



Oakland County Legal News

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SHORT TAKES

'ZOOMing Into Future: Continuing Pandemic Practices' offered online

The New Lawyers Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association will present "ZOOMing Into the Future: Continuing Pandemic Practices" as an online Zoom program on Tuesday, February 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attendees will learn tips on how to most effectively use virtual technology to engage in remote practices. Topics of discussion will include a tutorial on how to effectively use Zoom during all phases of litigation and the practical and financial benefits of continuing remote practices. Speaking at the program will be Colleen H. Burke and James J. Hunter of Collins, Einhorn, Farrell PC.

Cost is \$35 for OCBA members pre-registration or \$45 on site registration. OCBA new lawyers, paralegals, and students pay \$25 pre-registration or \$35 on site registration. Non-members pay \$45 pre-registration or \$55 on site registration.

The Zoom link to this seminar will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration. To register for this program, visit www.ocba.org and click on "events."

WLAM book club to meet January 28

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (WLAM) will present its next Literary Ladies Book Club on Thursday, January 28, beginning at 6 p.m. online via Zoom.

For the January meeting, the club will be discussing "168 Hours: You May Have More Time Than you Think" by Laura Vanderkam.

Registration is required by Tuesday, January 26. To register, visit www.womenlawyers.org and click on "events."

'Clearing Criminal History through Expungement' webinar

The Oakland County Bar Association will present "Clearing Criminal History through Expungement" as an online webinar on Thursday, February 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Having a clean criminal record can make a difference for someone who is looking for work, housing or applying for credit. During this seminar, attendees will learn which crimes can be expunged, how to apply for expungement, factors the court will consider, and practical pointers for preparing for an expungement hearing.

Credit has been approved with the Oakland County Bar Association for 1.50 Criminal credits and 1.50 Juvenile credits.

Cost is \$12 for OCBA members pre-registration and \$25 for non-members pre-registration. MIDC court appointed attorneys can attend for free.

The Zoom link to this seminar will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration. To register for this program, visit www.ocba.org and click on "events."

New lawyers 'Social Hour' hosted by FBA

In January, The Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, is conducting its 45th Annual New Lawyers Seminar and welcome 80 new lawyers into the association. On Thursday, February 11, an online "Social Hour" will be hosted from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to meet the new members and to connect with old friends and colleagues.

FBA members are encouraged to grab their favorite "Zoomocktail" and stop by the happy hour from the comfort of their own home. To register for the Zoom access, visit www.fbamich.org and click on "events."

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IN THE FORECAST

Litigation attorney knows the bounds of 'uncertainty'

By TOM KIRVAN
Legal News

As an admitted "one small step at a time guy," attorney Mark Rossman took the proverbial leap of faith in 2015 when he founded his own law office in Troy after spending nearly 14 years with a prominent business litigation firm in metro Detroit.

In a sense, it was a gamble with no assurance of a payoff, much in line with what Rossman advises clients when they contact him about pursuing a possible litigation matter.

"I tell them that there are three certainties in litigation," Rossman said. "First, it's going to cost a lot. Secondly, it will take a lot of time. And finally, the outcome is entirely uncertain."

Uncertainty, regrettably, has taken on a whole new meaning in 2020, a year unlike any other in modern times, according to Rossman.

"The pandemic is peeling back the fiction of economic stability for businesses, individuals, and families," said Rossman. "As we head into 2021, it's likely that we are going to see an economic pandemic with collateral damage that will make the viral pandemic look like child's play."

He already is seeing the initial fallout in terms of an uptick in business dissolution and partnership separation cases.

"Lawsuits, in many respects, are driven by economics, and when times are tough we generally see a lot of dissolutions, whether in breakups of businesses or in marriages where the stakes are high," Rossman indicated. "As a result, we have been busy and that figures to continue in the year ahead."

Especially when "lenders start calling in loans and landlords start evicting tenants,"

Rossman predicted.

"Those legal remedies have been on pause because of the pandemic, but when the government ordered moratoria end, it will make a lawyer's job a very busy one," said Rossman.

