining a healthy work-life balance."

In addition to providing a great workout for participants, the event raised \$212 for the Ingham County Bar Foundation, a non-profit organization.

— By Brenna Jardine, YLS Member and BRIEFS Associate Editor



# Featured Young Lawyer:



*Fredric G. Heidemann*

## **1. Where do you work and what do you do there?**

I work for the Thrun Law Firm in East Lansing. We mostly represent school districts and municipalities. I specialize in public finance, transactional contracts and construction.

## **2. Where did you go to school?**

University of Michigan for undergrad and MSU for law school. My general rule is that I cheer for MSU except when they play Michigan. With a few exceptions, I can usually cheer for both teams.

## **3. When were you admitted to practice in Michigan?**

2012.

## **4. Why did you go into the legal field?**

I wanted a profession with an intellectual challenge, but I dislike the ivory tower nonsense and abstraction you get with academia. So law was a natural fit. I get to use my brain while working on a real person's real problems.

## **5. What advice do you have for those considering law school?**

Find out what being a lawyer is

like before making the decision. If you're confident that the legal field suits you well, don't listen to the naysayers. But if you're not so sure, give the naysayers your ear and think very carefully before making the commitment.

## **6. If you weren't a lawyer, what would you do?**

That's a hard one. I guess it depends on how far into fantasy land I can go with this question. In total fantasy land, probably a vaguely-defined professional adventurer. An Earnest Shackleton-Indiana Jones hybrid comes to mind. In slightly less fantasy land, maybe a guy who goes around and debates atheists about the existence of God. That isn't really a job either, though. I suppose the most realistic alternative would be some kind of engineer.

## **7. Where did you grow up?**

East Lansing, where I still live. I never really intended it to work out that way, but I'm glad it did.

## **8. Who is your biggest role model and why?**

Geeze. I have to punt on this one. It's just too hard to answer. There are so

many, and I honestly can't choose a favorite.

## **9. What do you do in your free time?**

Mostly spend time with my wife and daughter (with another one on the way soon). My usual hobbies of hunting, fishing and building furniture have taken a serious hit since starting a family. I still come back to those things every once in a while, but they were replaced by something better anyway. I'm endlessly fascinated by life's big questions and the world we live in, so I'm a pretty big nonfiction reader, too. I also make sure to find time to watch Michigan football in the fall.

## **10. Do you have any pets? If so, tell us about them.**

My family has a doofus of a dog named Windsor, named after the British royal family. When you look into her eyes, you can tell something just isn't firing. I have a complicated relationship with her. Some days, she's comforting and loyal; man's best friend. Other days, I wonder why there's livestock living in our house. But she's sweet and entertains us with her buffooneries.



# YLS Co-Hosts Domestic Violence Primer For Attorneys

On Thursday, April 5, 2018, the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, in conjunction with the Capital Area Response Effort (CARE), hosted “Assisting Survivors of Domestic Violence – A Primer for Attorneys.”

Presenting were Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Aylysh Gallagher of the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office and Kathleen Miller of CARE.

The event was hosted at the CARE offices. Covered topics included the services provid-

ed by CARE and other local agencies, and the benefits of coordination of services between service providers and the prosecutor’s office, among other organizations.

The presenters addressed common myths associated with domestic violence, including that: 1) the safest place for a survivor is to be as far away from the perpetrator of the violence; 2) the survivor of domestic violence should always immediately seek to leave or cut off contact with the abuser; and 3) survivors of domestic violence regular-

ly try to use the court system to gain power over their abuser, among other myths.

Attendance at the event was free and dinner was provided at no cost by the Young Lawyers Section due to the continued support of our annual Paper Chase 5K by participants and our generous firm sponsors.

Thank you to the presenters, Aylysh Gallagher and Kathleen Miller, for their work in preparing this wonderful seminar and for their excellent presentation!





# YLS Paper Chase 5K Run/Walk Set For June 3

Professional Course Management & Timing | Certified 5K Course | Awards | Refreshments  
Race Shirt with Registration (Register Before May 22) | \$25 Individual/\$20 Team Participant

INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION  
PRESENTS

ALL  
AGES



5TH  
ANNUAL

JUNE 3, 2018 | 10:00 AM

Meridian Township Complex

Please join the ICBA-YLS at its 5th  
Annual Paper Chase 5K Run/Walk  
on June 3, 2018!

