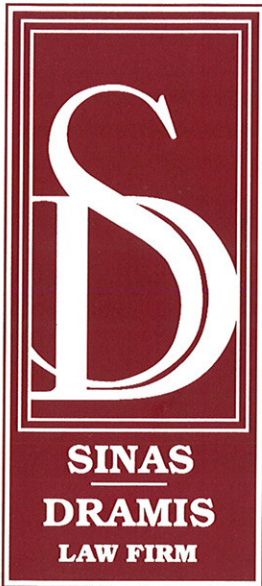


winter 2004/05

Law Letter



SINAS, DRAMIS, BRAKE, BOUGHTON & McINTYRE, P.C.

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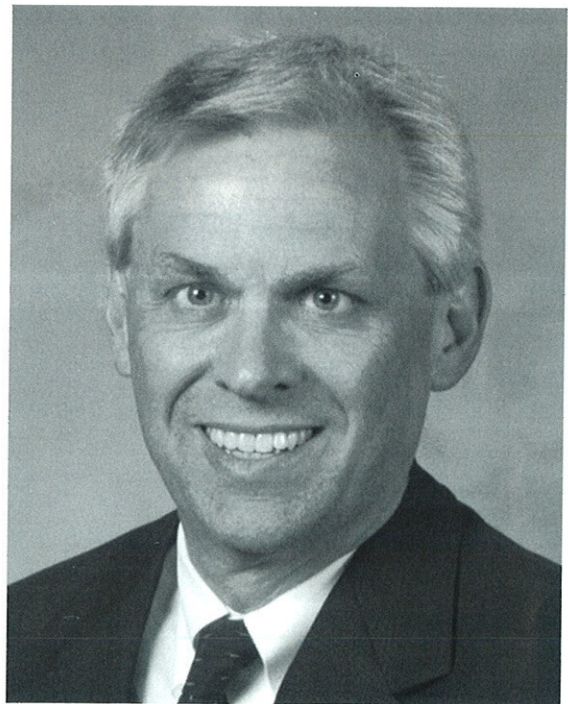
Tim Donovan chosen as MDTC-respected advocate

Each year, the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (MDTC) selects a member of the plaintiff's bar for the purpose of recognizing and honoring that attorney's history of successful representation of clients and adherence to the highest standards of ethics. This year, the prestigious state award was given to **Tim Donovan**, shareholder at the **Sinas Dramis Law Firm**. Tim received the honor at the State Bar of Michigan's 69th Annual Meeting on September 30, 2004, at the State Bar of Michigan Awards Banquet.

The award symbolizes the recognition by defense attorneys of Tim's superb skills as a courtroom adversary and his civility, ethics, and decorum in handling his cases.

Tim has been with the Sinas Dramis Law Firm for over 28 years. He received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his law degree cum laude from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He served on the Executive Board for the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association from 1982-1992 and was appointed chairperson of the Negligence Law Council for the State Bar of Michigan in 1999. In 2003-2004, Tim was nationally recognized in the **Best Lawyers in America** in the field of plaintiff's personal injury litigation.

Tim also has been instrumental in providing assistance to his partner, George T. Sinas, in the writing and editing of the "No-Fault Red Book," which is used extensively in the insurance and legal fields in Michigan.



Please join our firm in congratulating Tim for this well-deserved honor.

In the pursuit of justice since 1951.



Heads Up for Safety 2004



On May 22, 2004, George T. Sinas and Senator Virg Bernero kicked off the "Heads Up for Safety" day at the Pleasant Grove Elementary School. *The Sinas Dramis Law Firm* joined with *Origami Brain Injury Rehab Program*, the *Lansing School District/HOPE Scholars Program*, and the *Michigan Trial Lawyers Association* to host the well-attended event. Over 170 helmets were given away and were donated by the *Sinas Dramis Law Firm* with the hope that brain injuries can be prevented.



Bernie Finn is an avid cyclist and enjoys teaching the children about bicycle safety.



Jackie Cribley and Tom Sinas help fit a helmet on a young rider.

Did you know?

