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A (Habeas) Chorus Line hosts musical parody show in Berkley

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A group of local attorneys who have a special talent will showcase their skills at an upcoming event dedicated to singing and satire.

A (Habeas) Chorus Line, a group of Detroit-area attorneys, has been entertaining mostly private audiences throughout Michigan and the country with musical parody. One evening a year, they hold a show open to the general public in what has become an annual tradition.

The group will present this year's show, "You Couldn't Make This Up," at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26, at the Berkley High School Auditorium in Berkley. Topics featured in this year's show include local issues, national and international events regarding lawyers, politicians and celebrities. The group has billed itself as "an equal-opportunity lamponer."

A (Habeas) Chorus Line was formed in 1992 in what cast members thought was a one-time performance. The group creates parodies of existing show tunes and pop songs as well as original numbers. The group states their songs "have broad appeal and a bit of a bite, and you certainly don't have to be a lawyer to get it."

"Putting our show together is a lot of work, but it's all worthwhile when we hear the audience laughing," said Justin Klimko, president of Butzel Long, A (Habeas) Chorus Line cast member and the group's lyricist. "We never run out of material, there's always something to lampon."

Klimko said some focus will be placed on the upcoming election for the Oct. 26 show.

"The show itself will be our usual mixture of satire involving political and social topics," Klimko said. "As you would expect in an election year, we have some songs about the election. We're also lamponing events in the City of Detroit and Wayne County, the Secret Service, tattoos, the price of gas and coffee, North Korea, the new bridge to Canada, local transportation and the economy among other topics."

The attorney also shared how the yearly event draws a big crowd.

"Most of our performances are for private groups and as a result our friends and family have little opportunity to watch us perform," said Klimko. "Once a year we rent the auditorium at Berkley High and have a public show with tickets for sale. We've developed a small following and usually get somewhere around 400 to 450 in attendance."

Members of the musical satire group include Brian D. Figot, who practices law in Southfield and is the executive director of the Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan chapter; Sara F. Fischer, who is a former case manager in

the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan; Justin G. Klimko, who is a corporate transaction attorney with the Detroit law firm of Butzel Long; Michael C. Leibson, a recently retired assistant U.S. attorney; Joseph M. LaBella, vice president and director of contracts for Jack Morton Worldwide; Mark R. Lezotte, an attorney with the firm Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman; James D. Robb, an associate dean and senior counsel of Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing; Angela R.C. Williams, a deputy general counsel with the Detroit Housing Commission and Judy Zorn, an attorney in private practice in Rochester Hills.

Tickets for the upcoming show are \$15 each and seating is general admission. For tickets call 313-310-0940, email info@habeaschorus.com or visit www.habeaschorus.com.

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