Law firms and legal organizations are  
encouraged to assemble and/or sponsor  
teams of two or more participants with  
at least one team member a staff or  
owner of the firm/legal organization.  
Teams may consist any staff or owner of  
the firm/legal organization, family  
members, and friends!

SIGN UP TODAY: <https://goo.gl/JNfnnt>  
Questions? [katietucker@sinasdramis.com](mailto:katietucker@sinasdramis.com)



SUPPORTING THE BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB OF LANSING

Last year ICBA-YLS was able to sponsor  
94 one-year memberships to the Boys &  
Girls Club of Lansing and we hope to  
sponsor more this year!

#### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AVAILABLE

PLATINUM (\$1,000+) | GOLD (\$500+)  
SILVER (\$250+) | BRONZE (\$100+)



## Ready, set ... go!

The Paper Chase – the ICBA-YLS annual 5K run/walk fundraiser – is slated for Sunday, June 3 at 10 a.m. This year's race will be at the Meridian Township Complex. Proceeds support the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing and ICBA-YLS.

The event has grown significantly since it debuted in 2014. Last year, the event raised more than \$3,000 and attracted 94 participants, allowing ICBA-YLS to donate 94 one-year memberships for local youth to the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing. The 2018 goal is to raise more than \$4,500 and attract more than 125 participants.

If you're interested in participating, registrations will be accepted until the day of the race. ICBA-YLS is also looking for volunteers to help on race day. To register or donate, click [here](#). For more information, contact Katie Tucker at [katietucker@sinasdramis.com](mailto:katietucker@sinasdramis.com).



# Bankruptcy Law Section



The Bankruptcy Law Section held its duly scheduled monthly meeting on March 22, 2018. Lunch was graciously provided by Patricia Scott of Foster Swift. The topic for discussion was electronically stored information (ESI) and the discussion was led by Scott and Norm Witte.

Topics for discussion included the types of ESI, preservation issues, discovery issues and computer forensics. There was shameless theft of some of the materials distributed at the Ingham County Bench/Bar Conference in January because, well, they were pretty good materials.

The presentation diverged a bit from the Bench/Bar discussion because in bankruptcy court the Federal Rules of Civil

Procedure seem to be more in vogue (this is apparently because they are for the most part adopted by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure). Therefore, the group talked about the various provisions in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 concerning the scope and limitations of e-discovery, among other rules. The federal rules provide for limitations on discovery based upon undue burden or cost for ESI. Those rules also require the parties' discovery plan to take ESI into account.

The group also shared scary war stories about experiences with trying to get information from Google or Apple and about metadata. Scott Chernich chimed in about how important it is to remove metadata from documents you're sending out, since it can often include revision information that might be within the scope of the attorney/client privilege. Several attorneys present were noted to sport appalled looks upon their faces at hearing this.

The mood appropriately somber, those gathered



quietly departed in groups of two or three.

## About The Bankruptcy Law Section

The Bankruptcy Law Section meets at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Cooley Center at WMU-Cooley Law School in downtown Lansing.

## Upcoming Meetings:

- May 24 - noon
- June 28 - noon
- August 23 - noon
- September 27 - noon
- October 25 - noon
- November 15 - noon

Please feel free to join the Bankruptcy Section for its monthly meetings. Contact Section Co-Chairs Patricia Scott or Norm Witte for details. To RSVP for meetings, contact Patricia Scott at [pscott@fosterswift.com](mailto:pscott@fosterswift.com).





# Criminal Defense Law Section

On March 2, 2018, the Criminal Defense Law Section hosted the Hon. Hugh B. Clarke, who presented on the topic of preliminary examinations. Before taking the bench at the 54-A District Court, Judge Clarke practiced criminal defense, among other areas.

Judge Clarke presented on: 1) topics to consider when deciding whether to recommend the holding or waiver of preliminary examination; 2) the importance of preparing a good record for preliminary examination; 3) possible defenses to bind-over at preliminary examination; 4) the role of the credibility of the witnesses at preliminary examination; and 5) discovery in district court, among many other important topics. Thank you to Judge Clarke for the outstanding presentation!

