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To Promote The Art Of Advocacy
And The Efficient Administration Of Justice

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Message from President



Thomas W. Waun
Johnson Law PLC

[Email](#)

I want to thank everyone again for the opportunity to serve as the 31st President of the Michigan ABOTA Chapter. I consider it a high honor to serve in this capacity in this group among my many friends and colleagues.

Rather than provide a specific message, I want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage all of our members to attend our annual membership meeting scheduled for the evening of May 2nd. Our guest speaker that evening will be Justice David Viviano of the Michigan Supreme Court. Justice Viviano is expected to discuss the current state of the Supreme Court with an emphasis on topics of interest to trial lawyers, including the committee currently working on modifications to our court rules involving ADR and Case Evaluation. His presentation should be of great interest to all of our members.

[Read More](#)

Submit Names for Potential Members

Please submit names to the Chapter for potential members!

Email your requests to Lawrence T. Garcia

lgarcia@garcialawgrouppllc.com

2019 Membership Meeting

Save The Date

Thursday, May 2, 2019

6:30 p.m to 9:00 p.m

The Baronette Detroit-Novu Hotel

27790 Novi Road, Novi, MI 48377

ABOTA National News - Dues

The National Board approved an annual dues increase for the organization that will be effective January 1, 2020. The Board reviewed ABOTA Bylaw V, Section 2 of the Constitution and Bylaws Section 2. The dues - previously \$500 - were raised to \$750 annually. A number of factors were considered during the discussion on the floor.

Here are some discussion points considered by the National Board:

- ABOTA's programs and work have expanded over the last decade. The cost of doing ABOTA's business has increased annually as a result of increasing employee compensation expense, rising vendor fees as well as office and hotel meeting expenses. Expenses have increased more than 3% per year while revenue has increased about 1% per year.
- The last dues increase was approved in 2006. By the time this dues increase takes effect in 2020, it will have been 13 years since any dues increase.
- For the last six years ABOTA has projected and the National Board has approved increasingly larger deficit budgets. In two of the last six years ABOTA "made up" the projected budget deficit (on paper only) due to accounting robust investment gains. However, in terms of actual cash flow our expenses have exceeded revenue for six straight years.
- Other revenue options were considered. They included imposing a series of annual special assessments, increasing sponsorships, increasing

membership, and charging registration fees for National Board Meetings. All were considered by the Ad Hoc Finance Committee and while deemed worthwhile of pursuit they are short term and inadequate in the long term.

- The Ad Hoc Finance Committee and the 2018 and 2019 Executive Committees were unanimous on the need to increase dues.
- The amount of the increase was debated. While raising the dues to \$750 is a big jump, a smaller incremental increase would only carry ABOTA into 2020 or 2021.
- It was pointed out that several other civil trial bar associations charge higher dues and their dues are not shared with local chapters. ABOTA is unique in many ways, and the system for how ABOTA handles its dues is an example. Annual dues are split nearly in half and sent to Chapters for their local activities. The dues increase will benefit Chapters.

Previous Dues Breakdown

Of the \$500 *:

\$202.50 Chapter

\$247.50 National

\$50 ABOTA Foundation

* Figure does not include State/Regional dues

Year 2020 Dues Breakdown:

Of the \$750*

\$315 Chapter

\$385 National

\$50 ABOTA Foundation

* Figure does not include State/Regional dues

The 2019 annual dues statements were mailed to ABOTA members in November of 2018. A large percentage of the dues have been collected, but due to address changes and member updates, some members have not paid. The National Office will be sending dues reminders and asks that Chapter officers and board reps provide member updates (address changes, firm changes, retirements, etc.).

Judicial Award



Hon. Bridget M. McCormack
Michigan Supreme Court

Prior Recipients:

- 2018 Honorable Jane Beckering
- 2017 Honorable Nancy G. Edmunds
- 2016 Honorable Gershwin A. Drain
- 2015 Gerald E. Rosen
- 2014 Pamela R. Harwood
- 2013 Honorable Damon J. Keith
- 2012 Honorable Julian Abele Cook Jr.
- 2011 Honorable Robert Holmes Bell
- 2008 Honorable Dennis C. Kolenda
- 2007 Justice Marilyn J. Kelly & Honorable William B. Murphy
- 2004 Honorable John Feikens
- 2001 Honorable James L. Ryan

Civility Award



Prior Recipients:

2018 David W.
Christensen
2017 Thomas W. Cranmer
2016 William F. Mills

2019 ABOTA Holiday Dinner

Save The Date!

Thursday, December 5, 2019
Cocktails at 6:00
Dinner at 7:30pm

Detroit Golf Club
17911 Hamilton Rd
Detroit, MI 48203
(313) 345-4400



[Download Sponsorship Form Here](#)

Sponsors:

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New ABOTA Members

as of 4/3/2019

Scott R. Melton

Gruel Mills Nims & Pylman PLLC



[Email](#)

What Does ABOTA Do?



ABOTA-Michigan Board



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[Thomas W. Waun](#)



President-Elect
[Robert F. Riley](#)



Treasurer
[Thomas R. Behm](#)



Membership Chairsperson
[Lawrence T. Garcia](#)



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[James E. Tamm](#)



National Board Representative
[Daniel J. Scully, Jr.](#)



Executive Director
[Madelyne C. Lawry](#)

Visit Our Website
at www.ABOTAMI.org



View our Membership Directory

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