



*remember the man ...
remember his passion ...*

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The Thomas M. Cooley Law School, our honorary chairs, and committee of judges and lawyers invite you to attend:

The Fifth Annual Howard Soifer Memorial Lecture in Sports and Entertainment Law

GUEST SPEAKERS

Diane Dietz, Chief Communications Officer, Big 10 Network. Former University of Michigan All-American basketball player, first woman basketball player inducted into the University of Michigan Athletic Hall of Honor, and 1985 Cooley graduate. She will speak about her perspective about the challenges of operating and managing a high profile collegiate sports conference in times of growth and mobility.

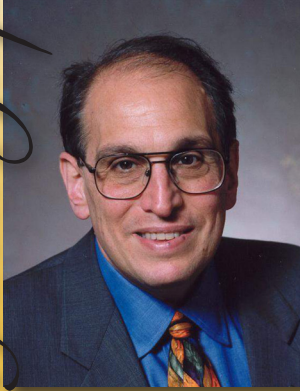
Steve Smith, TV analyst for the NBA and the Big 10 Network. Former Michigan State University All-American, U.S. Olympian, and National Basketball Association All-Star, will speak about his personal and professional relationship with Howard Soifer.

Tuesday, July 20, 2010, Noon
Lansing Campus
Cooley Center, Lobby
300 S. Capitol Avenue
Downtown Lansing

RSVP to Pamela Heos to reserve your box lunch at (517) 371-5140, ext. 2014 or e-mail heosp@cooley.edu.

1949-2003

Howard Soifer



Howard Soifer was born in the Bronx and moved to Monsey, New York in 1963. Following graduation from the Spring Valley High School Class of 1967, he attended the University of Toledo for two years and received his undergraduate degree from Long Island University in Brooklyn. Soifer was a proud 1977 graduate of Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. He was an accomplished lawyer, and a shareholder in the firm of Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting, P.C., until the time of his death on January 29, 2003 at the age of 53. He began his legal career as an Assistant Ingham County Prosecutor. After entering private practice, he specialized in litigation, zoning, and employment law. He frequently lectured at Cooley Law School and coauthored an article published in the *Thomas M. Cooley Journal of Practical Clinical Law* regarding the 1998-99 NBA lockout. More than anything, Howard loved sports. Throughout his life, he was an avid New York Yankees fan, and during his 29 years in East Lansing, Michigan, he became a loyal Michigan State University Spartan. Later in his career, Howard's passion for basketball, baseball, and football led him to represent several prominent professional athletes. He was proud to have negotiated a \$2.5 million donation to Michigan State University by Steve Smith, NBA Champion, MSU All-Star, client, and close friend, which was and remains the largest gift from a professional athlete to his *alma mater*. Howard was a devoted husband and best friend to his wife of more than 30 years, Sandy Kirsch Soifer. His two daughters, Halie and Marci, ages 31 and 28 years, are both graduates of the University of Michigan. Andrew Kauders joined the Soifer family in August 2006 when he and Halie were married. All who were part of Howard's life will remember him for his great sense of humor and his extreme loyalty, integrity, and strength. His dedication to his family and his profession and his passion and love for life will never be forgotten. He considered every moment of every day as a new and exciting chapter in the great story of life.

Guest Speakers

Diane Dietz, Chief Communications Officer, Big 10 Network. Former All-American basketball player. She played for the University of Michigan from 1979-1982 and is the school's all-time scoring leader with 2,076 points. She also set the Big Ten Conference single-game record with 45 points in 1982. In 1996 Dietz became the first women's basketball player inducted into the University of Michigan Athletic Hall of Honor. In 2009 she was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame. After graduating from the University of Michigan she enrolled at Thomas M. Cooley Law School and received her juris doctorate degree in 1985. She began her professional career as a lawyer working for law firms in Troy and Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. After leaving private practice she worked for many years in the cable television industry. She served as Corporate and Legal Affairs for Continental Cablevision and joined Comcast in 1996 as Vice President of Corporate Affairs for the Midwest Division. In 2005 she was promoted to Comcast's Senior Director of Public Affairs and Vice President of the Comcast Foundation. In 2008 she was named Chief Marketing Officer for the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This past March 2010 she was hired by the Big Ten Conference as Chief Communications Officer.

Steve Smith, TV analyst for the NBA and the Big 10 Network. Attended Pershing High School in Detroit and Michigan State University, where he became a First-Team All-American basketball player, and the Spartan's all-time leading scorer with 2,263 points. Steve then entered the NBA and played 14 seasons, retiring in 2005. In 1994, Steve was chosen to represent the U.S. as a member of the gold-medal winning "Dream Team II" in the World Championships held in Toronto, Canada, and he was chosen as a member of the gold-medal winning Olympic Basketball Team in the 2000 Olympics held in Sydney, Australia. Smith donated \$2.5 million dollars to Michigan State University, which helped construct the Clara Bell Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center, in honor of his late mother. This gift remains the largest single donation ever made by a professional athlete to an alma mater. The Steve Smith Scholarship and Charitable Fund is supported by monies raised from three annual charitable golf benefits. Steve's generosity has been recognized not only by the various charities, organizations, and institutions he donates to, but the NBA as well. Steve Smith still remains involved in basketball, however, as a TV analyst for the NBA and the Big Ten Network.