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SHORT TAKES

Rochester Bar plans Golf Outing for Sept. 12

The 2015 Rochester Bar Association Golf Outing will be hosted on Monday, Sept. 12, at the Twin Lakes Golf and Swim Club, 455 Twin Lakes Drive in Oakland.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. Golf starts at 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$80.

To register or for additional information, contact either J. Douglas Otlewski or John K. Maloney at 248-651-6040.

Michigan spends more than \$2M so far on Flint water probe

LANSING (AP) — Records say the Michigan attorney general's office has spent more than \$2 million in the first six months of its ongoing investigation into Flint's water crisis.

The Detroit News, citing records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, reports Monday nearly \$1.9 million went to paying lawyers, investigators and others. The records say the team totaled 42 people in June.

An initial \$1.5 million was authorized through mid-2017. In July, the State Administrative Board approved Attorney General Bill Schuette's request for \$3.4 million more.

Nine current or former public officials been criminally charged in connection with lead-tainted Flint water.

Schuette spokeswoman Andrea Bitley says \$2 million is "a pretty reasonable cost." She says: "We're going to spend whatever it takes to get the truth and not one penny more."

Judge lets Volkswagen test program to scrap cheating diesel vehicles

DETROIT (AP) — A federal judge is letting Volkswagen study the feasibility of scrapping 2-liter diesel cars that cheat on emissions tests.

Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco signed an order last Friday authorizing a test program involving 20 cars now owned by VW or its finance company.

Breyer wrote that VW wants the tests so it can understand the process of scrapping the cars and salvaging parts.

In June, VW agreed to spend as much as \$15 billion to settle lawsuits and complaints by governments about the cheating. The company agreed to give 475,000 owners the option of selling their cars back or having them repaired.

VW has admitted that the cars were programmed to turn on pollution controls during government tests and turn them off when traveling on roadways.

Grants available for urban, community forestry projects

LANSING (AP) — Officials say up to \$90,000 is available for urban and community forestry projects across the state.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says the grants are funded through the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Program. Local units of government, nonprofit organizations, schools and tribal governments are eligible for the funds.

Possible projects under the 2016-17 DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program include urban forest management and planning activities, tree planting on public property; urban forestry and arborist training; education events and materials; and Arbor Day celebrations and materials.

The deadline for applications is Sept. 16. Planned projects must be completed by Sept. 1, 2017. Details are posted online.

Online: <http://www.michigan.gov/ucf>

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PROBLEM SOLVER Litigator enjoys crafting solutions for his clients

By SHEILA PURSGLOVE
Legal News

Attorney Robert Riley enjoys litigation as just one aspect of a greater problem-solving process.

"Clients hire lawyers because they have a problem that needs to be solved—not because they love going to court," he says. "Sometimes litigation is the best option, but often-times, there are multiple ways to solve the problem without having to resort to a lawsuit.

"I like the challenge of helping craft solutions that are economical, practical, and make sense for my clients' businesses. Winning in court is obviously important and a fun part of the job, but going to court is not necessarily the goal at the beginning of the day."

A member of the Litigation Department at Honigman, Miller, Schwartz, and Cohn LLP in Detroit, Riley spent the better part of 2014

successfully litigating a breach of contract dispute arising out of a U.S. Navy patrol boat shipbuilding program, obtaining a \$5.8 million judgment, plus attorney's fees, for an international manufacturer.

Currently he is working on a trademark dispute involving energy drinks. On the commercial side, he deals with troubled automotive suppliers and is working on an emergency supply dispute on behalf of GM.

"I love learning about different industries—they're all unique and present different challenges and opportunities," he says.

A member of Honigman's Value Team, Riley explains that when clients hear the word 'value' they often think that means low cost.

"Our approach to value is much deeper than that—we focus not just on price, but also on proportionality, resource allocation, communication, predictability, and efficiencies that most firms gloss over," he explains.

"Our attorney-led Value Team is unique not just among Detroit law firms, but among firms across the country," he adds. "I was fortunate that Carl Herstein, the chief value partner, and Joe Sgroi, the associate chief value partner, were interested in expanding their team. Working with them affords me the opportunity to put the financial and managerial skills I learned in business school to good use."

Riley also serves on the firm's Summer Associate Committee — "Probably the coolest part of my job," he says. "Working alongside and recruiting law students is great. There are so many talented students out there and I enjoy telling them about the work I do and how they can have a meaningful impact on their clients, on the community, and on their careers by joining Honigman — plus we get to check out all of the exciting stuff going on in Detroit along the way. This summer, we had a

blast kayaking on the Detroit River, fowling in Hamtramck, learning to cook at Mire Poix in Royal Oak, and hitting some of the great new restaurants around the city."

Riley followed in the footsteps of his father, the founder and managing partner at Riley & Hurley PC in Dearborn.

"Watching him grow the breadth and depth of his practice through years of hard work was inspirational," he says. "My mom is a high school teacher and administrator at Detroit Country Day School and has always impressed on me that I should help other people. The combination of their work, along (See RILEY, Page 3)



RILEY

Summer Social at Selden Standard



The Association of Corporate Counsel Michigan Chapter (ACC-MI) hosted its 2016 Summer Social on Thursday, July 28, at Selden Standard in Detroit. Among those enjoying an evening of networking and relaxing with in-house counsel colleagues were (left to right) Heather

Betts of DTE Energy/Detroit Edison, Brandi Walkowiak of Meadowbrook Insurance Group, and ACC-MI Secretary Joanna Totsky of Ford Motor Company.

