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DAILY BRIEFS

Young Lawyer's Section hosts ZooLAWgical event

The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan will host ZooLAWgical on Saturday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd. in Royal Oak.

Co-sponsored by the Business Law Section and the Michigan State University Animal Legal & Historical Center, the day will feature a unique blend of adventure and education as participants explore the intersection of law and wildlife.

Attendees can enjoy the zoo's exhibits, while also diving deep into Law Learning Sessions on topics ranging from Zoo Law to Companion Animals and even Wacky Animal Law at their leisure throughout the day.

Tickets are \$25 per person and include Zoo admission and lunch. Children under 2 get in for free. To purchase tickets, visit <https://connect.michbar.org/yls/events/zoolawgical>.

Firm hosts event to benefit New Day Foundation July 24

As part of its Charitable Foundation's efforts, BSP Law is hosting hosting "On the Court for New Day" and "An Evening for a New Day" on Thursday, July 24, from 1:30 to 8 p.m. at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak.

Attendees can enjoy a fun day on the court with a pickleball tournament. Later in the evening, guests can gather for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, cigars, wine pull, and a silent auction.

The event will benefit the New Day Foundation for Families, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit co-founded by Michael and Gina (Kell) Spehn, in memory of their late spouses, Matt Kell and Cathy Spehn, who each lost a valiant battle with cancer. The mission of New Day is to improve treatment outcomes by alleviating the financial burden of cancer.

For sponsorship opportunities and tickets to the event, visit <https://bsplaw.com/an-evening-for-a-new-day>. Anyone with questions can email Katie Bryk at bryk@bsplaw.com or call 248-822-7848.

FBA hosts 'Bash at the Beach' July 17

The Diversity Committee of the Eastern District of Michigan Bar Association will host a "Bash at the Beach" on Thursday, July 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Campus Martius Park's BrisaBar, 800 Woodward Ave. in downtown Detroit.

All attorneys, law clerks, and interns are welcome. Appetizers will be available along with one free drink per person.

There is no registration necessary to attend. Anyone with questions may email Ki Lee Kilgore at atkkilgore@foley.com.



INSIDE DLN

Bond Sales Calendar	2
Classified Ads	4
Court Digest	4
Court News	3
Food Court	9
Legal Affairs	10
Legal Notices	5
Public Hearing Notice	5



Annual Springboard



Photo by John Meiu

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan presented its 2025 Annual Springboard Event on Thursday, June 19, at The Community House in Birmingham. During the event, with the theme of "Get Out the Map! Navigating the Law in a Time of Change," participants engaged in interactive table discussions led by industry experts in hot and trending areas of labor and employment law. Among those taking part in the discussions were (seated, l-r) Hannah Reisdorff of Clark Hill PLC, Michelle Crockett of Honigman LLP, and Heather Ptasznik of Ogletree Deakins; (standing) Emily Jacob of International Union, UAW; Adam Forman of Epstein, Becker, & Green PC; Susan Hiser of Calzone Hiser PLLC; Thomas Davis of Kienbaum, Hardy, Viviano, Pelton, and Forrest PLC; Kathryn Milz of Sommers Schwartz PC; and Jordan Schreier of Dickinson Wright PLLC.

SBM announces 2025 election results

The State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners will welcome one new member and the return of six other members chosen by Michigan attorneys in the 2025 election.

New to the board this year is Lisa W. Timmons, who was elected to serve District H, which represents Wayne, Monroe, and Lenawee Counties. Timmons has over 25 years of experience in alternative dispute resolution. She chairs SBM's ADR Section and is executive director of the Mediation Tribunal Association. Timmons also is a member of Professional Resolution Experts of Michigan, Michigan regional chair of Women in Dispute Resolution for the American Bar Association, and chair of the ADR Section of the Wolverine Bar Association. She maintains memberships with the national and many local chapters of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, the International Council for Commercial Arbitration, the Society of

Federal Labor and Employee Relations Professionals, ArbitralWomen, and the Labor Guild of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Returning to the Board of Commissioners this year are:

- District I, Oakland County**
 - Gerard V. Mantese, Troy
 - James W. Low, Southfield
- District A, Judicial Circuits 11, 12, 13, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28, 32, 33, 34, 41, 46, 47, 50, 51, 53, and 57**
 - Susan C. Larsen, Marquette
- District C, Judicial Circuits 14, 17, 20, 21, 27, 49, and 55**
 - Nicholas M. Ohanesian, Grand Rapids
- District F, Judicial Circuits 1, 2, 5, 9, 15, 36, 37, 43, 45, and 48**
 - Thomas P. Murray Jr., Grand Rapids
 - James L. Liggins Jr., Kalamazoo

In the election for the Judicial Tenure Commission, Thomas J. Ryan, was re-

elected to a three-year term.

In the election for the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section Executive Council, the following attorneys were elected or re-elected.