A University of Michigan alum, Rossman isn't bashful in describing himself as a "jack of nearly all trades and a master of most," a claim backed up by being recognized as a "Top Lawyer" by DBusiness Magazine in both corporate and family law and in the Michigan listing of Top 100 "Super Lawyers." Rossman, who earned his juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School in 2001, said he has "litigated cases up and down the appellate ladder, to the Supreme Courts of both the United States and Michigan."

Over the past three years, he has served as host and has been among the presenters at the State Bar of Michigan's Symposium on Corporate Oppression held alternately in Grand Rapids and Detroit. The two-day program annually attracts a panel of speakers that features prominent members of the bench and bar.

"I started the program for the State Bar three years ago, and this year's program was our largest in terms of speakers and registration, and was a great success notwithstanding the pandemic," said Rossman.

An avid writer, Rossman displayed his talent for the field while working for the high school newspaper at Grosse Pointe South, winning an award from The Detroit Free Press in a student competition. His award-winning story focused on one of the school's alums who was gay and had suffered various slings and arrows because of his sexual orientation.

"Homophobia was a pretty edgy subject



Troy attorney Mark Rossman, who now makes his home in Grosse Pointe, began his own firm in 2015, specializing in business litigation.

at the time for a high school newspaper, but the story attracted a lot of attention and helped heighten awareness about the challenges of being gay in a straight world," said Rossman, who honed his writing skills at U-M, where he was awarded a bachelor's degree with honors in English.

He has continued his passion for the subject through his Detroit-based publishing company, "publishing313," which serves as an outlet for those "in love with the lyric and the noun and the verb," said Rossman.

He undoubtedly gained an appreciation for the writing craft from his father, Chris, a longtime attorney with Honigman, Miller, Schwartz, & Cohn in Detroit. On Saturdays as a child, Rossman would go the office with his dad, roaming the halls while his father "dictated letters, marked up hard copy contracts (no computers back then), and reviewed the new supplements to health care regulations."

In hindsight, Rossman said, he was struck by "how seriously the attorneys in there, on the weekend, took their job," inspiring him to mirror that "very same high caliber law (See ROSSMAN, Page 5)

REVERSAL

\$9M judgment against township overturned by appeals court

By TOM KIRVAN
Legal News

In a high stakes case with potentially far-reaching implications for municipalities across Michigan, a three-judge panel of the state Court of Appeals voted unanimously January 7 to reverse a judgment of more than \$9 million against Bloomfield Township for allegedly charging excessive water and sewer rates.

The ruling stemmed from an appeal of a class action judgment entered against the township following a bench trial in front of an Oakland County Circuit Court judge, who awarded plaintiff Jamila Youmans and the plaintiff class more than \$9 million in restitution for what were found to be inflated water and sewer charges. The case was filed in April 2016 by the Royal Oak-based law firm of Hanley Kickham, which reportedly has represented assorted other plaintiffs in similar class action cases against various municipalities.

The township was represented on appeal by the Farmington Hills-based Young & Associates PC and its founder Rodger Young, who has headed the boutique law firm specializing in complex business litigation since 1990.

"We are proud and gratified with the outcome of this appeal," Young said. "After being retained on appeal by Bloomfield Township, I immediately went to work on our argument and building a solid case with the singular goal of overturning the previous trial court ruling. That's exactly what we accomplished."

Young, who praised his associate Josh Apel for his research work on the appeal, noted that the "38-page detailed opinion issued by the Court of Appeals was extraordinarily thorough and sets an important precedent for other municipalities and governmental entities."

The appellate court ruling was issued per curiam by Judges Christopher Murray, Cynthia Stevens, and Deborah Servitto. The Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Townships Association submitted an amicus brief in support of Bloomfield Township's position, according to Young.

"The real fulcrum of the case is that we were able to demonstrate that the plaintiff went through the water and sewer budget line by line, cherry picking items that they deemed too high and thereby making the gigantic leap that the entire rate structure was too high," Young indicated. "That, the court found, was a real stretch. Historically, courts have given great deference to municipalities when reviewing the validity of their rate structures. There is a longstanding principle of 'presumptive reasonableness' when it comes to municipal utility rates."

