

DAN A. PENNING
DIRK A. BEAMER*
LeCLAIR L. FLAHERTY
DUANE L. REYNOLDS
CHRISTOPHER P. YOUNG+
*Also licensed in Ohio
+Licensed only in Oregon

The Power of Know at Work

Spring 2005

Of Counsel:

WILLIAM M. WRIGHT
NATHAN I. STULL
GEORGE M. SMRTKA
JOHN G. GIBBONS
GEORGE BADITOI

Primary Office:

27655 Middlebelt Road
Suite 170
Farmington Hills, Michigan
48334-5029
(248) 477-6300 Office
(248) 477-7749 Fax

Troy Office:

1301 West Long Lake
Suite 136
Troy, Michigan
48098-6348

Suttons Bay Office:

206 St. Joseph Street
P.O. Box 247
Suttons Bay, Michigan
49682-0247

The *Power of Know* is the ability to harness our collective knowledge and experience in order to enable our clients to succeed and grow. It's knowing the difference between "that can't be done" and "that hasn't been done before." Listed below are just a few recent examples of Wright Penning & Beamer attorneys putting the *Power of Know* to work. While we celebrate our co-workers' continued success and accomplishments, we all the while remain focused on providing the best possible service and representation to each and every client. We continue to look for new opportunities to serve our existing clients, as well as opportunities to welcome new clients. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have and to provide our name to a colleague or acquaintance who may benefit from the *Power of Know*.

Penning Handles Multi-Million Dollar Recapitalization and Buy-Out

On March 7, 2005, Huron Capital Partners announced its recapitalization of Ross Learning, L.L.C., based in Southfield, Michigan. Wright Penning & Beamer's Dan Penning handled the transaction for Ross Learning and its CEO, Paul Mitchell.

Ross specializes in the post-secondary education industry and operates ten schools in Michigan, plus two each in Georgia and Florida. According to Mitchell, Huron Capital represents an "ideal" partner for Ross. As for Wright Penning & Beamer's services, Mitchell observed "We have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Wright Penning & Beamer. Throughout this lengthy and challenging process, Dan Penning has been constantly on the job to make sure our interests were well served and to get the job done."

Penning focuses his practice in business and corporate law, complex business litigation and estate planning. As for the Ross deal, Penning says, "I have always enjoyed the challenge of navigating a complex deal to completion. Paul Mitchell and the people at Ross have been a pleasure to work with, and I look forward to helping them as they continue to grow."

Living Wills and Michigan Law

Much has been said and written in the past few months and weeks concerning the Terri Schiavo case in Florida. The debate is both legal and highly emotional. It centers around two related issues; (1) whether Mrs. Schiavo's condition constituted a persistent vegetative state; and (2) whether she ever previously stated her wishes as to how she should be cared for in the event that something like this happened to her. Everybody

now seems to be talking about “advance directives,” including such things as living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care and patient advocate designations. Unfortunately, some of the information that we are getting from the national media is not specific to Michigan and therefore may not accurately reflect what is advisable for you or in accordance with Michigan law.

Wright Penning & Beamer has long offered its clients a comprehensive form, developed and consistently updated to reflect specific provisions of both Michigan law on the subject of patient advocate designations, and also federal privacy regulations and the Michigan Do-Not-Resuscitate Procedure Act. If you do not have such a patient advocate designation, or if your patient advocate designation is more than five years old, please call our office at (248) 477-6300 for further information.

Wright Selected to Lead Estate Planning Seminars

Wright Penning & Beamer is pleased to announce that Bill Wright – a founding shareholder and current of-counsel attorney with the firm – has been chosen to teach other lawyers and peers at two separate graduate level educational seminars. In May, Bill will join members of the State Bar’s Estate Planning section at their annual meeting in Traverse City. Bill will lead an instructional section covering Common Mistakes Made by Unwary Estate Planners. On Friday, June 24, Bill leads the Institute for Continuing Legal Education’s Graduate Level Seminars for attorneys seeking to complete the Institute’s certification program. The Institute is the preeminent provider of ongoing legal education for Michigan lawyers, and Bill has enjoyed a long history with the institute as a guest lecturer and instructor.

Wright Penning & Beamer congratulates Bill on his ever-growing list of professional achievements and thanks him for leading by example with *The Power of Know*.



The information contained in this publication is meant for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice. Laws and their application vary based upon a client’s unique facts and circumstances. Wright Penning & Beamer disclaims any responsibility for action taken in reliance on this publication without further consultation and analysis. For questions, please contact us at (248) 477-6300 or at info@wrightpenning.com.