



# Negligence Law Section

## *Negligence Law Section Quarterly*

Summer 2020

### **Message From the Chair**

James Bradley, Secret Wardle

As I consider my thoughts for the last newsletter of the Negligence Section 2019/2020 year, I can't help but marvel at the hard work and professionalism of the members of the Negligence Section Council. Despite the difficult and challenging times brought about by changes to the Michigan Court Rules and the No-Fault Statute, not to mention the ongoing pandemic involving COVID-19, the Negligence Section enjoyed one of its most productive and remarkable years in memory.

In the fall of 2019, the Council in general, and Treasurer Chad Engelhardt, in particular, put together a remarkable seminar on changes to the Michigan Court Rules. Over 250 people attended the initial seminar and an additional 100 members participated in a follow up seminar organized for legal assistants. The attendance at these seminars was unprecedented and the expertise of the various presenters was unsurpassed with much of the presentation being provided by council members directly.

In addition to the above, for the first time in 50 years, the Legislature enacted substantial changes to the Michigan No-Fault Statute. The Negligence Section joined the efforts of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education ("ICLE"), and together, a virtual presentation was organized in April that provided assistance to practitioners working in this important area of the law. No statute affects the practice of our Negligence Section members any more than the Michigan No-Fault Statute and the hard work of the council members and representatives of ICLE was extraordinary.

Finally, the Council has faced head on the challenges associated with COVID-19. In August of this year, the Council, in association with the excellent work of Madelyne Lawry and her staff, organized a virtual awards ceremony which, while not as personal as originally hoped, nevertheless met all of the expectations of not only the Negligence Section itself, but more importantly, the recipients of the various awards. Nearly 100 people attended and celebrated the many accomplishments of our award recipients.

As such, I leave the Negligence Section Council with equal amounts of appreciation and admiration. Appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of each and every member of the Council

and admiration for the extraordinary professionalism of each and every member. The Negligence Section represents over 1,900 members of the Michigan Bar. Each one should be proud of the excellent service provided to them by the Section Council.

Best wishes to all.

James Bradley  
Secrest Wardle  
517-886-1224  
[jbradley@secrestwardle.com](mailto:jbradley@secrestwardle.com)