In order to overcome the presumption of validity, Young indicated, the plaintiff's counsel was required to provide "clear evidence of wrongdoing," which they were unable to produce at an adequate level, the Court of Appeals ruled.

Young, an Air Force veteran who formerly served as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, praised township officials for holding firm throughout the case.

"They were convinced that their rate structure was sound and fair, and they maintained a stance throughout that they weren't going to agree to any sort of settlement," Young said. "They knew that doing otherwise would result in a catastrophic hit to their budget."

Young said it is unclear if the decision will be appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court, although the plaintiff has 42 days from the date of the January 7 Court of Appeals ruling to do so.

"We will be seeking reimbursement for costs and fees," said Young of his next legal move on behalf of the township.



YOUNG



A high school graduation ceremony was cause for celebration for the Rossman family (left to right) Mark, Alana, Grace, Owen, and Connor.

REDEEMING QUALITY —

Law student aims to help those wrongly convicted

By SHEILA PURSGLOVE
Legal News

Kaila Pelczarski was inspired to enter the legal field after reading civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson's best-selling book, "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption."

This true story about the Equal Justice Initiative later became a feature film starring Jamie Foxx as Walter McMillian, a pulpwood worker from Alabama, wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to death. After McMillian had served six years on Alabama's death row, the Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the lower court decision in 1993 and ruled he had been wrongfully convicted.

"The book captivated me because before reading it, I was unaware of the problems within our criminal justice system and the racial bias so inherent within it. I never imagined something this unfair could happen in our great country," she says. "The book really opened my eyes and made me want to advocate for the voiceless. Bryan Stevenson is a huge inspiration to me and

his courage and determination are worth emulating. I've seen the movie, as well, which reaffirmed my love and appreciation for Bryan Stevenson."

Pelczarski launched her career goal by first earning her undergraduate degree in political science and government, summa cum laude, from Oakland University, with the end goal of heading to law school. She was initially drawn to the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law because of the location, close to her hometown of Macomb.

"And being in the heart of Detroit, the opportunities are endless," she says. "After touring and learning how close-knit a school Mercy was, I knew it was for me."

"I was lucky enough to be chosen as a Dean's Fellow, and I'm so grateful for both the financial and social benefits that come with that. It's given me another group of



PELCZARSKI

people to go to for advice and support."

Being a IL and going through this journey online hasn't been the easiest, she adds.

"However, I'm so grateful to all of my professors and Mercy staff for helping us get through this together. They've made the adjustment to online law school as smooth as possible. Everyone at this school, both staff and colleagues, truly want the best for the students and do everything within their power to help us succeed. I feel lucky every day to be a part of the UDM Law community."

Passionate about social justice, Pelczarski plans to use her law degree to serve others as an appellate attorney.

"I'm interested in criminal defense and advocating for those who believe they've been wrongly convicted," she says. "Right now, my goal is to work for an Innocence Project, and maybe even open up my own firm or organization one day helping those who were wrongly convicted or sentenced unfairly."

For the past seven years, Pelczarski has (See PELCZARSKI, Page 5)

Business Grants

Michigan to distribute \$58.5 million in grants to businesses.

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Kidnap Plot

Trial date set in alleged plot to kidnap Michigan governor.

Page Three

High Rates

offer and acceptance rates remain high despite virtual, shorter summer programs.

Page Four



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'Remote Online Notarization' focus of MMLA webinar

The Michigan Mortgage Lenders Association (MMLA), Southeast Chapter, will host a webinar titled "Remote Online Notarization and Digital Closing 101" on Thursday, February 11, beginning at noon.

The webinar offers a discussion on digital closings, remote online notarization and what it means to Michigan. These three key points will be discussed:

- How To: Types of Notary & Getting A Document Signed
- State of Play: Remote Online Notarization Laws
- Practical Use: The Digital Closing Table

Attendees will hear from Elizabeth Blosser at the American Land Title Association and Nicole Booth at Notarize on the what and how of RON at a digital closing table.

