

Release: Immediate
Media Contact: Lynne Van Buskirk
Phone: 312/988-6136
Email: vanbuskl@staff.abanet.org

Michigan Lawyer Appointed Chair of American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources

CHICAGO, Oct. 13, 2008 – Michigan lawyer Claudia Rast is serving as the 2008-09 chair of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources.

Rast is a principal at Pear Sperling Eggan & Daniels, PC, specializing in business, technology and environmental law. Prior to joining the firm in 2001, Rast was with Dickinson Wright, PLLC, where she served as the director of the firm's eBusiness Group (1998-01) and manager of its Environmental Practice Group (1997-98).

As a member of the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources, she has served as chair of its International Environmental Law Committee and Technology Committee, member of its governing council (1998-00), secretary of the section (2003-05) and vice chair of the section (2006-07.)

Rast has a long history of active involvement in Michigan legal and technology organizations. From 1994-99 she served as a council member for the Environmental Law Section of the Michigan Bar Association; from 1998-99, she was a member of the Task Force on eBusiness for the American Institute of CPAs; and she has been a member of the advisory board of the Michigan Council of Women in Technology since 2002. In 2001, she was the only lawyer named as a "Technology Industry Leader" in *Crain's Detroit Business*, and in 2003, the Ann Arbor, Mich. chapter of American Women in Computing named her as one of 20 "Top Michigan Women in Computing." Since 1998, she has been a member of the Michigan Institute for Continuing Legal Education Technology Advisory Board.

Rast is a graduate of the University of Michigan and University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where she was the editor-in-chief of the law review from 1986-87. In addition to being admitted to practice in Michigan state courts, she is admitted in the Western and Eastern Districts of the U.S. District Court in Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The [ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources](#) is the premier forum for strategies and information for environmental, energy and resource professionals. It represents more than 10,000 members with a wide range of professional interests. The Section keeps its members abreast of important trends, current court decisions, legislative initiatives and statutes concerning environmental, natural resources, and energy law.

With more than 407,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.