

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT
SECTIONS**

Introduction

The Annual Report is a key document required by the State Bar of Michigan as stated in its bylaws, cited below. An annual report assists future Section leaders in understanding the Section's history, and serves as a planning guideline for the upcoming year. Annual Reports are also the main source for those who are interested in joining to section to learn about the activities of the section and decide whether membership is of value to them. Each annual report is published on the Section's website, provided as a resource to the public and potential Section members, as well as to Bar staff. The annual reports are submitted to the Board of Commissioners at their July meeting. In addition to the required general summary of activities, many sections choose to include additional material in their reports.

Article VIII §1, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

Every Section and State Bar entity so directed by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year which shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before May 31. Annual reports may not exceed five 8 1/2" x 11" pages unless a waiver of this limitation is approved by the Executive Director.

Additional Materials

Many sections provide more information in their annual reports than a general summary of activities. The second page of this document is a comprehensive list of other valuable materials that may or may not be included in an annual report, with additional guidelines for the section's consideration. This is not a list of required items for an annual report, simply a thorough list of information that is often of interest to the public, section members, the Commissioners, and Bar staff. If desired, the list may be used as a basic guideline for an annual report.

Templates

The final pages in this document are a simple template, which may be altered to the section's needs. The template attempts to break down the bylaw requirement of "summary of its activities" into a few generalized categories. It is not required that a section utilize the template.

Submission

All annual reports should be submitted by May 31, 2013. They should be submitted to:

Jennifer Williams
Administrative Assistant
306 Townsend Street, Lansing MI 48933
Email: jwilliams@mail.michbar.org
Phone 517-367-6421 Fax: 517-372-1139

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
ANNUAL REPORT ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

SECTION NAME: Have there been any changes in the section name? Details provided may be interesting to the public and other readers.

SECTION MISSION STATEMENT: A Sections' mission statement is a critical description of the goals the Section sets for the whole of its' membership. Including the statement in an Annual Report serves as a yardstick by which to measure progress.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: Including P#s accurately identifies officers and the council.

SECTION COMMITTEES: Descriptions of the various committees provides a clearer picture of a section's work, especially if the name of the chairperson and description of Committee activities are included. Including meeting schedules allows potential future volunteers for Committee work to better understand the frequency with which the committee meets.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP: Section membership fluctuates from year to year. Tracking the membership numbers at a set time of year, such as the Annual Report Deadline, can provide a good picture of changes in the Section membership.

SECTION BYLAWS: Awareness of Bylaws changes can be critical for understanding a Section's operation. Including the most recent revision date of the Bylaws will allow readers familiar with the Bylaws to ensure they have the most current version at hand. Additionally, if there are any forthcoming changes, this is a good opportunity to summarize plans briefly.

SECTION PUBLICATIONS: Some of the most frequent questions for Sections are in regard to publications the Section has produced. Providing a list including publication information for journals, newsletters and other publications creates a valuable resource.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND SEMINARS: This is critical information for the Annual Report. Describing meetings, activities and seminars can be detailed, or brief. Suggestions for information to include are the date, location, and a minimum of one paragraph describing the event.

SECTION LEGISLATURE AND POLICY: The Section's involvement in legislature, policy, or *amicus curiae* is a matter of great interest, many questions are asked regarding the Sections involvement in such. A brief description of any such involvement is requested, as this falls under the heading of section activities.

AWARDS: Many Sections present awards, honors, or scholarships. The Annual Report is another opportunity to laud the recipients, as well as detail any awards presented to the Section itself. A description of the history of the award, or why the award is given, is useful.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Section finances vary from simple to complex. A brief statement of general budget information would be very appropriate to include in any Annual Report, or a reprinting of an annual Treasurer's report if the Section feel it is necessary.

FUTURE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES: Because the Annual Report is often used as a resource for future planning, and is viewed by members of the public who may be considering membership in the Section, a brief description of future goals and activities is recommended. This may also serve as a recommendation to the next Council.

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

Bar Year: 2012-2013

Section Name: Real Property Law Section

Mission Statement: The Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education and information about current real property issues through meetings, seminars, its website, pro bono service programs, and quarterly publication of a journal. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan.

As further stated in the Section's By-Laws, the Section's purpose is to study the laws and procedures pertaining to Real Property Law and to promote the fair and just administration of Real Property Law; to study and report upon proposed and necessary legislation, including, but not limited to, pending legislation and drafting and introducing legislation; to study and report on pending litigation, including, but not limited to, the filing of amicus curiae briefs; to promote throughout the State of Michigan the legal education of members of the Bar and the public on Real Property Law by sponsoring meetings, institutes and conferences devoted to Real Property Law, by the preparation and dissemination of books, booklets, materials, pamphlets and brochures with respect thereto and by preparing and sponsoring and publishing legal writings in this field.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Ronn Nadis P#35638	Couzens, Lansky, Fealk, Ellis, Roeder & Lazar, P.C. 39395 West Twelve Mile Road, Ste 200 Farmington Hills, MI 48331	248-489-8600	Ronn.Nadis@couzens.com
Chair-Elect	Ronald E. Reynolds P#40524	Vercruysse Murray & Calzone PC 31780 Telegraph Rd Ste 200 Bingham Farms, MI 48025	248-540-8019	rreynolds@vmclaw.com
Vice-Chair	David E. Pierson P#31047P	1305 S. Washington Ave. Ste. 102 Lansing, MI 48910	517-482-4890	dpierson@malansing.com
Secretary	David Nykanen P#47763	Nykanen Dorfman PLLC 33493 W 14 Mile Rd Ste 100 Farmington Hills, MI 48331	248-629-0880	dave@nykanendorfman.com

