

Seeking reform

Lawyers form local bar

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Attorneys in southwestern Oakland County have formed their own bar association because of a feeling that the 1,500-member Oakland County Bar Association has grown too big to be responsive to local legal concerns.

Rodney W. Sabourin, of the Sabourin and Case law firm in Farmington, is president of the newly formed association known as the Southwestern Oakland County Bar Association.

Sabourin, a Plymouth resident, said the first order of business for lawyers in the new group is to assist the district courts in implementing new mediation rules. The association includes 260 lawyers in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Commerce Township.

Under the new rules, the lawyers would agree to participate in small

claims mediations which will be decided by volunteer attorneys instead of district judges — if the plan is approved by the Supreme Court of Michigan.

Sabourin said the cost of mediation in district court civil cases is a concern.

The association also plans to address the issue of fees paid to court-appointed attorneys in district court cases, Sabourin said.

"THE SUPREME COURT now requires that a district court judge appoint an attorney at the public expense where there is a potential for the accused to serve jail time," Sabourin said. "The fees for representing these individuals in the district court, traditionally, have been very minimal."

"The Bar Association indicates that because of the fee structure arrangement, individuals may be denied their

due process under the Constitution. The present fee structure is such that it places a substantial burden on an attorney that would agree to take an assigned case in the district court level.

"The association at its meeting has set up a committee to review the various procedures in the local courts for the assignment of counsel and payment of fees."

On the committee are Sabourin, vice-president Allen C. Ingle and Tim Doyle. Ingle, who's had his office on Grand River near Middlebelt in Farmington Hills since 1953, would like to see his colleagues address the problem of time spent in court.

"Take (Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks) Patterson's policy of no reduced pleas on gun-related crimes, as an example," Ingle said. "What's the point of going to a pre-trial conference

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Rodney Sabourin discusses the goals and functions of the Southwest Oakland County Bar Association. Sabourin is president of the organization.

Singer calls spotless image shallow

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

They came bearing baked goods on a pilgrimage to see America's spiritual sweetheart, Debbie Boone.

By the time she was finished signing autographs and smiling for snapshots at Twelve Oaks Mall, Debbie Boone had accumulated two separate sets of custom-designed cookies and two loaves of homemade cinnamon nut bread courtesy of her loyal fans.

"We're fans of her whole family,"

said Sharon Kinnunen of Hamburg, Mich., who baked the cinnamon bread for Mrs. Boone. "We like them just because they're regular people — real Christians. You never hear of them drinking and carousing around like some stars."

Debbie Boone is, as most know, the daughter of singer Pat Boone and the wife of Gabriel Ferrer, who is the son of entertainers Jose Ferrer and Rosemary Clooney. The young couple — both age 24 — have a son who is 20 months old. The three are

staying in Detroit through April 4 during the pre-Broadway run of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" at the Fisher Theatre.

NBC is filming a network special in Detroit about the work that goes into preparing a show for Broadway called "Debbie Boone's One Step Closer" that will air in late April.

Since the whole family is on the road, Boone was asked if she finds it difficult to balance motherhood with her career. She said her son is becoming a real show-business trouper who's learned to

adjust to new faces and strange towns.

"IT GETS a little bit confusing at times, but it's worth every second," she said. "I get the best of both worlds: a fulfilling family life and a fulfilling career. It just means traveling with a lot of (baby) paraphernalia."

Ferrer said he and his wife share the responsibilities of raising the baby on a "100-100 percent basis" rather than 50-50.

It also means traveling with a full-time nanny who watches the child when Boone is rehearsing or her husband is tending to the business side of the theater.

Pat Boone, Debbie's father, has been dogged by a white-milk reputation, and Debbie has been tagged with an equally wholesome public image.

Doesn't that goodie-goodie image ever grate on her? Wouldn't she like to take a different tack and play a mean, evil character for once?

Boone said since the musical now playing at the Fisher is her first acting job, she's not really typecast. In previous appearances, she's always either sang or played herself.

"The (goodie-goodie) image is very shallow," Boone said. "People sometimes think that because someone has a strict set of morals and values that they don't know what's going on in the world and lack the ability to make decisions. I like to think I have a good



Fans had a chance to ask Debbie Boone about her life on and off the stage.