Following the judge's presentation, Lisa McCormick of the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office presented and addressed questions and concerns about the new mandatory e-discovery process. Thank you to Lisa McCormick for attending the presentation, and for listening to and making changes to account for the defense bar's concerns!



On Friday, April 6, 2018, the Criminal Defense Law Section hosted Cullen Harkness of Harkness Law, PLLC, who presented on the topic of forfeiture related to suspected criminal activity. Harkness went through the requirements of both controlled substance act forfeitures that do not require a conviction and omnibus forfeitures that do require a conviction.

The presentation set forward the legal bases for forfeiture, the legal defenses thereto, and the time-



lines and process in these civil but in some ways, quasi-criminal, proceedings. This topic is incredibly important to many clients of those who practice criminal defense. We thank Cullen Harkness for his efforts in preparing and presenting on this important topic!

## About The Criminal Defense Law Section

The Criminal Defense Law Section is comprised of attorneys who defend people accused of committing crimes. The Section is dedicated to sharing knowledge related to emerging and important topics specific to criminal defense, and to offering opportunities for attorneys to hone critical skills needed to defend those accused by the government.

Section Co-Chairs are Mary Chartier, Takura Nyamfukudza and Christopher Wickman.

If you are looking for a way to learn about the latest in forensics or practice your evidentiary knowledge, then you'll want to join the Section meetings. The Section meets at the State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend St., Rooms 1 and 2, in Lansing.

## Upcoming Meetings:

- June 1 - 9:15 a.m. to noon

There is no cost to attend meetings. Speakers and topics will be announced. If you have suggestions for future meetings or speakers, contact Mary Chartier at [cnlaw@cndefenders.com](mailto:cnlaw@cndefenders.com). To RSVP for the Criminal Defense Law Section meetings, email [cnlaw@cndefenders.com](mailto:cnlaw@cndefenders.com).





## Employment and Labor Law Section

The Employment and Labor Law Section holds its meetings at WMU-Cooley Law School, Room 911, 300 S. Capitol Ave. in Lansing.

Section Co-Chairs are Warren Krueger III and Pamela Dausman.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- No upcoming meetings are scheduled at this time.

To RSVP for upcoming Section meetings (none scheduled at this time), please email [mjfraker@loomislaw.com](mailto:mjfraker@loomislaw.com).

## Family Law Section

The Family Law Section meets on the second Wednesday of the month from noon-1 p.m. in Rooms 1 and 2 of the State Bar of Michigan Building, 306 Townsend St. in Lansing. Lunch is always provided.

Section Co-Chairs are Brooke VanBuren-Hay, Jennipher Martinez and Erica Terranova.

The Section is currently taking a break for the summer. If you have suggestions for meeting topics, want to sponsor a lunch or just have general questions, please email [erica@baileyterranova.com](mailto:erica@baileyterranova.com).

**WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE?**

**HAVE A STORY IDEA?**

Contact **Traci Gentilozzi**, BRIEFS Editor, at [briefs@inghambar.org](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org)



## Real Estate Section

The Real Estate Section holds its meetings at WMU-Cooley Law School, Room 911, 300 S. Capitol Ave. in Lansing.

Section Co-Chairs are Bill Tomblin, Hon. Valerie Lafferty and Christopher Patterson.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- May 25 - noon to 1 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Eric A. Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer and Land Bank Chair  
Topic: Foreclosure, land bank matters, the Ingham County economy and other real estate matters

Lunch is served at meetings. Future speakers and topics will be announced. Member input is always appreciated.

If you plan to attend a meeting, please RSVP to Bill Tomblin at [Wdtomblaw@aol.com](mailto:Wdtomblaw@aol.com).

## Probate and Trust Section

The Probate and Trust Section holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at WMU-Cooley Law School, Room 911, 300 S. Capitol Ave. in Lansing.

Section Co-Chairs are Rosemary Buhl and Sally Babbitt.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- June 19 - Summer Social

If you plan to attend a meeting, please RSVP to Rosemary Buhl at [rbuhl@BLLHlaw.com](mailto:rbuhl@BLLHlaw.com) or via the ICBA Probate & Trust Facebook page.

