Bar Year: 2013-2014

Submitted: May 30, 2014

Section Name: Intellectual Property Law Section (“Section” or “IPLS”)

Mission Statement: The purposes of this Section are to study the laws and procedures pertaining to federal and state patent, trademark and copyright laws and to promote the fair and just administration of such laws; to study and report upon proposed legislation; to promote the legal education of members of the bar, and the general public on the problems of patent, trademark and copyright law by sponsoring meetings, institutes and conferences devoted to the problems of patent, trademark and copyright law by the preparation and dissemination of pamphlets and brochures with respect thereto and by preparing, sponsoring and publishing legal writings in the patent, trademark and copyright field.

Officers and Council Members:

Chair
53319  Adam B. Strauss
Stryker
2825 Airview Boulevard
Kalamazoo, MI 49002
Tel. (269) 389-7545
Fax: (269) 385-2066
adam.strauss@stryker.com

Chair-Elect
68028  Karl T. Ondersma
Gardner Linn Burkhart & Flory, LLP
2851 Charlevoix Dr., S.E., Suite 207
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Tel.: (616) 975-5500
Fax: (616) 975-5505
Ondersma@glbf.com

Secretary-Treasurer
60370  Kristen Isaacson Spano
Chrysler Group LLC
1000 Chrysler Dr
CIMS485-13-32
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Tel. (248) 512-6475
Fax (248) 512-4885
kis5@chrysler.com
Council Members

Term Expires 9/30/2014
65605  David Charles Berry, Auburn Hills
72645  Kendra Sue Mattison, Auburn Hills
57284  Kristin L. Murphy, Southfield

Term Expires 9/30/2015
71196  Tamara Ann Clark, Bloomfield Hills
69367  Steven Richard Hansen, Drayton Plains
66245  Chad E. Kleinheksel, Grand Rapids

Term Expires 9/30/2016
49241  Sharon K. Brady, Midland
56075  Eugene J. Rath, Kalamazoo
64116  Hope V. Shovein, Southfield

Council Meeting Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section Annual Meeting</td>
<td>July 20, 2013</td>
<td>Grand Hotel Mackinac Island, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>August 8, 2013</td>
<td>Lansing Lexington Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>September 12, 2013</td>
<td>Lansing Lexington Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>October 10, 2013</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>November 14, 2013</td>
<td>Lansing Lexington Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>December 12, 2013</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>January 16, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>February 13, 2014</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>March 13, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>April 17, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>May 8, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>Scheduled for June 12, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Scheduled for July 19, 2014</td>
<td>Grand Hotel Mackinac Island, MI</td>
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Minutes of all meetings are available at: [http://www.michbar.org/ip/minutes.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/ip/minutes.cfm)


Intellectual Property Law Section Publication: As of this Report, the Section has published one issue of the *IPLS Proceedings* this year. A second issue is planned for early June 2014. In
an effort to save costs and “go green,” the *IPLS Proceedings* will now be available only as an electronic version. Copies of the *IPLS Proceedings* are available at: [http://www.michbar.org/ip/](http://www.michbar.org/ip/)

**General Budget Information:** The Section continues to maintain a solid financial position, with a balance reported for April 30, 2014 of $118,958.23. The balance includes excess sponsorship funds of $34,940.21 from the Elijah J. McCoy United States Patent and Trademark Office Detroit Office Grand Opening Gala, held on July 12, 2012 at the Henry Ford (Dearborn, MI). These funds are to be dedicated to the formation of an Intellectual Property Pro Bono Program, which has been encouraged by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The Section’s most significant expenditures this year were associated with the following events/seminars: 2014 Spring IP Law Seminar held on March 24, 2014 at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan (total expenses - $11,543.79) and a reception following the US Patent & Trademark Office, Patent Trial and Appeal Board Roundtable held on April 24, 2014 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills, Michigan (total expenses - $2,967.16).

**Events and/or Seminars:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event or Seminar Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IP Overview: Patents, Trade Secrets, Trademarks &amp; Copyrights in 60 Minutes or Less</td>
<td>September 19, 2013</td>
<td>Lansing Center, Lansing, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 Spring IP Law Seminar</td>
<td>March 24, 2014</td>
<td>Kellogg Center East Lansing, MI</td>
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**39th Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute held July 18-20, 2013, at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island:** The 2013 Summer IP Institute returned to Mackinac Island. Two hundred forty-five people registered for the event, with 224 actual attendees. This was up from 181 registrants in Traverse City in 2012, and up from the 211 registrants at Mackinac in 2011. Evaluations of the speakers were very positive. The overall rating for the seminar was 6.14 out of 7.0. The program included outstanding presentations from nationally renowned speakers on a range of patent, trademark, copyright, and other related topics. The Section was particularly excited that the Hon. Teresa Stanek Rea, the Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, gave a keynote address on developments at the Patent and Trademark Office. The Section appreciates ICLE’s support for this program.
IP Overview: Patents, Trade Secrets, Trademarks & Copyrights in 60 Minutes or Less, held September 19, 2013, in Lansing: In conjunction with the State Bar’s annual meeting, the IPLS provided a one-hour seminar that provided an overview of patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and copyrights for non-IP lawyers. The event was free and open to any member of the State Bar. However, attendance was sparse.

