

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

**Bar Year: 2014-2015**

**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, a monthly e-newsletter, and quarterly publication of a peer-reviewed 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	David E. Pierson P#31047	McClelland & Anderson, LLP 1305 S. Washington Ave. Ste. 102 Lansing, MI 48910	517-482-4890	dpierson@malansing.com
Chair-Elect	Brian P. Henry P#333876	Orlans Associates PC 650 E Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI 48083	248-502-1400	bhenry@orlans.com
Vice-Chair	David Nykanen P#47763	Nykanen Dorfman PLLC 41000 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304	248-629-0880	dave@nykanendorfman.com
Secretary	Nicholas P. Scavone, Jr. P#47138	Bodman LLP 1901 St. Antoine Street, Detroit, MI 48226	313-393-7580	nscavone@bodmanlaw.com
Treasurer	Melissa N. Collar P# 51781	Warner Norcross & Judd LLP 111 Lyon Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503	616-752-2000	mcollar@wnj.com

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Member	Term	Member	Term
Gregory J. Gamalski P#36034	2017	Richard D. Rattner P#19249	2016
Lorri B. King P#42564	2016	Clay B. Thomas P#56927	2015
Monica Labe P#49097	2015	Margaret Van Meter P#40960	2017
Melissa B. Papke P#67083	2017	Jeffrey D. Weisserman P#40470	2016
Dawn M. Patterson P#49041	2015	Glen M. Zatz P# 37115	2015
		William E. Hosler P#41257 (Land Title Standards)	
		Thomas A. Kabel P#57798 (CLE)	
		Catherine LaMont P#32231 (Amicus Briefs)	

***Council Meeting Schedule:***

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	September 18, 2014	DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
Council Meeting	October 15, 2014	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	November 19, 2014	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	December 17, 2014	MEX, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	January 21, 2015	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	February 18, 2015	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	April 15, 2015	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	May 20, 2015	Warner Norcross, Sfld & GR
Council Meeting	July 17, 2015	Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI

**General Budget Information:** While the Section's finances remain strong, income and expenses are being closely monitored. In addition, the Section has been making efforts to lower its accumulated income account with the State Bar by pursuing new initiatives and educational programs focused on newer members of the State Bar and more effective technology for continuing education and involvement of older members of the State Bar.

**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: Real Property Acquisitions: Caveat Emptor	October 16, 2014	The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham

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Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Energy-Michigan's New Era	November 6, 2014	St. John Conference Center, Plymouth
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast "Eminent Domain - Practice and Pitfalls"	December 4, 2014	St. John Conference Center, Plymouth
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: Financing the Deal	January 22, 2015	The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE –"On-Demand" Webcast "Land Use & Zoning - Issues for the Comeback	March 6, 2015	"On-Demand" Webcast
RPLS/ICSC	February 12, 2015	Suburban Collection Showcase, Novi
2015 Winter Conference	March 5-7, 2015	Four Seasons, Austin
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: Real Estate Potpourri - Western Style	April 16, 2015	Downtown Market, Grand Rapids
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Detroit - Redevelopment Symposium	April 30, 2015	Antheneum Suite Hotel, Detroit
2015 Summer Conference "Rebuilding the Dream: Michigan Real Estate Revitalized"	July 15-18, 2015	Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI
<b>Other Programming:</b> Next Level Initiative	September 11, 2014	Mitchell's Fish Market, Birmingham
Anniversary Event	November 15, 2014	Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit
Pizza & Property	October 21, 2014	Wayne State University Law School
Pizza & Property	March 19, 2015	University of Michigan Law School
Meet & Greet	October 23, 2014	Local Kitchen, Ferndale
Meet & Greet	May 14, 2015	Local Kitchen, Ferndale

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**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 legislators, particularly committee chairs, 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 introduced. 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, nor pro municipality).

**Recommendations for next Council:** The next Council should continuing working on its own and with the State Bar of Michigan on improving the Section's website and the online offerings available to the Section's members. It should also continue pursuing outreach and educational programs for newer members of the State Bar, as well as active participation by more experienced practitioners, and expand participation in the Section by real estate lawyers located outside of southeast Michigan.

**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  
Commercial Development, Ownership and Finance  
Condominiums PUDs and Cooperatives  
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

**Reports must be submitted before May 31, 2015 to:**

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