### Join The Section's Facebook Page

The Probate and Trust Section has a group Facebook page: [ICBA Probate & Trust Law Section](#). The Section encourages members to join the group. As a way to streamline RSVPs and minimize emails, you can RSVP for the Section meetings via this Facebook page. (Please let us know if you are not on Facebook.)

### Lunch Sponsors

The sponsored lunches have been a very popular replacement for the brown bag lunches of old. The Section would like to continue the sponsored lunches. If you are interested in sponsoring a ¼ (\$100), a ½ (\$200) or full (\$400) lunch, please call Sally Babbitt at 517-507-3306 or email [sally@sallybabbittlaw.com](mailto:sally@sallybabbittlaw.com).



# Don't Be A Blind Blogger



By  
Traci R. Gentilozzi  
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*Traci Gentilozzi is the owner & operator of 360 Legal Solutions, PLLC, a company that focuses on legal content development and social media marketing for sole practitioners and small law firms.*

Blogging. It's an inexpensive way for law firms to reach potential clients and help solidify a firm as the go-to expert in a particular area of law.

Research shows businesses that blog, including law firms, get 55 percent more website traffic than businesses that do not blog. Good reason to blog, right?

However, don't think that simply putting your fingers on the keyboard and typing will get immediate results. In other words, don't blog just for the sake of blogging. This kind of "blind blogging" will not produce the results you want, no matter how many blogs you write and publish.

What are the desired results, you ask? They are:

1. People find the blog on your law firm's website.
2. People read the blog.
3. People engage with and share the blog.
4. People think of [insert your law firm name here] when they have a legal issue involving [insert your firm's practice area here].

Blogging is a commitment that should be part of a law firm's overall marketing plan. If a firm blogs regularly but then stops for weeks (or even months), the firm's return on investment has been lost during the downtime. In other words, the firm has lost the online "boost" and credibility it received when blogging on a regular basis.

To receive the benefits of blogging, a blog search engine optimization (SEO) strategy must be implemented. SEO involves creating online content so search engines will find it, will understand it and will trust it. The big benefit of SEO is getting a high ranking on the search engine results page when people look for legal services online. Being at or near the top of the results page typically leads to a higher volume of blog and website traffic.

While SEO can be detailed and complex, it doesn't take a technological expert to optimize a blog post so it will be found, read and shared. Here are some tips for writing SEO-friendly blogs.

## 1. Select a focus keyword that people will actually use when searching online.

Think about – and choose – a focus keyword that the target audience (potential clients) will use when searching online.

For example, a Michigan adoption attorney blogging on the rights of biological fathers might use the keywords “biological father rights in Michigan adoptions” or “biological dad rights after Michigan adoption.”

## 2. Use natural variations of the keyword throughout the blog.

Write the blog for the audience first, using natural and conversational language. Then go back and optimize it. Use the focus keyword in the first paragraph, then use it two or three times throughout the blog. Be sure to use variations of the keyword, keeping the tone natural. But be careful: repeating the focus keyword too often (known as “keyword stuffing”) is an SEO no-no. In fact, Google penalizes websites for keyword stuffing.

## 3. Look at things from the search engine’s perspective.

Search engines, especially Google, know what their users like and dislike. When users read a blog, share a blog or link to a blog, this tells the search engine that the reader liked the content and it should be remembered for similar



searches in the future. Also, keep in mind that search engines prefer lengthier blogs over shorter ones.

## 4. Before publishing, review the blog for mistakes and readability.

Before you hit the publish button, check the blog post for punctuation, spelling or grammatical errors. Mistakes reflect poorly on a law firm and can negatively impact the firm website’s search rankings.

Also, be sure the blog post is concise, to the point and informative. And write in plain English, not legalese. After all, your target audience is potential clients and not other lawyers.

To help readers quickly scan the blog and determine if it’s what they’re looking for, be sure to use short paragraphs, plenty of white space, subsections and headings, images, bullet points and bold text.

## 5. Incorporate the focus keyword into the essential elements of the blog.

Use the focus keyword in the URL, blog title, at least one section header, the meta

description (short explanation of what the blog is about) and when naming the images used with the blog.

## 6. Add internal and external links.

Be sure you include links in the blog to related website pages. This not only let readers find additional information, but also helps build trust and credibility. Links also offer readers a way to further explore your law firm’s website, increase the time a reader stays on the website and help the search engine “crawl” your website and understand it better.