2014 Spring IP Law Seminar, held March 24, 2014 in at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing: Our annual Spring IP Law Seminar had 232 registrants and 194 attendees. This was down from 263 registrants/216 attendees in 2013 and 288 registrants/238 attendees in 2012, but up from 225 registrants/190 attendees in 2011. The Section believes that one factor for the significant rise in attendance in 2012 and 2013 was due to changes in the patent law under the America Invents Act. The program included patent and trademark tracks with presentations from the PTO and national practitioners. This year, the Section also reinstituted a student track. It included a panel discussion focused on careers in the IP field, as well as reserved seats at each of our luncheon tables to promote networking between students and Section members. The Section appreciates ICLE’s support for this program.

US Patent & Trademark Office, Patent Trial and Appeal Board Roundtable held on April 24, 2014 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills: The Section was honored to host judges from the United States Patent and Trademark Office’s Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) at a public roundtable in Auburn Hills. This event was one of several roundtables that the PTAB conducted nationwide. Judges from the PTAB shared information about the new America Invents Act trials (inter partes reviews, post grant reviews, covered business method reviews, and derivations) including statistics, lessons learned, and techniques for successful motions practice. More than 80 people attended. The IPLS also hosted a reception with the PTAB judges following the roundtable. Both events were free to the public.

40th Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute to be held July 17-19, 2014 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island: The 40th Annual IP Law Summer Institute will be at the Grand Hotel in July, with advanced patent and copyright sessions Thursday afternoon, updates Friday morning, and various topics Saturday morning. The Section is very excited that the Hon. Gerald E. Rosen, Chief Judge, Eastern District of Michigan, and the Hon. Robert Holmes Bell, District Judge, Western District of Michigan, will speak and share their perspectives on IP litigation.

2014 Annual Business Meeting: The Section’s annual business meeting will be held July 19 at 8:00 a.m. at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island in conjunction with the 40th Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute.
Other Section Projects During 2013-2014

**Pro Bono** - Section 32 of the America Invents Act directs the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to work with regional IP law associations to implement a network of pro bono service programs for individuals seeking patents, but lacking the financial resources to obtain counsel. The Section has taken the lead in facilitating the development of a program for Michigan. Initially, the Section met with significant stakeholders in any pro bono program, including private firms with significant patent practices and corporate legal departments. Based on the positive result of that meeting, the Section organized a steering committee to direct the design an implementation of a program. Currently, the steering committee is selecting a not-for-profit legal service provider to serve as an administrative partner for the program. We hope to launch a program in early 2015.

**Writing Competition** - For the past four years, the Section has sponsored the Michigan Innovation and IP Legal Writing Competition. The competition is open to law students at any Michigan law school, and recognizes original scholarship in the IP field. Winners receive a cash award, publication in the IPLS Proceedings journal, and complimentary registration at a Section educational program. At our 2013 Annual Meeting it was announced that Kyle Quigley of Cooley Law School won the first place prize of $500, Tasha Francis of the University of Michigan Law School won the second place prize of $300, and Jordan Zuppke of Cooley Law School won the third place prize of $200.

**Social Media** - The Section explored the possibility of, and worked towards, engaging in various social media platforms. A LinkedIn page has been considered and discussions with a representative of the State Bar of Michigan regarding LinkedIn took place. Written guidelines were drafted for a LinkedIn page. Various features of the new State Bar of Michigan section page were discussed and discussion questions for the page are being developed.

**Survey** - In order to continue to provide educational opportunities desired by our section, the IPLS Council conducted a survey of our members to evaluate what we have been doing in the past and what changes may be made as we go forward. This review was also important to our longtime partner, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), as it continues to evaluate its seminar activities. The information that has been gathered is being used to help the IPLS Council plan future seminars.
Looking Forward to 2014-2015:

Planned Activities:
- Spring Seminar, March 2015, Lansing.
- 41st Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute, July 2015

Recommendations for Next Council:
- Continue efforts on establishing an IP pro bono program in Michigan.
- Continue the Section’s recent trend of having an annual program or social function with the USPTO
- Use feedback from 2014 member survey to plan locations and seasons for future annual seminars
- Consider implementing plans to increase IPLS’s social media presence to increase collaboration and networking between Section members

Submitted on May 30, 2014 via PDF e-mail to:

Heather Anderson
Sections & Committees Administrator
306 Townsend Street, Lansing MI 48933
Email: hkanderson@mail.michbar.org
Phone 517-346-6414 Fax: 517-372-1139