



## Legal Briefs

October 22, 2007

### **Assistant City Attorney Don Kulhanek wins Multi-Million Dollar Verdict**

- Last week Don Kulhanek won a trial in the Michigan Tax Tribunal involving a commercial property tax dispute of over \$5 Million in taxable value.
- The verdict, which covers tax years 2005 and 2006, upheld the City's right to collect taxes it assessed on the property.
- Congratulations to Don, and thanks to Maria Irish, Diane Lee, and Darren Carter in the Assessor's Office, for the hard-fought and well-deserved victory.
- The victory signals a tough new approach on collecting debts owed to the City.

### **Biker Gang Booted**

- Assistant City Attorney Mark Leonard recently turned up the heat on a troublesome biker gang that occupied a building in South Lansing.
- Mark's dogged determination resulted in the gang vacating their building and the neighborhood reclaiming peace and quiet.

### **Cooley Connections**

- City Attorney Brig Smith recently gave a presentation at Cooley on public lawyering versus private practice and fielded questions from an eager and talented group of students.
- Cooley students are encouraged to apply to the Office for externship opportunities.
- The City Attorney's Office is the best kept secret in town because it offers externs the depth of criminal prosecution and trial work and the breadth of civil litigation and transactional work. For those bitten by the political bug, it's also a hub of activity for everything of significance in City government.

### **City Attorney's Office Shuts Down Illegal Business**

- Recently, Billie O'Berry and Yolanda Bennett, of the City Attorney's Office closed down an illegally operated home dog grooming business.
- The business finally moved out after the City Attorney's Office threatened jail time.
- Thanks go to Jim McCue in Code Compliance and Sue Stachiwak in Zoning for their hard work on this difficult case, and especially to the neighbors for the persistent, persuasive advocacy.