Photo by John Meiu

Clinic inspired law school classmates to practice immigration law together

Two former law school classmates have joined forces to create a law firm dedicated to solving immigration problems for people who want to live and work in the United States.

Zainab Boxwala and Chelsea Zuzindlak, 2011 and 2012 graduates, respectively, of Wayne State University Law School, met in law school and worked together in the school's Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic. That work inspired them to practice immigration law as a career.

Both women — founding partners of Boxwala Zuzindlak PLLC with offices in Michigan and Texas — have very different personal experiences that make them keenly aware of immigration issues.

"I am the daughter of immigrants," said Boxwala, who lives in Cypress, Texas. "My parents came from India about 35 years ago,

and since then, my extended family in the United States has grown to over 100 people. Many of my cousins and their spouses came to this country on visas related to their work and educational qualifications. Others came as a result of marriage-based petitions.

"My husband is a dual citizen of Canada and the United States. I have firsthand experience with the realities of applying, waiting and anticipating responses from the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services and other organizations on visa-related applications and processes."

Zuzindlak, who lives in Madison Heights, gained her insight through travel and through the people she met in her life. As an undergraduate at Wayne State, she studied in Beijing in 2007 and also lived with a Chinese family as part of a cultural homestay program in 2008.

"I attended a Catholic middle school composed of students with predominantly Ukrainian and Eastern European ancestry," she said. "Most students were first-generation Americans if not immigrants themselves. In high school, I spent nearly a month in the Philippines with a

friend whose entire extended family still resides there.

"And in college, as a student of Mandarin Chinese, I began teaching English as a second language to Chinese immigrants in the Cass Corridor in Detroit. So, I was surrounded by individuals whose entire lives in the United States were shaped by a straddling of worlds with immigration-related experiences playing a significant role in how they managed their intimate and professional relationships. This provided me a global perspective of migration generally and provoked me to question the very concepts of citizenship and land borders."

Wayne Law's Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, led by Assistant Professor Rachel Settlege, gave the two women as students a chance to represent clients, including devising strategy, researching key issues and filing briefs on behalf of people seeking asylum.

"The clinic solidified my career goals and provided me with the knowledge and confidence to apply for prestigious positions in the immigration field both before and after graduation," Zuzindlak said. "Today, I believe a student's performance in clinic is a better measure of that student's competence and readiness to practice law than the bar exam. Since graduation, I have repeatedly recalled lessons learned in clinic to inform my strategy in a case."

Boxwala, too, found her legal calling by working in the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic.

"The immigration law clinic was by far the (See PARTNERS, Page 2)

Student pursues U.S./Canadian law degree

By SHEILA PURSGLOVE
Legal News

Aruna Vithiananthan's grandfather was a well-known criminal defense lawyer in Sri Lanka, who continued to practice law as a Canadian citizen. Vithiananthan, a Canadian native born and raised in Toronto, heard stories of his cases from a young age.

"Law was his passion but he always told me, 'law is a jealous mistress,'" she says. "I never had an unrealistic view of the legal profession — I knew the work and dedication it took to be in this field. He was compassionate, intelligent, and had a sense of duty. After losing my grandfather over five years ago, being in legal profession makes me feel connected to him."

A student in the Canadian & American Dual J.D. program offered by the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and the University of Windsor Faculty of Law, Vithiananthan is enjoying the challenge of completing two law degrees simultaneously.

"The program forces you to multi-task and to learn comparatively," she says. "These are skills dual students will be able to carry forward into the workplace where our peers have completed one law degree in the same time period it took us to complete two."

Vithiananthan appreciates the ability to learn in two different teaching environments, with double the opportunities and resources.

"This is a unique program that's made possible because of the close proximity of Detroit and Windsor and it sets its graduates apart in the legal field," she says. "The interesting part of learning American and Canadian law simultaneously is seeing the intersection between the two systems. Canadian law is heavily influenced by American law, so being able to learn the American system in depth only furthers my understanding of Canadian concepts."

Vithiananthan enjoys the atmosphere at Detroit Mercy Law, where she finds the staff to be helpful and personable.

"I've developed great bonds with some of my professors and am continually impressed by the diversity of experience they offer," she says. "I've worked with the Dual Director Brian Miller on many occasions and appreciate his dedication to the program and students."

The commute from her home in Windsor to the law school in downtown Detroit takes around 20 minutes door to door — a faster commute than she experienced during her undergrad years at Western University in London, Ontario.

"Coming into the program, I was initially concerned how commuting would work logistically — however, with carpooling and the Nexus card, it has proven to be a non-issue," she says.

Selected by the dean to be a presidential ambassador for Detroit Mercy Law, Vithiananthan assisted with an alumni event as (See VITHIANANTHAN, Page 2)



VITHIANANTHAN

Expectations Lowered

Tepid retail sales lower expectations for economic growth.

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ABA Institute

Legal experts to discuss trade, terrorism, and privacy issues.

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Prosecuting Dealers

What's behind growing push to punish dealers in fatal overdoses?

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