

bodman

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

Committed to a Diverse and Inclusive Workplace - at All Levels

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND SOCIAL ACTION:

In the News

FROM THE EDITOR

By: Maya K. Watson



July 23rd marks the 50th Anniversary of the first day of Detroit's 1967 rebellion. There are varying accounts of that summer and local perspectives may be colored by views on law enforcement or how that 5-day period impacted one's family. What is undisputed, however, is that an incident that began in the early morning hours on 12th and Clairmount Streets significantly affected the trajectory of our beloved city and the entire country.

This was not the first racially-motivated

civil unrest in Detroit and, during that summer, uprisings occurred in other big U.S. cities. Yet, Detroit has not yet fully recovered from the redlining policies, the discriminatory housing practices, and the events leading up to and stemming from the 1967 uprising.

The recent resurgence of investment in Detroit and enhanced transportation and recreational opportunities have generated long-awaited optimism. But, in our excitement, let us not forget the many lessons from the past half-century.

Please enjoy this issue.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIFE REMODELED PROJECT

By: Celeste E. Arduino, Kimberly A. Paulson and Rayan Harajli

On Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Bodman will partner with Life Remodeled to clean a local neighborhood. Life Remodeled is a Detroit-based nonprofit that invests approximately \$5 million annually into a Detroit neighborhood. Each year, Life Remodeled selects a neighborhood and gathers thousands of volunteers to clean up that community, repair owner-occupied homes, and remodel a school or community asset.

As this July marks the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Detroit uprising, Life Remodeled has selected the area surrounding Detroit Central High School for its 2017 project. Central High

School is the city's first public high school and it is located in the community where Detroit's civil unrest began. The project will repurpose nearby Durfee Elementary-Middle School and convert it into a Community Innovation Center, focusing on entrepreneurship, education and community.

Since 2015, Bodman attorneys have provided significant pro bono legal services to Life Remodeled on matters involving contracts, insurance, leases, dispute resolution, employment and corporate law.

Please contact **Marissa Ketelhut** to volunteer.

Summer 2017 Issue

"Our mission is to create a diverse firm with a culture of inclusion that values the differences and perspectives of everyone. By creating a culture of inclusion, we also create a strategic advantage for not only ourselves, but also our clients. We end up with broader points of view, a myriad of skill sets and talents, and a global perspective."

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Diversity and Inclusion and Social Action Committee Members

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HELLO GRAND RAPIDS!



In May, Bodman welcomed new attorneys **Floyd E. Gates, Jr.** and **Darren J. Burmania** to the firm and the opening of its new Grand Rapids, Michigan office. Gates will lead the Grand Rapids office.

Gates has more than 18 years of legal experience with a focus on litigation and corporate law. His clients include financial institutions, insurance carriers, and a broad range of businesses that reflect the diversity of the West Michigan economy.

Burmania represents national and regional banks with commercial loan originations and loan works. He also advises business clients in connection with entity formation, succession planning and asset protection.

Gates has become a member of Bodman's Banking, Business, and Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Groups, which are among the largest and most highly rated in Michigan. He has represented banks in workout and related litigation and the investigation and resolution of complex fraud schemes involving hundreds of millions of dollars in potential claims.

"Grand Rapids presents a growth opportunity for Bodman as we have a number of clients with offices and operations in West Michigan. Our new Grand Rapids office will allow us to serve these clients with even better responsiveness and efficiency," stated Bodman Chairman **Ralph McDowell**.

Gates is a board member of the Grand Rapids chapters of the American Heart Association and the March of Dimes.

We look forward to expanding our support of the Grand Rapids area, its businesses and residents.

"DOUBLING DOWN" ON SUPPORT FOR DETROIT YOUTH



Jason Currie used his award-winning racquetball skills for a good cause at the "Racquet Up Double Down" squash competition on May 6, 2017 at Detroit's Northwest Activities Center. The event connects young squash

players from Detroit with Detroit Athletic Club members to raise funds to support academic, athletic and mentorship programs.

Racquet Up is an education, mentoring, and squash program for youth in Detroit. The program combines academic support, community service, college visits, fitness and nutrition with instruction in the sport of squash.

This year, the Racquet Up competition raised \$143,766 to support Detroit youth.

Congratulations to Jason and to all participants, volunteers and sponsors!

Summer 2017 Issue

Upcoming Events

July 14 – *Bodman Jeans for Charity Day – benefitting Matrix Human Services.*

July 27 - *Through the personal support of **Ralph McDowell, Andy Curoe, Joseph Shannon and Bill Scarbrough**, Bodman will sponsor the 4th annual #313intheD event in Downtown Detroit. All proceeds will benefit Matrix Human Services.*

August 5 – *Bodman joins Life Remodeled to remove blight on 300 city blocks and board up 300 vacant houses in Detroit.*

August 18 – *Bodman Jeans for Charity Day – benefitting Jewish Family Services.*

September 15 – *Bodman Jeans for Charity Day – benefitting United Way of Washtenaw County.*

October 20 – *Bodman Jeans for Charity Day – benefitting Boys and Girls Club of Oakland County.*