Each year, over 140,000 bicycle riders under the age of 20 sustain brain injuries, and another 250 die of these brain injuries. Medical research shows that 88 percent of cyclists' brain injuries could be prevented by bicycle helmets.

The People's Law School



The Sinus Dramis Law Firm is proud to announce its repeated sponsorship of a very successful community program this fall: the People's Law School. Last year, 230 students attended, and the 2004 class had 350 registrants, with a waiting list of 150 people who could not get in due to space limitations.

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School and the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association cosponsored this popular event, which took place from September 23, 2004, through November 11, 2004. The People's Law School is a unique public education opportunity that provides laypersons and consumers with a working

knowledge of legal issues and helps to clear up confusion and uncertainty about the legal system. This year's course offerings included: Court System Overview; Health Care Law, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security; Wills, Trusts, and Estates; Auto No-Fault; Juvenile, Adoptions, Truancy, Emancipation, Neglect; Criminal Law; Asset Protection and Identity Theft; and Divorce/Family Law.

New classes will be offered in 2005. Please call Catherine Groll at the Sinus Dramis Law Firm if you would like to add your name to the waiting list for next year's classes.

Lawyers in the news

GEORGE T. SINAS recently was selected to serve as legal adviser for the newly formed **Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault** (CPAN). CPAN is an organization composed of approximately 25 medical-provider and patient-advocacy groups that was formed to fight the auto insurance industry's ongoing attempts to limit the legal rights and the insurance benefits of auto accident victims under the Michigan No-Fault Act. CPAN has, with the assistance of Mr. Sinas, served as *amicus curiae* in several important no-fault cases currently pending in the Michigan appellate courts. In addition, CPAN is proposing legislation to protect patients and their providers. The *Michigan Institute for Continuing Legal Education* also requested that Mr. Sinas make a presentation this fall at its annual No-Fault Update Seminar, scheduled for Troy and Grand Rapids, regarding new developments in no-fault litigation. In October 2004, Mr. Sinas was one of the major presenters at the annual meeting of the *Brain Injury Association of Michigan*, where he spoke on the topic *Protecting Your Rights During Times of Legislative and Judicial Challenges*.

JAMES GRAVES was appointed, in September, to the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Qualifications Committee. The committee is responsible for evaluating candidates for appointment by the

Governor to judicial vacancies. Committee members are appointed by the president of the State Bar of Michigan and serve a three-year term. Jim was also re-elected as president of the Ingham County Bar Foundation.

BRYAN WALDMAN moderated the Rapid Fire Seminar at the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association annual meeting. In addition, Bryan was recently appointed to the Michigan State Bar Negligence Council. He also ended his one year-term as president of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association in July 2004.

CATHERINE GROLL recently was appointed by the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association to serve as the chair of the People's Law School Committee and as a cochair of the Law School Liaison Committee for the 2004-2005 year. In addition, she was appointed by the American Trial Lawyers Association to the National Law Schools Committee. Ms. Groll moderated the People's Law School fall 2004 session at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. She also was elected vice president of the Women Lawyers Association of Lansing.

PAGE GRAVES was invited to speak at the Michigan Department of Community Health regarding auto no-

(continued on back page)

George T. Sinas
Timothy J. Donovan
Bernard F. Finn
Michael E. Larkin
Deborah A. Deprez

James F. Graves
Bryan J. Waldman
Catherine Groll
L. Page Graves
Brenda L. Lawson

Martha J. Kaser
Barry D. Boughton
(of counsel)
Kenneth G. McIntyre
(of counsel)

Thomas G. Sinas
(1922-1985)
Lee C. Dramis
(1922-1981)
Richard J. Brake
(retired)



Lawyers in the news

(continued from page 3)

fault and volunteer issues. In addition, he will begin serving his third term on the Ingham County Bar Association Board of Directors, and third year as adjunct professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, teaching Michigan no-fault law.

BRENDA LAWSON, a member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Michigan, which is an alternative dispute resolution process for divorcing couples, was recently featured in *Lawyers Weekly* for her efforts in initiating collaborative law in Ingham County. Brenda is one of the few attorneys in Michigan who are certified in collaborative divorce law.

The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for consultation with an attorney.
Specific conditions always require consultation with appropriate legal professionals.

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