



The alumni partners in progress section is dedicated to highlighting the partnerships between Cooley and its graduates.

First Regional Alumni Association is Taking Shape in Southeastern Michigan

Cooley Law School graduates have formed associations in 13 areas outside Michigan with the largest alumni populations. Those groups are the California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, National Capital Area (which includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia), New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the Texas Alumni Associations. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana have just had their charters ratified by the National Alumni Association Board of Governors in November and are in the process of electing their first officers.

Dean Don LeDuc and Alumni Relations Director Darryl Parsell have continued to work with the Board of Governors to expand on this program. At the Board's October 2001 meeting, it approved a charter amendment to allow for regional alumni associations, grouping counties with large alumni populations. Since southeastern Michigan is home to more than 800 Cooley graduates, that area was a logical place to start organizing such regional groups.

On Nov. 7, Dean LeDuc and Alumni Director Parsell held an organizing lunch at the Marriott Detroit Renaissance Center. The graduates attending were Bob Alpiner (Mundy Class, 1986), Judge Gregory Bill (Dethmers Class, 1981), Kelly Brown-Gunn (Iredell Class, 2001), Chad Faglie (Voelker Class, 1997), Allison Folmar Givens (Flannigan Class, 1999), Anthony Garczynski (Williams Class, 1994), Peter Kenny (Campbell Class, 1976), Anne Lawter (Black Class, 1997), and Troy Tipton (Jay Class, 2001). All of the guests decided to

become founders of the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Association.

The next organizational meeting was held in Southfield, Mich., on Nov. 8. Bob Alpiner (Mundy Class, 1986), Michael Benchetrit (Steere Class, 1995), Mark Cooney (Montgomery Class, 1992), Michelle Esperance (Weadock Class, 1999), Robert Flora (Blair Class, 1983), Debra Garlinghouse (Moody Jr. Class, 1996), Angela Harmon-Kuhl (Weadock Class, 1999), Eric Kutinsky (Weadock Class, 1999), Davis Laidlaw (Fead Class, 1990), Marjorie Mugerian (Goodwin Class, 1982), Michael O'Malley (J. Wilson Class, 2001), Carol Shell-Smith (Potter Class, 1980), Kim Shinabarger (Moody Jr. Class, 1996), Patricia Sullivan (Carr Class, 1984), and Denise Winarski (Moody Jr. Class, 1996) attended the Southfield luncheon, held at the Westin Southfield-Detroit. As was true in Detroit, all of the guests became founding members of the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Association.

Of course, everyone at the luncheons recognized that many of Cooley's 800 area alumni were at locations too distant to attend the events or had schedule conflicts, but Southfield and Detroit were chosen as the meeting sites in the region as they had the greatest local populations of graduates. All other southeastern Michigan alums are invited to call Darryl at (800) 243-ALUM or e-mail <parsell@cooley.edu> in order to join the Southeastern Michigan Alumni Association Founders' Group.

Admission Ceremony for July 2001 Michigan Bar Examinees Hosted by Cooley

Successful examinees of the July 2001 Michigan Bar Examination were admitted as new attorneys at a ceremony held on Tuesday, Nov. 13 in the Cooley Center. Faculty, family and friends were able to share the moment when these candidates became members of the State Bar of Michigan and later socialized at a reception held by the school following the ceremony.

The program was provided with the assistance of the Ingham County Clerk's Office and the Ingham County Bar Association. Cooley's Associate Dean John Nussbaumer welcomed the admittees and their guests on behalf of the school. Lee B. Reimann, president of the Ingham County Bar Association, was responsible for the convening of the court while the Hon. William E. Collette, Judge of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court, granted the motions to admit the new attorneys.

Many of the admittees and sponsors were graduates of Cooley Law School. Eleven new attorneys entered the legal profession at the ceremony, with three of them being Cooley alumni. The Cooley graduates in the group were Nosa Aduwa (Cushing Class, 2000) sponsored by Michael Ogbonna (Snow Class, 1998), Damian Fisher (J. Wilson Class, 2001) sponsored by Ronald G. Douglas, and Kelly D. Torka (Blair Jr. Class, 2001).

It was a great honor for the faculty and staff of Cooley Law School to share this joyous event with these new attorneys and their guests. Our congratulations and best wishes go to them!