Debbie Boone signed autographed copies of her autobiography for shoppers at Twelve Oaks Mall.

INSIDE ANGLES

IF YOU'RE FEELING free and easy, but want to remain sensible about summer outings on the motorcycle, safety classes will be offered this year at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. The classes will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., beginning April 12. Those interested can call 476-9400, ext. 212. Although motorcycles are provided, students must furnish their own helmets, boots, gloves, arm protectors and rain gear. A \$25 fee will be charged. Weekend classes will begin April 23, with Friday classes being 6-10 p.m. and Saturday classes being from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday sessions will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SOUNDS LIKE the joke about the guy who went to a garage sale looking to buy a garage. Chuck Spriggs, owner of the Benchmark sporting goods store in the Downtown Farmington Center, asked City Council for approval to hold a tent sale April 22-26 in his parking lot. Council members unanimously approved the request after asking him what he planned to sell in the tent sale. Answer — tents. "We don't have floor space to display the larger family tents," said Spriggs. The store next door called the Terrace will also display patio furniture during the outdoor sale. Spriggs will have a semi-trailer loaded with canoes in the lot. Parking in the lot might be a problem, he admitted.

FAMILY STRESS and child abuse will be the focus of a panel discussion to be Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty. The program, which is sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance, will feature Marjorie Ziefert, assistant professor of social work, Eastern Michigan University; Donald Musse, supervisor of the Oakland County Children's Protective Services; Sgt. Richard Murphy, Farmington Hills Police juvenile division; and Chris Pafen, public health nurse of Oakland County. Admission is free.

SEEKING HOME SECURITY? The Farmington Hills Police Department has initiated a service that provides free home security surveys for all residents of the community. A crime prevention technician will come to your home and survey the residence to show you how to make your home more secure. Fire escape methods also will be discussed. To set an appointment, call 474-8181, ext. 312. The service is free.

ENJOY A TOUCH of life like it used to be on a tour of Meadowbrook Hall on May 11. It will be sponsored by the Farmington Hill Parks and Recreation Division. Registration deadline is April 16. Cost is \$14.50 which includes lunch, tour fees and round-trip transportation. The tour will depart from Farmington Hills City Hall at 10:15 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m. Upon arriving lunch will be served in the main dining room followed by a two-hour guided tour of the 100-room Tudor mansion and the Dodge greenhouse and grounds. On the return trip a stop will be made at Bordine's nursery and greenhouse in Rochester.

AS ALWAYS there is a need for blood, especially "O" positive. Known as the universal donor, "O" positive is the most common blood type and can be transfused, under certain medical conditions, to patients with other blood types. On March 27, the bloodmobile will be at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33301 13 Mile, Farmington Hills, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment, call 626-7906. Registration, a free mini-physical and blood donation takes less than an hour, with juice and cookies afterward. Donations also are accepted at the Oak Park Donor Center, 25900 Greenfield, Oak Park. For an appointment, call 968-2257.

VOLUNTEERS ARE needed to aid in a therapeutic and recreational experience of horseback riding for handicapped individuals. The program is sponsored by Oakland County in association with 4-H. The programs are on Monday evenings from March through October. Interested persons should contact the 4-H at 658-0889.

THE DETROIT COUNTRY Day middle and upper schools will conduct their rescheduled open house on March 21, 2-4 p.m. at the main campus, 22305 13 Mile, corner of Lasher. More than 150 parents, students and teachers will assist in the informal tours, music performances and sports exhibitions. Other scheduled events include simulated foreign language lab sessions, computer classes, demonstrations of computer-career and college counseling programs and an explanation of the international baccalaureate curriculum. Country Day's new \$2-million gym complex will be open, a color-sound movie about the school will be shown, and refreshments will be served. For further information, call 646-7717.

COLLAR IT WHITE

Dress shirts are dropping their bold and brassy sportswear-look to assume a more elegant appearance again. Checks are smaller, stripes are thinner, plaids are muted. Add a snappy white collar, and they become cooler, richer, dressier. JOHN HENRY's blue gingham shirt says it all. Fitted, with average sleeve lengths. It's a carefree blend of polyester/cotton. Sizes 14½-17, \$24. Shown with a blue silk shantung tie, \$25. In Dress Shirts at Hudson's.

hudson's men's store