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Treasurer	Brian P. Henry P#333876	650 E Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI 48083	248-502-1400	bhenry@orlans.com
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Member	Term	Member	Term
Melissa N. Collar P# 51781	2015	Gregory J. Gamalski P#36034	2014
Glen M. Zatz P# 37115	2015	Clay B. Thomas P#56927	2015
Lorri B. King P#42564	2013	Melissa B. Papke P#67083	2014
Richard D. Rattner P#19249	2013	Margaret Van Meter P#40960	2014
Nicholas P. Scavone P#47138	2013		
Jeffrey D. Weisserman P#40470	2013		

Council Meeting Schedule:

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Council meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	October 10, 2012	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	November 7, 2012	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	December 5, 2012	Pizzeria Biga, Southfield
Council Meeting	January 9, 2013	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	February 6, 2013	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	April 17, 2013	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	May 8, 2013	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	July 13, 2013	Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville MI
Council Meeting	September 19, 2013	Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

General Budget Information: While the Section's finances remain strong, income and expenses are being closely monitored. In addition, the Section continues to evaluate opportunities for new initiatives and educational programs focused on newer members of the State Bar with an emphasis on finding new and more effective ways of providing them with access to Section's offerings.

Events and/or Seminars:

Please attach any additional information needed regarding events and/or seminars as an addendum.

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: RPLS - Dealing	October 11, 2012	The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham

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with Distressed Properties, Part I - Fight or Flight: The Lawyer's Guide to Analyzing Exit Strategies		
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Real Estate Joint Ventures	December 6, 2012	St. John Conference Center, Plymouth
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: RPLS – Dealing with Distressed Properties, Part II - The Lawyer’s Guide to Buying Distressed Property	January 17, 2013	The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast "Construction for Non-Construction Lawyers from Commencement to Completion (or non-completion)	February 7, 2013	St. John Conference Center, Plymouth
RPLS/ICSC	February 13, 2013	Suburban Collection Showcase, Novi
2013 Winter Conference Jazz, Jambalaya and Jeopardy – New Orleans, Katrina and Lesser Casualties	March 14-16, 2013	J.W. Marriott, New Orleans
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: RPLS – Dealing with Distressed Properties, Part III - The Lawyer’s Guide to Negotiating/Renegotiating Commercial Leases	April 18, 2013	Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Condo Basics and Beyond”	May 2, 2013	St. John Conference Center, Plymouth
2013 Summer Conference "Returning to our Roots - Conventional Real Estate Practice Fundamentals for 2013	July 10-13, 2013	Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa, Thompsonville, Michigan
Other Programming: Co-sponsor - Urban Farming Symposium	May, 2013	University of Detroit Mercy Law School, Detroit

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"Quick Hits" Residential Transactions Boot Camp Video "Closing Documents"	June 11, 2012	Dickinson Wright Offices - Troy & Grand Rapids
"Quick Hits" Residential Transactions Boot Camp Video "Everything you wanted to know about a CLOSING...but are afraid to ask"	October 22, 2012	Dickinson Wright Offices - Troy & Grand Rapids
Pizza & Property	November 28, 2012	University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor
Meet & Greet	April 25, 2013	Local Kitchen and Bar, Ferndale

Legislative issues: In addition to monitoring new legislation and responding to requests from the Michigan Supreme Court and others to file amicus curie briefs on real estate issues of importance, the Section has initiated a series of meeting with particular legislators to inform them of the Section's mission and expertise so that the Section can get involved with legislative real estate initiatives before new legislation is entered. In all cases, the Section tries to limit its comments and recommendations without bias toward any particular constituency (the Section strives to be neither pro borrower, pro lender, pro developer or pro municipality).

Recommendations for next Council: We believe that future Councils should continue pursuing outreach and educational programs for newer members of the State Bar and expand participation in the Section by real estate lawyers located outside of southeast Michigan. Future Councils should also continue to look for technologically based alternatives for the delivery of its educational offerings. This should include, among other things, continued support for the eNewsletter (which has proven to be an effective vehicle for providing timely real estate law updates to Section members). Future Councils should also continue to look for more effective ways of creating a continuous flow of peer reviewed articles for publication in the RPLS Review (the scholarly journal published by the Section) and continue to move toward delivering the RPLS Review electronically.

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Other Information: We have a large number of Special Committees which hold educational and networking meetings throughout the State of Michigan. The following is a list of the Special Committees:

Bankruptcy
Commercial Leasing
Condominiums PUDs and Cooperatives
Commercial Development, Ownership and Finance
Construction
Eminent Domain
Energy Law
Federal Tax Aspects of Real Estate Transactions
Residential Transactions and Finance
State and Local Taxation
Title and Conveyancing
Water Law
Zoning and Land Use

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