- These members are:
- District 1**
 - Sydnee M. Rogers, Livonia
 - Tenika Griggs, Redford
 - Ali A. Berro, Dearborn
 - District 2**
 - Alexander P. Sheldon-Smith, Farmington Hills
 - Isra K. Khuja, Troy
 - Kayla M. Toma, Farmington Hills
 - District 3**
 - Sharae L. Williams, Ann Arbor
 - Alexander J. Thibodeau, Grand Rapids
 - Marissa A. Vinsky, Okemos
 - Megan N. Mitchell, Davison
 - Jacob R. Goodman, Traverse City

See **ELECTION**, Page 3

Area attorney receives DBA's coveted Legal Scholar Award

Harshitha Ram, chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section of the Detroit Bar Association (DBA), has been honored with the DBA's prestigious Legal Scholar Award for 2025.

The award was presented at the DBA's annual dinner held recently at the Detroit Golf Club. This year's accolade—Ram's third in a row—recognizes her groundbreaking paper, "Optimizing Civil Court Dockets Through Innovative Dispute Resolution Practices," which is currently available on the DBA website.

Courts across the United States are wrestling with a perfect storm: pandemic era backlogs, shrinking budgets, and a surge in complex, high stakes litigation. Ram's paper is already being hailed by colleagues as "top of its class" for directly addressing those pain points with tested, data driven remedies. Drawing on nationwide pilot programs, analytics from high volume jurisdictions, and best practices refined in her own arbitration and mediation work, the paper lays out: Early Case Triage Protocols; Hybrid ADR Models; Technology Enabled Docket Management Tools; Metric Driven Benchmarks, among others.

"This paper offers a roadmap of practical, replicable solutions that courts can deploy today—solutions we know work because they've already been tested in multiple jurisdictions," Ram said.

In addition to serving as DBA ADR Section Chair, Ram is the incoming Co Chair of the American Bar Association's Arbitration Committee and President of the Global Arbitration Mediation Academy (GAMA), which focuses on providing world-class ADR education and training across borders.

Harshitha Ram is an internationally recognized arbitrator and mediator, with extensive experience in both U.S. domestic and international forums.



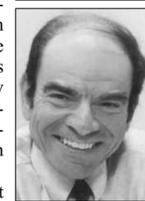
Harshitha Ram with her husband Senthil Jayavelu, son Ashrith Senthil, and daughter Apeksha Senthil.

Local Voice

BERL FALBAUM

New York mayoral vote should worry Jews across U.S.

The result of the mayoral primary election in New York City on June 24 should worry all Jews in the U.S., whether they live in the northwest corner of Seattle or diagonally across the country in the Florida Keys.



I'm confident that prompts the question: "But I don't live in New York City, so why should I care?"

Before we respond, some background and a word on the outcome.

New York City has the highest population of Jews outside of Israel (about 1.4 million). Its Jewish population is larger than in Jerusalem, which is just under 1 million. (Some 13,000 Holocaust survivors live in the eight-county area, 92 percent of them in New York City.)

It is in this demographic political environment that Zohran Mamdani, a New York State assemblyman, won the Democratic primary for mayor, and is now the overall favorite in the November general election.

He easily defeated Andrew Cuomo, the former scandal-plagued New York governor — by 12 percentage points. He will face incumbent Mayor Eric Adams, who is running as an independent and may also compete against Cuomo, who has yet to decide whether to run, like Adams, as an independent.

Mamdani won despite a vitriolic anti-Israel, anti-Jewish (I am working hard not to use "antisemitic") agenda, which includes the following:

- He continually dodged the question about the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state. When asked repeatedly, he used a formulaic response, stating Israel "has a right to exist as a state with equal rights."

(Incidentally, no other country on the planet is or has ever been challenged about its right to exist.)

- On October 8, 2023, one day after the most violent slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust, Mamdani condemned Israel for "occupation and apartheid," without a mention of Hamas, the terrorist organization that committed the butchery.

- On October 13, just six days after the attack, Mamdani and his supporters held a rally outside then-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's house "to speak out against the indiscriminate killing of Palestinians as we sit on the brink of a genocide." (Schumer is Jewish.)

- He has refused to criticize the phrase "globalize the intifada," which, in effect, calls for violence against Jews around the world, and he refused to do so after violent attacks on Jews in Colorado and Washington, D.C.

Asked on "Meet the Press" (June 28) why he doesn't condemn that phrase, Mamdani said he does not want to "police speech." No one was asking him to police speech. He can defend hate speech as a constitutional right (hardly a benevolent policy) while denouncing it.

- Mamdani supports BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions), which calls for companies, governments, public and private institutions to end business relationships with Israel.

In defense of BDS, Mamdani said: "I think it is legitimate movement when you are seeking to find compliance with international law and I think we have seen the Israel government out of compliance with international law."

- While attending Bowdoin College in Maine in the 2010s, Mamdani organized a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions. Thus, he was anti-Israel long before the war in Gaza.

- He was one of five state lawmakers who refused to sign two resolutions, one condemning the Holocaust and the other honoring Israel.

- He has repeatedly accused Israel of "genocide" and pledged, if elected mayor, to arrest Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if the Israeli leader were to visit New York.

- He participated in an interview with

See **FALBAUM**, Page 3

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■ One Tech Tip

Get the most out of ChatGPT and other AI chatbots with better prompts
Page 2

■ Food Court

Don't pour that pickle juice down the drain — it's a cocktail darling
Page 9



■ Legal People

Who's doing what and who's going where
Back Page