When creating links, be sure to use “anchor text” that accurately describes what the link is about. And don’t overdo the linking – it may be viewed as spammy.

## 7. Promote, promote, promote!

Once the blog is posted, share it across your law firm’s social media sites, send it to email lists and include it in your e-newsletter. This drives traffic to the blog and increases its visibility.

Another important step in blogging is cross-linking. Make sure relevant pages on your law firm’s website include a link to the new blog post, and that other blog posts on the site link to it, too.



By

Jordan G. Leaming

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*Jordan G. Leaming is an associate attorney with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. His areas of practice are health care, insurance, Medicaid and Medicare.*

# FOOD YOU SHOULD BE EATING

## Punk Taco

1216 Turner St.

Lansing, MI 48906

Opens every day at 11 a.m

Tacos are on the top of my favorite food list. I will argue that tacos are brilliant, better yet, Mexican food is brilliant. Now before you track me down to argue that we do not have authentic Mexican food in Michigan or that the tacos in my photos are not “real” tacos, hear me out.

When it comes to food I will eat multiple times in a week, it has to be simple. Tacos are the model of simplicity. Tortilla, protein, hopefully some spicy peppers and some cheese would be the recipe for any number of my preferred tacos. Unlike many taco enthusiasts, I am not a purist. My tacos can include any number of non-traditional ingredients – I like to see creativity and new flavor combinations.

If you have read to this point and tend to agree with the majority of the message so far, you have to try Punk Taco in Old Town Lansing. Punk Taco is a Potent Potables project. In fact, it is next door to the group’s Creole restaurant. As my previous reviews indicate, I am a fan of Creole, Zoobies and The Cosmos. I would also encourage anyone to track down the recent episode of [Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives](#) that highlights The Cosmos.

We entered Punk Taco to sounds of Dropkick Murphys and enjoyed the many punk album covers that adorned the bar area. This joint is a fast-casual type presentation. You order at the counter, find a seat and then your food is brought



out to you in a few minutes. You can also leave your tab open, in case you want to enjoy a few of Punk Taco's margaritas. And the service is fast! I ordered the Trust Us Margarita, which happened to be a strawberry jalapeño concoction on the snowy Monday evening we went in, and I am happy to report that it was delicious.



We ordered chips and salsa, the quemada option, and some white & cheesy. The chips were fresh, as was the salsa and queso. If you enjoy some heat, The Reaper is the best – lots

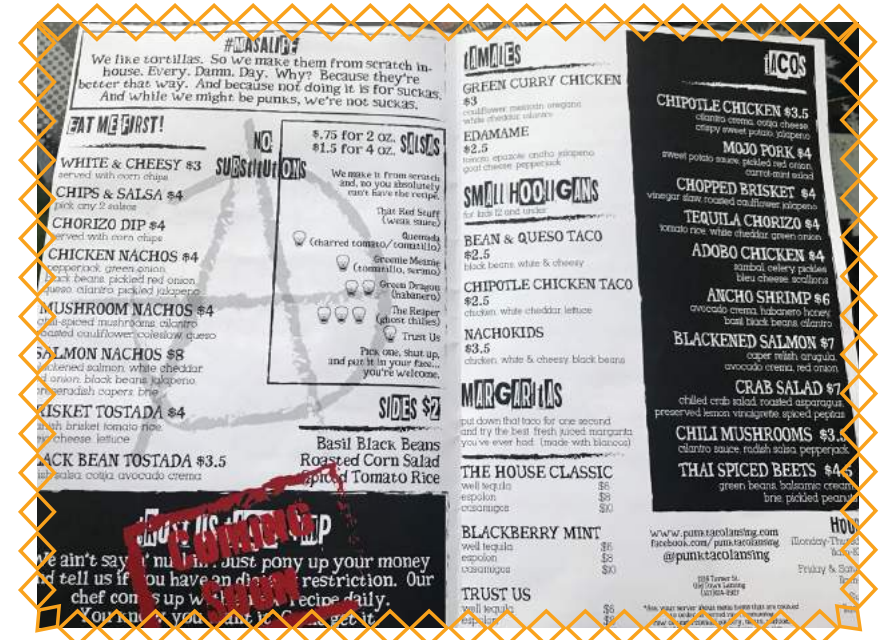
of fire with that option. You should also give the chicken nachos a try. The nachos are a shareable for-two size and worth the add. Everything was presented on 1/4 baking sheets and the tacos looked fantastic.

