Bar Year: 2014-2015

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.

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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 19, 2014</td>
<td>Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>August 14, 2014</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>September 10, 2014</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>October 3, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>October 9, 2014</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>November 13, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>December 11, 2014</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>January 8, 2015</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>February 25, 2015</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>April 16, 2015</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>May 14, 2015</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>June 11, 2015-planned</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>August 13, 2015-planned</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Annual Meeting</td>
<td>September 17, 2015-planned</td>
<td>Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit MI</td>
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Minutes of all meetings are available at: [http://connect.michbar.org/iplaw/council/minutes](http://connect.michbar.org/iplaw/council/minutes)

Intellectual Property Law Section Membership: 1,234

Intellectual Property Law Section Publication: As of this report, the Section has published two issues of the *IPLS Proceedings* this year, which were published on December 18, 2014 and March 13, 2015. A third issue is planned for late summer 2015. In an effort to save costs and “go green,” the *IPLS Proceedings* are now only distributed electronically. Copies are available at: [http://connect.michbar.org/iplaw/newsletter](http://connect.michbar.org/iplaw/newsletter)
**General Budget Information:** The Section continues to maintain a solid financial position, with a balance reported for April 30, 2015 of $125,844.53. The balance includes $30,639.00 in funds dedicated for the establishment of the Michigan Patent Pro Bono Project. The funds are attributable to excess sponsorship funds 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). To date, $4,301.21 has been incurred in the launch of the pro bono program. The Section’s most significant expenditure this year was associated with the IPLS Spring Seminar held at the Kellogg Center on March 16, 2105, which totaled $15,734.72. This amount has not yet been deducted from the above noted balance as of the submission of this report due to the timing of the invoice.

**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>2015 Spring IP Law Seminar</td>
<td>March 16, 2015</td>
<td>Kellogg Center East Lansing, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception with U.S. Patent &amp; Trademark Office Director, Michelle Lee</td>
<td>April 17, 2015</td>
<td>University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Detroit, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception with U.S. Patent &amp; Trademark Office, Commissioner for Trademarks, Mary Boney Denison</td>
<td>May 29, 2015</td>
<td>Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41st Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute</td>
<td>Scheduled for Sept. 17-18, 2015</td>
<td>Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit MI</td>
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**40th Annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute held July 18-20, 2013, at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island:** The 2014 Summer IP Institute was held on Mackinac Island. Two hundred twenty-seven people registered for the event, with 224 actual attendees. This was the same number of attendees as the 2013 Summer IP Institute, which 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 6.20 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 honored to have the Honorable Robert Holmes Bell of the Western District of Michigan, and the Honorable Gerald E. Rosen of the Eastern District of Michigan participate in the seminar. The Section appreciates ICLE’s support for this program.
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, Detroit Region

Roadshow: The IPLS section hosted the PTAB Detroit Region Roadshow on November 4, 2014, at the Thomas Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills Campus. The program included a State-of-the-Board address, and was one of the only “Roadshows” to include an actual AIA trial hearing. The IPLS sponsored a reception after the Roadshow.

2015 Spring IP Law Seminar, held March 16, 2015 in at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing:
Our annual Spring IP Law Seminar had 188 registrants and 170 attendees, which is down from 232 registrants/194 attendees in 2014. Based on the survey of the Section conducted in 2014, programming for the Spring Seminar was focused on practical topics to benefit members’ practice areas. This included a presentation on best practices for Examiner interviews from a USPTO Technology Center Director, tips regarding Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (“TTAB”) trials from a USPTO Administrative Law Judge, and a presentation on avoiding copyright traps in counseling, transactions and litigation.

Reception with U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Director, Michelle Lee: On April 17, 2015, the White House Business Council and the IPLS hosted Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Michelle K. Lee for a discussion of current developments and topics in patent law and policy. Approximately 100 people attended the event held at Univ. of Detroit Mercy School of Law to hear Director Lee discuss several key initiatives of the USPTO. Director Lee also discussed current proposals for patent reform legislation pending or under consideration in Congress, the role of patents and other forms of intellectual property in driving innovation, as well as responded to questions from the audience.

Reception with U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks, Mary Boney Denison: On May 29, 2015, the IPLS hosted Commissioner for Trademarks, Mary Boney Denison, for a discussion of current developments and topics in trademark law and policy. Commissioner Denison provided a presentation and discussed key initiatives of the Trademark office within the USPTO.

41st Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute to be held September 17-19, 2015 at the Book Cadillac, Detroit, Michigan: The 41st Annual IP Law Institute will be held for the first time in Detroit at the Book Cadillac. The IP Law Institute will feature extended annual patent, trademark and copyright updates, and a networking event on the evening of Thursday, September 17 at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

2015 Annual Business Meeting: The Section’s annual business meeting will be held Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the Book Cadillac, Detroit in conjunction with the 41st Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute.
Other Section Projects During 2014-2015

**IP Pro Bono Initiative:** During 2014-2015, the Section established the Michigan Patent Pro Bono Project (Project) an ongoing service project of the Section. The Council coordinated this effort with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, which received a Congressional directive in the 2011 Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to work with regional intellectual property professional associations to establish a nationwide network of pro bono service programs for low income inventors. In November, the Council established a Steering Committee of Michigan patent practitioners from law firms and in-house legal departments to guide the development of the Project. The Steering Committee selected the SBM Pro Bono Initiative to serve as the administrative partner for the Project, with responsibility for applicant intake, financial qualification, and record keeping. On November 18, 2014, the Section launched the Project at a kick-off ceremony and reception at the Elijah J. McCoy U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Detroit. Speakers at the event included Thomas C. Rombach, SBM President, Jennifer M. Grieco, SBM Treasurer, and Jennifer McDowell, the USPTO Pro Bono Coordinator. The event was webcast on the USPTO website. Following the launch, the Project began accepting applications for representation, and qualified low-income currently are being placed with volunteer panel attorneys.

**Creation of the Michigan State Bar Excellence in IP Award:** By creation of the Michigan State Bar Excellence in IP Award, the IPLS Committee sought to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of a lawyer who had excelled in the intellectual property field and exemplified professionalism, excellence, and dedication to furthering opportunities and accomplishments in the area of intellectual property. The IPLS established criteria used in selecting the recipient of the award, and solicited nominees from the Section. Nominees included in-house counsel, private practitioners, professors in academia, and the judiciary and after a further review and vote of a sub-committee and then all committee members of the IP Section, Judge Avern Cohn was selected as the 2015 recipient of the first Michigan State Bar Excellence in IP Award, which was announced at the Spring Seminar on March 16, 2015 in Lansing and Judge Cohn will receive the actual award during the annual IP Law Institute meeting on September 17, 2015.
Looking Forward to 2015-2016

Planned Activities:
- Spring Seminar, March 2016, Lansing.
- 42nd Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute, July 2016, Mackinac Island

Recommendations for Next Council:
- Continue efforts to grow IP pro bono program in Michigan.
- Continue partnership with USPTO to provide presentation, information and networking events with USPTO personnel through Detroit Satellite Patent Office.
- Consider further efforts to increase IPLS’s social media presence to increase collaboration and networking between Section members

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