

AREA EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 29 The **Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation** is sponsoring a **“Night at the Library Tour”** on Thursday, September 29, 2016 from 6 until 8 p.m. Library docents will share the “secrets, backstories and hidden nooks and crannies” of Detroit’s Main Library as they mix their favorites with their patrons’ interests for a uniquely tailored tour.

OCTOBER 6 The **Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association** will kick off its **annual luncheon** program on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at the Westin Book Cadillac beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Honorable Denise Page Hood, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, will deliver the annual “State of the Court” address. For more information, contact Fred K. Herrmann, Chapter Program Chair, at (313) 961-0200, ext. 1017, or fherrmann@kerr-russell.com

NOVEMBER 15 The **Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan** and the **Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association** will hold its annual **joint luncheon** on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at the Westin Book Cadillac beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will include presentation of the Federal Bar Foundation’s annual Rakow Scholarship Awards and presentation of the Fifth Annual Barbara Rom Award for Bankruptcy Excellence. Kevin M. Ball will be the featured speaker.

NOVEMBER 22 The **Michigan Supreme Court** and the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services** are seeking nominations for the **Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award**, which recognizes outstanding work in support of Michigan children. The award will be presented at the 2016 Michigan Adoption Day at the Hall of Justice on November 22, 2016. Nomination forms are available on the Court’s website.

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN DISTRICT H COMMISSIONER:



Dennis M. Barnes, Esq.

BY ERIKA L. DAVIS

In this article, I would like to shine a spotlight on Commissioner Dennis M. Barnes of Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, P.L.L.C..

Dennis M. Barnes has been a member of the Board of Commissioners since 2010, and serves on its Executive Committee.

Denny, who goes by Denny, is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School, and has a Bachelor of Arts, *Magna Cum Laude* from Hillsdale College. Denny is one of the state’s top commercial litigators, with a practice covering a wide range of commercial and business disputes. He has substantial experience in the litigation and trial of matters involving intellectual property, insurance, professional liability, anti-trust, and business torts. During the course of his career, Denny has managed the defense of several class actions.

Denny is also a sought-after mediator, facilitator, and arbitrator when litigants want to resolve their disputes outside the courtroom.

Denny’s work in and out of the courtroom has not gone unnoticed. He is listed in Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation, and Michigan Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, among many others.

When Denny is not practicing law, he is working hard in federal, state, and local bar associations. In addition to serving as a District H Commissioner, Denny is also Treasurer for the State Bar of Michigan. He is a Past President of the Federal Bar Association (Eastern District of Michigan Chapter) and a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. Denny is also a member of the Shamrock Bar

Association and the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers.

Denny’s volunteerism is not limited to bar associations. In the community, he is known as the one you can count on to help. He is on the Detroit Catholic Central High School Board of Directors and the Secretary of that school’s Alumni Board of Directors. Denny is also active in the St. William Parish (Walled Lake) where he coaches football, and boys’ and girls’ basketball.

If you want to know more about Denny, you may contact him at:

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NEXT ISSUE: James W. Heath, Esq., Inspector General, City of Detroit



ERIKA L. DAVIS, ESQ., has been a practicing lawyer for almost 17 years, with a thriving solo practice, Butler Davis, PLLC, representing nonprofits, small businesses, and individuals in litigation and transactional matters.