Blosser is vice president of Government Affairs for the American Land Title Association (ALTA). In this role, she oversees the association's state legislative efforts including annually monitoring state bills related to the real estate, mortgage and title industries. She also coordinates ALTA's Commercial Network, which is an annual conference that focuses on trends and policy regarding commercial real estate transactions.

Blosser is engaged in a variety of industry initiatives including digital closings and emortgages.

She currently serves on the board of directors for the Property Records Industry Association. Blosser has worked for legislators on the federal, state and local levels, and has experience managing political, grassroots and public relations campaigns. She earned a degree in communications and lives in White Salmon, Washington.

Booth serves as executive vice president of Public Affairs at Notarize. She leads the organization's efforts to build and maintain trust and support among external audiences, including government affairs, policy and industry relations and community and public sector engagement. She joined Notarize in August 2020.

Prior to Notarize, Booth was a vice president in Government Affairs at Quicken Loans and Rock Family of Companies and a member of the K&L Gates Public Policy and Law Practice in Washington, D.C. She also spent time on Capitol Hill working on legislative issues in the personal office of former Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp and former New Hampshire Congressman Jeb Bradley.

Cost for the webinar is \$15 per MMLA member and \$25 per non-member. The link will be sent the day before the webinar. To register or for additional information, visit www.mmla.net/events/remoteline-notarization-and-d.

Offer and acceptance rates remain high, despite virtual, shorter summer programs

New findings from the National Association for Law Placement Inc. (NALP) show that despite the shift at law firms to virtual and shortened summer programs in 2020, offer and acceptance rates remained near or at historical highs, but summer program class sizes continued to shrink.

NALP recently released its Report on the Survey of Legal Employers on Summer 2020 Outcomes and First-Year Associate Plans, available at www.nalp.org/perspectivesonrecruiting. Due to changes in the timing of OCI related to the COVID-19 pandemic, NALP's typical fall recruiting surveys that result in the annual Perspectives on Law Student Recruiting report have been split into two collection timeframes this year.

The Report on the Survey of Legal Employers on 2020 Outcomes and First-Year Associate Plans includes analyses on summer programs and first-year associate plans from a survey administered in fall 2020, and a separate survey focused on recruiting outcomes and lateral hiring will take place in spring 2021. Below are some key takeaways from the 2020 report.

—**Summer 2020 Programs: Format and Outcomes**

Over 86% of summer 2020 programs were entirely virtual, 8% were a hybrid model of some in-person and some virtual programming, and 6% were entirely in-person programs.

The average summer program length in 2020 was 5.6 weeks, compared to 9.7 weeks for these same offices in 2019.

The aggregate offer rate coming out of summer 2020 pro-

grams (inclusive of both summer programs that were held and those that were canceled) was nearly 97%, just below last year's historic high of nearly 98%. Offer rates for summer programs that were held (97.0%) were somewhat higher compared to those that were canceled (93.3%).

The overall acceptance rate on these offers reached an historic high of 87.8%, up slightly from 87.5% in 2018 and 2019, and remained significantly higher than the pre-Great Recession norms of 73% to 77%. Acceptance rates for summer programs that were held (88.0%) were slightly higher compared to those that were canceled (85.6%).

The average summer program class size declined to 11. It was 13 in 2019 and had previously been flat at 14 from 2016-2018. This downward trend was driven in large part to declines in the summer program class sizes in the largest firms of more than 700 lawyers, which have fallen from an average of 22 in 2016 to 14 in 2020.

—**Class of 2020 First-Year Associate Plans**

Nearly 48% of offices reported January 2021 as the start month for their Class of 2020 first-year associates. October 2020 (18% of offices) and November 2020 (15% of offices) were the second and third most popular start months.

For offices that adjusted their first-year associate start months, 55% offered stipends or other cash payments and 50% offered salary advances to their impacted associates.

To read the report, visit www.nalp.org/perspectivesonrecruiting.

