

From the Chair



Adam Kutinsky,
Dawda Mann

It is an honor to serve as the 2016-2017 chair of the Insurance & Indemnity Section for the State Bar of Michigan. I offer a big “thank you” to the Section’s past chairperson Kathleen Lopilato for her excellent service over the past two years. I not only count Kathleen as a learned colleague but also a friend.

Annual Meeting – Elections of Officers and Council Members

As I write this piece, our section boasts 814 registered members and three new council members, Rabih Hamawi, Patrick Crandell and Gail Storck. We are also fortunate to have the continued service of Larry Bennett (chairperson elect), Gus Igwe (secretary), and Jason Liss (treasurer). And, our section would not be possible without the active participation of council members Laurretta Pominville, Nicole Wilinski, Hal O. Carroll, Steven Hicks, Jim Thome, Renee Vanderhagen and Doug Young. Together, we have helped grow this section from a small start up to the size that it is today.

Our Annual Program

Our annual program was a success. It focused on commercial property and featured professionals from each stage in the commercial property insuring process (broker, appraiser, policy holder, and underwriter). As usual, there were passionate discussions between attorneys that represent different parties to the insurance policy. It is through these types of good natured



Outgoing Chair Kathleen Lopilato presents a gavel to Incoming Chair Adam Kutinsky.

debates that we learn more about other perspectives and viewpoints, which in turn make us better attorneys and counselors.

Planned Programs

During our new term, we expect to offer members at least three substantive programs on insurance or indemnity. If you are reading this piece and would like to suggest ideas for a program, please contact our chairperson elect, Larry Bennett or any other Council person. We are always open to ideas and very welcoming of new members’ active participation.

The *Journal of Insurance and Indemnity Law*

This section continues to strive towards balance and neutrality in the treatment of its subject matter. This means that we welcome viewpoints from all aspects of insurance and indemnity transactions and all parties to litigation. The *Journal of Insurance & Indemnity Law* is a quarterly publication and the backbone of our section. It offers quality articles on various subjects of interest to our members as well as case and statutory updates in each issue. The *Journal* editor, Hal O. Carroll, is always looking for quality articles to include in each quarterly publication, so please contact him should you have something of value to offer. It is important to take risks in life and we invite you to take the risk of publishing your legal views to prompt discussion among your colleagues. Many times, I have heard from other attorneys in response to articles that I have authored and learned more about the subject as a result.

Bylaws Amendments

We recently revised the Section bylaws and published the amendments in the last *Journal*. Law students can become members without paying dues. Council terms have been reduced from 2 years to 1 and the number of Council members is reduced to “no more than 10” in addition to the immediate past chairperson and the four officers. Council members are now expected to actively participate in Section Committees or author an article for the *Journal*. Committees are required to meet at least one time per year and report to the Council on activities. Council meetings shall continue to be held at least 4 times per year.

Our section has served an important role in my 15-year career by introducing me to colleagues who share my interest in insurance. With each meeting of the Council and each program that I attend, I learn from my colleagues by listening to their experiences and by debating points that arise from the different perspectives to the insurance contract. Simply put, this section enhances my practice and increases my legal knowledge. I therefore highly recommend that attorneys become actively involved if they are looking to improve themselves professionally. ■

Editor's
Notes



By Hal O. Carroll
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The *Journal* – now in its ninth year – is a forum for the exchange of information, analysis and opinions concerning insurance and indemnity law and practice from all perspectives. The *Journal* – like the Section itself – takes no position on any dispute between insurers and insureds. All opinions expressed in contributions to the *Journal* are those of the author. But we welcome all articles of analysis, opinion, or advocacy for any position.

Copies of the *Journal* are mailed to all state circuit court and appellate court judges, all federal district court judges, and the judges of the Sixth Circuit who are from Michigan. Copies are also sent to those legislators who are attorneys.

The *Journal* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Copy for each issue is due on the first of the preceding month (December 1, March 1, June 1 and September 1). Copy should be sent in editable format to the editor at HOC@HalOCarrollEsq.com. ■

Scenes from the Annual Meeting - September 2016



1. Speaker Patrick King
2. Speaker Bill Butler
3. Presentation of the plaque by Incoming Chair Adam Kutinsky to Kathleen Lopilato, Outgoing Chair
4. Speaker Don Balmes
5. Speaker Allen Philbrick