We ordered the ancho shrimp, chopped brisket, mojo pork and chipotle chicken tacos. That order is also how I would rank our flavor preference, too. The ancho shrimp taco is very good. The next time I go, I may just order all ancho shrimp tacos – they are that good. The corn tortillas are house-made and provide the perfect sized canvas for Punk Taco to provide you its artwork. The hot sauce



has a smoky chipotle-type kick with a vinegar twang. The sauce has some spice but is certainly approachable for the more spice-averse.

The food is great and the speed is better. I recommend Punk Taco for your next lunch when you want to eat more and talk less. Enjoy!





## Lawyer Referral Application

Please take note that the Ingham County Bar Association does not do Lawyer Referrals. If you need to use this service provided by the State Bar of Michigan, please call them at **(800) 968-0738** between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to speak with a lawyer referral representative or you can use the links below.

- [Lawyer Referral and Information Service Registration Form](#)
- [LRIS Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Become a Lawyer Referral Service Panel Member](#)

## BRIEFS AUTHOR GUIDELINES & POLICIES

### IN GENERAL

#### Publication Schedule

BRIEFS is published by the Ingham County Bar Association nine times a year (September through June, with a combined December/January issue)

#### Copy Deadline

Content submissions are due the 15th of the month for the following month's issue (e.g., deadline is April 15 for the May issue). For the December/January combined issue, the deadline is November 15. Late submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

#### BRIEFS Committee Meetings

A minimum of four committee meetings are held each fiscal year. Additional meetings are held, as necessary. To be added to the mailing list for meeting notices, email the editor at [briefs@inghambar.org](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org).

#### Author and Article Pictures

The preferred picture format is full-color .jpg (JPEG) files, 72 dpi or better. For head shots, the resolution should be high enough to be viewed clearly when approximating a 2" x 3" photo online. Please do not send thumbnail photos, as they will not be published.

#### Article Length

Article length varies, so the following is only a guideline. Articles may be edited to fit a specific amount of space.

#### Raising the Bar

**Announcements:** 100-200 words

**Local Legal Events Notices:** 100-150 words

**Columns:** 300-500 words

**Articles:** 700-1,000 words

#### Article Ideas

Writing an article for BRIEFS is an excellent way to publicize your expertise, and we encourage your submissions. Please send ideas for articles or completed articles to Traci Gentilozzi, editor, at [briefs@inghambar.org](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org). Within 24 hours, you will receive an email confirmation that your article was received.

#### Author Information

Along with your article, please include your full name, e-mail address and a short biography (2-3 sentences). Please also send a photo of yourself, preferably in .jpg (JPEG) format and in color, if possible.

### MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

News of career moves, presentations, honors, recognitions, etc. is published in the "Raising the Bar" section. We accept and publish announcements only for ICBA members.

BRIEFS does not accept or publish announcements based on peer recognition and review sites, such as Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers, Best Law Firms, etc.

BRIEFS does publish honors and awards given by legal publications such as Michigan Lawyers Weekly (i.e., Leaders in the Law) under the following conditions:

1. BRIEFS will only publish such announcements for ICBA members.
2. Announcements will appear only in Raising the Bar and are limited to 50-75 words.
3. Announcements must comply with any applicable copyright/trademark requirements of the publication.
4. ICBA takes no responsibility for the published announcement.

### ADVERTISING

Details on display and classified advertising can be found [here](#).

### ARCHIVED ISSUES

Past issues of BRIEFS can be found [here](#).

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Jordan Leaming, Co-Chair  
801-836-9529  
[jordanlearning@gmail.com](mailto:jordanlearning@gmail.com)

# BRIEFS Advertising Contract

Please publish the advertising checked below in ICBA BRIEFS.