PELCZARSKI: Law student eager to return to studies in the Motor City

(Continued from page 1)

worked part-time as an assistant manager at Pump It Up, a national leader in the children's entertainment category, specializing in private birthday parties and programs like field trips, camps, open jump time, Pop-In Playtime, and other seasonal special events. In her free time, she enjoys being with family and friends.

"Any time I can spend laughing with the people close to me is time well spent. I also love spending time with my two dogs, Stella and Luna," she says. "I love reading, as well, especially books about social justice. I just finished reading 'Evicted' by Matthew Desmond and it's given me more inspiration about using my legal education to help the poor and marginalized in the housing world."

Pelczarski is a graduate of

Dakota High School in Macomb.

"I had a great experience at Dakota and loved the atmosphere of being in Michigan's largest high school," she says. "I grew up in Macomb and I've lived here my entire life. I'm lucky to be surrounded by the majority of my family—all of whom live within 10 minutes of me."

When law school classes return to in-person, Pelczarski is excited she will be able to immerse herself in the Motor City.

"I think Detroit is a great place to help those who are arguably the most affected by the pitfalls of our criminal justice system," she says. "I hear so much about the revitalization of the city, not just in the infrastructure, but in the energy of the people who make the city come to life, and I'm excited to be a part of that."



Wayne Law student Mikaela Armstead is a graduate of Howard University. Photo courtesy of Mikaela Armstead

Student takes aim on career in entertainment law

By SHEILA PURSGLOVE
Legal News

Mikaela Armstead initially planned to be a college theater major but didn't think that would sit well with her parents.

Instead, she has found an excellent compromise by aiming to become an entertainment lawyer. Now a 2L student at Wayne State University Law School, she found her legal calling while in undergrad at Howard University.

"Contracts actually drew me to the law," she explains. "Like many middle-class Black people, I believed lawyers went to court and argued—until I got to Howard University where I got the opportunity to work closely with the university counsel to bring big artists to campus. After learning attorneys could do that, I started studying for the LSAT."

"My true passion is in the arts. Entertainment law—specifically entertainment contracts—will allow me the opportunity to protect Black artists that are often uneducated about what contracts should include. Representation is so important. We can't be what we can't see. Which is why it's imperative we do a better job at portraying Black women positively in media."

"My ultimate goal is to have done meaningful work in the entertainment industry. I'm not sure exactly what that looks like now, but I will soon."

She started her career trajectory by earning a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in psychology, from Howard University.

"I felt it could help me become a better artist but it was a science that would put my parents at ease," she says. "It definitely helps in law! We often are tasked with proving—or disproving—the mental state of a person and having a psychological background helps me be a better advocate."

"It also helps with my personal mental health. I've learned a considerable number of tools in my undergraduate years to be an advocate for myself and others, mentally. I run a mental health blog, The Sunflower Factory, that I'm extremely proud of."

Armstead appreciates the many opportunities offered at Wayne Law.

"Coming to law school, being extremely open to learning new pathways my J.D. could put me on, I've had incredible opportunities I'm forever grateful for," she says.

One of those opportunities is her current internship for the Detroit Justice Center, and she recently wrapped up a 3-month internship for Project Worldwide, an advertising holding company in Auburn Hills.

"I love the legal team at Project Worldwide," she says. "They are incredibly supportive and have dedicated so much of their time to really teaching me valuable career skills. It's been a wonderful experience."

After serving as the 1L representative to the Black Law Students Association, Armstead now serves as BLSA president, and enjoys making an impact on the immediate 1Ls.

"But, I'm most proud of the more systematic changes in the



Mikaela Armstead

law school that my e-board and I have decided to make a priority," she says.

"BLSA does programming that aims to assist current law students, bridge the gap between law students and the community and make connections for law students that will aid them in their legal careers, such as alumni connections, and Wolverine Bar Association connections. In the current pandemic, we're transitioning our usual programming to virtual programs and we hope BLSA is just as effective."

She also is a member of the Student Board of Governors and the Women's Law Caucus.

"I love that SBG allows me to always have an ear to what is going on in the law school," she says. "WLC is super supportive and has always just been 'women supporting women' energy."

