

State Bar of Michigan

Intellectual Property Law Section Council Meeting

January 8, 2015.
By Teleconference

Attendance: Karl Ondersma, Kristen Spano, David Berry, Kendra Mattison, Hope Shovein, Beth Coakley, Steve Hansen, Tamara Clark, Sharon Brady, Kristin Murphy, Chad Kleinheksel, Jeff Kirkey (ICLE), and Stephanie Stenberg (ICLE). Gene Rath was not in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 11, 2014 Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Report

David Berry commented on the Section finances. The latest financial statements provided by SBM indicated an account balance for the end of FY 2014 (September 30, 2014) of \$96,921.01. The account balance as of November 30, 2014 is \$130,502.81, which includes dues revenue in October and November 2014 of \$35,097.00.

IPLS Proceedings

Tamara Clark reported that the first issue of the IPLS Proceedings went out last month. The concept of republishing articles was very well received by authors. The Council authorized the IPLS editors to make an executive decision on the topic for the next issue, with a target publication date of late February.

Michigan Patent Pro Bono Program

David Berry reported on the status of the Michigan Patent Pro Bono program. Two clients have been placed with volunteer attorneys, and one client was referred to the Wayne State Law School Patent Procurement Clinic. Approximately 4 additional applications have been received and are awaiting screening and placement.

Social Media

Karl Ondersma reported that the SBM Connect system is online, and Gene Rath is working to populate the Section portion of the site with upcoming events information.

Planning for 2015 Spring Seminar

Stephanie Stenberg reported that Jeff Kirkey would be taking over planning for future spring and summer programs, although Stephanie would be involved during a transition period. Karl expressed the Council's appreciation for Stephanie's efforts over the past several years, which has resulted in a series of excellent programs. She noted that the Spring Seminar brochure is scheduled to be distributed soon and ICLE is promoting the program.

Planning for Fall 2015 Institute

Stephanie Stenberg and the Council discussed plans for the Section's 2015 IP Institute, which will be held at the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit on September 17-18, 2015. Stephanie noted that the second day of the program seemed "light," with only two presenters. The Council agreed that Michael Songer should be invited to present a topic to expand the program on that day, and the schedule adjusted accordingly.

IPLS Award

Beth Coakly distributed a draft description of the Section achievement award and selection criteria, based on a format used by the Women Bar Association. The Council agreed that member should submit any comments to Beth by January 13, and Beth will distribute a revised draft incorporating those comments and information she may receive from Nancy Brown (SBM awards coordinator) for final approval.

Michigan Bar Journal IP Issue

Karl Ondersma led a discussion of possible themes for an intellectual property issue of the SBM journal to be published in February, 2016. Karl will obtain information from the Journal editors about the number and length of articles needed, and the item will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Platinum Sponsorship

Karl Ondersma discussed ICLE's proposal that the Section agree to be a Platinum sponsor for the 2016 Summer Institute. The Council agreed to consider that request at a future meeting, perhaps in conjunction with a broader discussion of the Section budget.

Next Meetings

The next Council meetings will be February 12, 2015 (by teleconference) and March 12, 2015.

On a motion by David Berry (seconded by Kristin Murphy), the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

David C. Berry
Secretary