

OAKLAND BUSINESS

Finance

Attorney fights divorce bill

Birmingham attorney Michael A. Robbins has recently received national attention in his fight against the reinstitution of fault divorces in the state of Michigan. ABC's "Good Morning America" and CBS' "This Morning" are among the national news television programs. Robbins has appeared on, explaining his opposition on this issue. Robbins has also been interviewed for an upcoming segment on "ABC World News Tonight" and the CBS Evening News segment "Eye on America."

Robbins specializes in the area of family law and is the past chairperson of the State Bar of Michigan Family Law Section. He is also a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Victor and Robbins.

Robbins is strongly opposed to a new bill introduced this month which will provide that a divorce shall not be granted where there are minor children, if one party objects, unless fault can be proven such as adultery, imprisonment, substance abuse or mental abuse. The new proposed law is

substantially the same as the law that was repealed in 1972 when no fault divorce was enacted.

Robbins believes that there are better methods available to address the increased divorce rate and subsequent consequences of divorce on men, women, children and families. In Robbins' opinion, "... no law will ever have the power of forcing people to stay together when they don't want to. Those individuals who no longer want to be married will find a way to end their marriage whether it be by divorce, separation or abandonment." Robbins further states that "... divorce is not the cause of the many problems which exist in society today, but rather divorce is the result of those problems. If you really want to reduce the divorce rate, you must identify the problems which are causing divorce and address those issues through education, counseling and other methods of divorce reform. The reinstitution of fault divorces will not address any of the issues which resulted in one of the parties seeking the divorce in the first place, but



Michael A. Robbins

rather will merely attempt to force those individuals to stay together. It is ridiculous to think that this will help or save their marriage." This controversial new bill has received much public attention in our state and nationally. The entire country will be watching to see what happens in the State of Michigan on this issue.

BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

Marketplace features a glimpse of Oakland County business news and notes, including corporate name changes, new products, new store or office openings, new affiliations, new positions, mergers, acquisitions and new ways of doing business. Write: Business Marketplace, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

FIRM NAMED
Jay Aliz & Associates, specialists in operational turnarounds, financial restructuring, divestiture services and litigation support to underperforming companies has named Stone, August, Baker & Company of Troy as their advertising agency of record.

FILE BY FAX
Starting Feb. 20, the Oakland County Bar Association's File by Fax service will accept documents requiring a court filing fee. Court fees will be assessed by the County Clerk's Office. In addition, there is a OCBA processing fee of \$5 for motions and \$10 for other documents that require a court filing fee.

Anyone can use the fax service, however, OCBA members receive a discount. Fees range from \$2 to \$5 per page for members and \$3 to \$8 per page for non members depending on what is being filed and how many pages are being filed. The service is located in the Oakland County Courthouse Law Library. For more information call (810) 858-1886.

RELOCATION
Quell Communications Group, a public relations and marketing consulting firm specializing in communications diagnostics, strategies and management, has moved into new offices in Troy. The move to larger facilities will support Quell Communications' increased client business and expanding services in the new media arena.

NEW DIVISIONS
Bloomfield Hills-based Flagstar Bank recently launched two new divisions, the Correspondent Lending Division and the Financial Institutions Division. The company formerly known as First Security Savings Bank recently changed its name to Flagstar Bank, due to the company's national growth.

CONFERENCE SPEAKER
Jim Berline, president and founder of The Berline Group recently spoke before the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education at their annual conference held in Chicago. A full service advertising and public relations agency, The Berline Group, is headquartered in Bloomfield Hills. The agency's combined advertising and public relations billings are more than \$30 million. The agency was founded by Berline in 1982.

HOORING THE ACCOUNT
Ed Fisher of Ed Fisher & Company joins Webb Division, Intec Publishing Corp., as Detroit area media representative. The Birmingham company will manage advertising sales for Farm Industry News, Boybean Digest, BEEF and National Hog Farmer.

NEW OFFICES
National Court Reporting, Inc., has relocated its office to 3000 Town center in Southfield. The firm, headed by Clem Farber, has been in the free lance court reporting business since 1960 serving the legal community with computer and video capabilities, including minutizing hard copy transcripts, data indexing and litigation support disks.

MERGER
Frederick A. Neumark and Kathryn L. Simmons, of Neumark & Simmons have announced that Frank H. Millard Jr., has joined them as shareholder. The new law firm, Neumark, Simmons & Millard, P.C. has offices located in Troy and Clarkston. The firm provides legal services in the area of appellate, business litigation and organization, corporate, criminal, defense, divorce, estate planning, personal injury and probate.

AME WINNER
Simons Michelson Zieve (SMZ) Advertising in Troy has been named a winner in the first annual Advertising Media Effectiveness International awards competition. AME's awards evaluates both the effectiveness and creativity of advertising and marketing campaigns from a global vantage point. Marketing professionals from New York, Johannesburg, Lausanne, Frankfurt and London judged the competition. SMZ's entry was an ad campaign produced for Eliza Bowers restaurant, International entitled "Big Boy Starts With Better Stuff."

NEW CONTRACT
Focus Management Group, Ltd., of Southfield and Physiotherapy Associates, Inc., have entered into a reciprocal marketing agreement to promote each firm's services and develop new programs to address the needs of specific employer groups. Focus Management is a management consulting firm specializing in workers' compensation and the Americans With Disabilities Act. Physiotherapy Associates is a physical and occupational therapy provider.

TOP BOND COUNSEL
The law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., ranked first in Michigan and 19th nationally among the nation's top bond counsel for 1995, according to figures compiled by Securities Data Company, Inc. During 1995 Miller Canfield handled 173 municipal bond issues valued at more than \$2.8 billion. Miller Canfield also was the only Michigan law firm included in the national rankings of the top 16 bond counsel. The 250-attorney law firm has an office in Bloomfield Hills.

PUBLISHING CONTRACT
The Glencoe Division of the McGraw-Hill Companies in Troy has selected Technology Applications Group, Inc. (TAG), as a partner in the development and production of more than 26 courses for Hurricane Resource training. The program called "Leadership Web," is aimed at the corporate training and development market and will be available for purchase by fourth quarter 1996.

—compiled by
Valerie Glander
staff writer

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