Remote learning, during the pandemic and being distant from fellow students has been somewhat of a challenge.

"I'm an extreme extrovert so it's been difficult, but I've used this as an opportunity to strengthen relationships I otherwise take for granted," she says.

Those include friends she made during undergrad when she spent several months in the nation's capital, interning as a diversity and inclusion intern at the American Institute for Research, and as a digital intern for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

"My internship at the American Institute for Research was incredible due to contributing to a real difference in diversity in research," she says. "My internship at the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee was also great. I learned so much about digital design for campaigns. These are tools I still use today. The person I was most excited to meet was (Congresswoman) Maxine Waters—she's just as amazing in person. I love my friends in D.C., and miss them dearly."

A lifelong resident of Detroit, and graduate of Cass Tech High School, Armstead has strong family ties.

"I'm very blessed to have both of my parents and a wonderful younger brother. I love my grandparents dearly and I am very close to a host of aunts, uncles and cousins who always keep me grounded," she says.

In her leisure time, she enjoys live theater and traveling to new places; and gives back to the community by completing regular service initiatives with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and previously volunteered at The Homeless Children's Playtime Project in D.C.

ROSSMAN: Lawyer knows bounds of 'uncertainty'

(Continued from page 1)

practice" when he founded his own firm in 2015.

Now, as the managing partner of a firm of eight attorneys, Rossman said he has assembled a legal group that is "the best I've ever worked with" in terms of intelligence, dedication, and work ethic.

"I've worked with a lot of great lawyers, so I don't want to diminish that, but as a group, as a team, running a docket of extraordinary cases of high import, this group is second to none," Rossman said.

Admittedly, Rossman has "come a long way" since those somewhat uncertain beginnings five years ago, when he raided his 401(k) and borrowed some dough from relatives to finance the opening of his firm, jokingly telling his wife Alana that "we're good for at least the next three weeks."

She — and he — knew better, of course, as he confidently set out to build a law practice that specializes in business litigation, corporate structuring, business transactions, estate planning, and family law.

All the while, he has been mindful of his goal of "being the best husband and father that I can be."

Rossman got married the summer before he started law school, and the couple welcomed their first child during his final year of legal studies at Wayne State University Law School. That boy, Owen, is 20 years old now and is a student in product design at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. He has two siblings, Connor (18) and Grace (15), both students at Grosse Pointe North.

Rossman has pictorial reminders of his wife and children scattered around his office, including a framed front page from a July 2010 edition of The Detroit News. In that treasured memento, Rossman is pictured in plaid shorts on a summer day, hitting fly balls to his kids at the site of the old Tiger Stadium at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull.

The outing was captured in all its essence by the late Terry Foster, a sports columnist with The Detroit News.

"Of course, we just went down

there to have some summer fun and to pay homage to all the baseball greats who played at Tiger Stadium," said Rossman. "It was a huge surprise to be part of a front-page story on what had become of Tiger Stadium since it was torn down."

He could only remember how that hallowed baseball ground literally shook 26 years earlier when

the Tigers clinched the 1984 World Series title with a game five win over the San Diego Padres, thanks to the hitting heroics of slugger Kirk Gibson.

"I was there that day," Rossman said, remembering the title-clincher that he attended with his dad and brother as if it was yesterday. "It was magical. What a year it was to be a Tiger fan."

Attorney helped diffuse a road rage altercation

By TOM KIRVAN
Legal News

For an attorney who considers himself a "legal fighter" for his clients, Mark Rossman did his best to be a peacemaker last February during a road rage incident in Troy that had the potential to be a deadly confrontation.

At the tail end of his morning commute to work in Troy on February 11, 2020, Rossman was driving along Crooks Road near his office when he came upon two vehicles stopped on the busy north-south thoroughfare sandwiched between Big Beaver and Maple roads.

"I wasn't sure what triggered it, but by the time I came upon the scene it was clear that the men in the two vehicles were in a very heated argument, shouting at each other in the middle of the street," Rossman said. "Next thing I know, the driver who got out of the pickup truck slugged the man who had gotten out of his car, dropping him like a bag of rocks onto the street. He just decked him."