November 17 – *Bodman Jeans for Charity Day – benefitting Gleaners Food Bank.*

December 15 – *Bodman Jeans for Charity Day – benefitting Catholic Charities.*

TRUE INCLUSION: CREATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING

By: Damali A. Sahu

Inclusion: *The process of leveraging the power of differences and similarities to engage and value all people.*

Skot Welch returned to Bodman in March 2017 to lead a discussion focused on the inclusion side of the diversity and inclusion equation. Welch's interactive workshop, "True Inclusion: Creating a Culture of Belonging," engaged Firm attorneys in a discussion about the benefits of heterogeneous groups, the potentially damaging effects of permitting an environment of "otherness," and the positive "consequences" of creating a welcoming environment. Welch's entertaining and fast-paced presentation style and command of the subject matter facilitated interesting discussions and useful takeaways to put into practice.

Welch emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive environment to maximize innovation and creativity for the benefit of the Firm's clients. He shared the following food for thought:

Innovation Through Inclusion:

- *Different situations require different methods;*
- *Different methods require different ways of thinking; and*
- *Different ways of thinking require different kinds of people*

The Diversity and Inclusion and Social Action Committee values the input of all and welcomes topic suggestions for our next diversity workshop. Please send suggestions to any member of the Committee.

VIP MENTORING: YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

By: Ameena Sheikh

Bodman continues its partnership with VIP Mentoring and several attorneys have participated in weekly mentoring sessions at Spain Elementary and Middle School.

During the mentoring sessions, Bodman attorneys worked with mentees on several life skills. Mentor sessions ranged from helping mentees with homework to engaging in meaningful conversations to writing and performing skits. As the 2016-17 school year came to an end, Bodman mentors worked with their mentees to develop end of the year performances.



The presentations were held on June 5. Each was a unique personal expression. Some mentees chose to choreograph and perform a dance, while others exhibited card tricks or confidently displayed oratory skills. With the guidance of their mentors, mentees learned to overcome performance fears and take ownership of their talents. Mentors also learned to communicate effectively to help their mentees execute their performances.

In continuance of the firm's diversity commitment, the VIP Mentoring program will continue after summer break. Bodman looks forward to more attorneys serving as mentors.

Summer 2017 Issue

Did You Know?

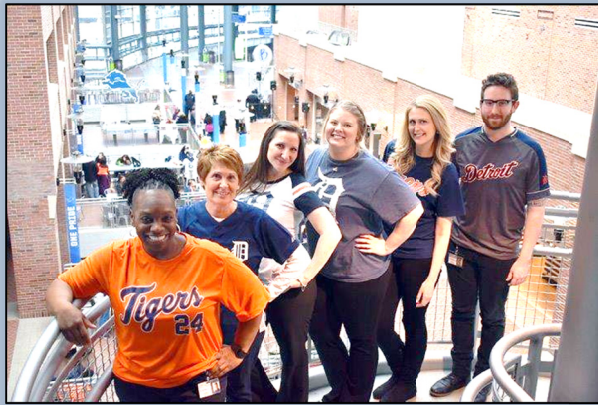
➤ *Joe Kochanek facilitated Bodman's Copper-level sponsorship of the 2017 AbilityFirst Stroll & Roll held on April 2 in the Universal Studios backlot in California. Comerica Bank was a Presenting Sponsor of the event. The Kochanek family joined 2400 other Stroll & Roll participants. The event raised \$833,461 to assist those with disabilities.*

➤ *The generosity of Larry Shulman and other Bodman partners is assisting diverse law students. Diverse 2nd and 3rd year University of Michigan law students from disadvantaged backgrounds who plan to practice in SE Michigan are eligible to receive the Richard D. Rohr Scholarship (funded by a number of Bodman partners) and the Ann Cohn and Hilda Manko Scholarship (endowed by Larry Shulman).*

Please submit all articles or information for upcoming issues by email to mwatson@bodmanlaw.com.

Thank you!

BODMAN SERVICE AND THE DETROIT SPIRIT



Bodman staff members show Tigers pride on Opening Day 2017. Since moving to Ford Field, Bodman has made celebrating Opening Day a much-anticipated tradition.



Brandon Dalziel, Bonnie Sherr and Chris Attar prepare to serve breakfast to Bodman staff to show appreciation.



Bodman co-sponsored the 56th Annual Wolverine Bar Association Barrister's Ball at the Detroit Renaissance Center on April 8.



On April 8, Bodman joined the United Way of Southeastern Michigan's Day of Service at Gleaners Food Bank. Volunteers included Jonathan Berg, Alex Dieck, Kathy Hickey and daughter Bridget, Karen Piper, Bill and Kate Scarbrough, Cassie and David Pionk, Mike Serra, Tanya Cripps, Mike Vukich, Bonnie Washington, Maya Watson, Alain Desvallons-Mentor and Bonnie Sherr.



The 2017 Staff Appreciation Day featured a catered breakfast, a raffle, recognition of Firm anniversaries, and relaxing manicures and massages for hardworking staff.