## Size

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ page (4" x 4.5")   | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (8.5 x 9.33) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ page (8.5" x 4.5") | <input type="checkbox"/> Links                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ page (4" x 9.33")  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |

## Placement:

- ☐ One issue (please select month) ☐ Sept ☐ Oct ☐ Nov ☐ Dec/Jan ☐ Feb ☐ Mar ☐ April ☐ May ☐ June
- ☐ Four Issues (please select months) ☐ Sept ☐ Oct ☐ Nov ☐ Dec/Jan ☐ Feb ☐ Mar ☐ April ☐ May ☐ June
- ☐ Nine Issues (please select months) ☐ Sept ☐ Oct ☐ Nov ☐ Dec/Jan ☐ Feb ☐ Mar ☐ April ☐ May ☐ June

## Advertiser

Company		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone		Fax
E-mail address		Web Site
Authorized by (Name)		(Title)

## Please return to ICBA:

P.O. Box 66, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-3938 Fax 517-627-3950  
Email: [info@inghambar.org](mailto:info@inghambar.org)

**Cancellations:** Cancellations of any part of a contract voids all rate and position agreements. No changes or cancellations 1 (one) week after published deadline.

**Terms and Agreements:** Advertiser and agencies are liable for all content and are responsible, without limitation, for any and all claims made thereof against the ICBA, its board members or contracted service providers. Publisher reserves the right to publish materials from a previous advertisement if new materials are not received by the published deadline. The word advertisement will appear on any ad that resembles editorial content. All advertisements remain property of the ICBA. BRIEFS committee chairs and editor reserves the right to revise, reject or omit any advertisement at any time without notice.

**Entire Agreement:** This contract constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties relating to the subject matter of the contract. The terms of this contract and publication schedule set forth above may be changed.

**Advertising payments must be submitted with contract for the selected term.**

**Full payment is required in advance.**

- ☐ Use copy enclosed ☐ Copy mailed separately ☐ Check enclosed ☐ Paying by credit card (complete information)

- ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard  
**\*\* We do not accept American Express**

Expiration Date

Credit Card Number	Authorized Signature
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# BRIEFS Advertising Rates & Policies

## Advertising Rates

Rate Per Issue	Ad Size
\$100.00	Quarter Page
\$200.00	Half Page Horizontal
\$200.00	Half Page Vertical
\$375.00	Full Page
\$25.00	Link

Issue	Publication Schedule*	Submit Copy
Sep	Sept. 1 - 30	Aug 15
Oct	Oct 1 – 31	Sept 15
Nov	Nov 1 – Dec. 15	Oct 15
Dec /Jan	Dec. 15 - Jan. 31	Nov 15
Feb	Feb 1- 28 or 29	Jan 15
March	March 1 – 31	Feb 15
April	April 1 – 30	Mar 15
May	May 1 – 31	April 15
June	June 1- 30	May 15

Note: Previous issues of BRIEFS are always [accessible online](#).

Classified ads will be published for **FREE** for ICBA members in good standing. Non-ICBA members will be charged the “Law Firm/Business Link” advertising rate. A classified ad includes an advertisement of office space for rent/lease/sale, an employment opportunity, and/or a request for employment.

### Multiple-Issue Rates – Full payment is required in advance

¼ page ad	.....\$100/1 issue	\$340/4 issues	\$560/9 issues
½ page ad	.....\$200/1 issue	\$780/4 issues	\$1120/9 issues
Full page ad	.....\$375/1 issue	\$1275/4 issues	\$2100/9 issues
Law firm/Business links	.....\$25/1 issue	\$85/4 issues	\$140/9 issues

### Distribution

BRIEFS is distributed electronically (not in print format) to ICBA members, Michigan Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges and local judges. The September issue of BRIEFS is sent to prospective ICBA members. ICBA members can always access archived issues of BRIEFS, and also receive bi-weekly member updates from the ICBA president.

### Mechanical Requirements

Graphics should be in .jpg (JPEG) or .gif (GIF) format. Graphics must be provided as a separate file, and not just included in the document. Special fonts needed for advertising should be provided. Please use a minimum 12-point text size. Color does not cost extra because BRIEFS is only produced and distributed electronically.

Contact Traci Gentilozzi, editor, at [briefs@inghambar.org](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org) with ad placement questions.

### Advertising payments must be submitted with contract for the selected term.

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# THANKS FOR READING BRIEFS



FEEDBACK?

[briefs@inghambar.org](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org)

## NEXT ISSUE:

- Profile: Hon. Rosemarie Aquilina
- ICBA Shrimp Dinner
- Social Anxiety And Networking