At that point, Rossman decided it was time to intervene in an attempt to prevent the altercation from escalating further.

"In retrospect, it probably wasn't the smartest thing for me to do, considering the open-carry law in this state, but I just couldn't sit there and do nothing," Rossman said of his decision to help break up the fight.

So, after leaving his own car, Rossman shouted at the pickup driver to get back in his vehicle, a

plea that wasn't answered initially.

"I then demanded a second time that he get back in his vehicle, hoping that he would come to his senses to avoid making a bad situation even worse," Rossman indicated.

By that time, another nearby motorist was recording the unfolding drama on a cell phone in a video that was about to take an alarming turn.

"The guy did get back in his truck, but then he drove over the victim's foot in a rush to get out of there," Rossman said. "It was shocking. I could hear the crunch of bones when the truck ran over the man's foot. It was sickening."

Rossman then helped the victim make his way to the safety of the sidewalk, where within minutes he received aid from police and emergency medical personnel who were summoned to the scene.

"Since most of the incident was on video, I understand that police were able to track down the pickup truck driver, but I never heard whether he was arrested or faced any charges related to the fight," Rossman said.

What Rossman does recall, however, is that the road rage victim already was dealing with his own set of health challenges before having his foot broken in the middle of Crooks Road.

"He told me that he was on the way to a chemo treatment when the whole thing happened," Rossman reported. "Talk about the ultimate 'bad day.' It doesn't get much worse than that."

SASE: Life as a living/learning experience

(Continued from page 2)

with an intimate look at the coming of age of the future Queen Victoria. According to Malloy, the "Alice" books present thinly veiled accounts of the close relationships within the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha as well as of the married life of Victoria and Prince Albert.



Malloy develops an unusual treatise that contains extensive detail reflecting a studied knowledge of Victoria's personage and of the political/economic intrigues among the royal families of Europe during that age. Here we present a partial cast of characters: The Duchess—Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent; Tweedledum and Tweedledee—the brothers Ferdinand and Augustus of Saxe-Coburg-Kohary, who were among Victoria's favorite cousins; The Carpenter—Sir John Conroy, comptroller of the Duchess of Kent's household; The Walrus—King Leopold of Belgium, an uncle to Victoria; The White Knight—Victoria's husband, Prince Albert; and Humpty Dumpty—Louis Napoleon III, the Emperor of France.

As this bizarre and far-fetched as this hypothesis seems initially, it has fascinated some of us for decades. The more that we learn of Victorian history, the more rational that Malloy's premise seems. Malloy believes that Carroll based his work upon bio-

graphical (and possibly autobiographical) information about Victoria that he obtained covertly through a couple of degrees of separation.



In 1855, Dodgson, a professor of mathematics at Oxford, befriended the children of Henry George Liddell, the Master of Christ Church College at the school. A generally confirmed assumption is that his daughter Alice Pleasance Liddell inspired the classics Alice in Wonderland and its sequel. Malloy offers us some lesser-known information: Henry George Liddell was the Master of the residential college with which Edward, the Prince of Wales and the son of Victoria, affiliated in 1861. In keeping with the appropriate manners of the time, the prince would have developed a relationship with Henry Liddell. On the "Golden Afternoon" of 4 July 1862 (which really was overcast and wet), Carroll told a fantasy story to Alice Liddell and her two sis-



ters while riding in a boat up the River Thames. This story later became the first "Alice" book. Now recognized as iconic examples of pure fantasy for children, the "Alice" stories also may reflect Carroll's cleverly subversive view of European royalty and the society of his time.

Takeaway

A well-educated person not only needs to have technical skills. S/he needs to have a comprehensive, wider-based knowledge of the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences as part of his/her ongoing lifelong learning. In order to understand the current state of our American economy, one needs to look at more than a handful of numbers and a few graphs. The economy remains a living system that reflects the full human experience. With this, the truth remains nothing more than a reflection of the human condition. To paraphrase Jack Nicholson's character from our opening quote, can we handle the truth? Currently, many cannot.

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