In This Issue

Comments from the Chair .................. 1

Big Data vs. Warrant Jurisdiction: Microsoft Ireland Case ...................... 3
By Monica Batsford

Saudi Legal Reform—The Female Driving Movement .................... 6
By Ryan Mardini

2017-2018 Goals and Missions ........... 9

Minutes of the Council of the International Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan ............... 11

Treasurer’s Reports ....................... 14

2017-2018 Officers ..................... 16

Comments from the Chair

Set your goals high, and don’t stop till you get there.
—Bo Jackson

Dear Friends,

As I was thinking about what to write in my inaugural “Comments from the Chair,” I realized that I could, basically, summarize my many thoughts in less than ten words: Together, we are going to have an amazing year!

It is easy to see why. The International Law Section has a long and enviable record of bringing together some of the most distinguished and good-natured practitioners in the entire State Bar of Michigan. Without exception, our members are very willing to give of their time, experience, and friendship to further the aims of our Section. Through our 600+ members’ diversity of practice areas, thoughts, interests, and backgrounds, we are able to stretch our minds, reach our professional and civic goals, and, as importantly, meet and spend time with our new best friends.

Last year, under the superb leadership of Lara Fetsco Phillip, the ILS hosted a variety of hugely popular program speakers and topics that ran the gamut from securing U.S. intellectual property rights in a global economy and the legal impacts of BREXIT, to international tax havens and managing global teams. Our members learned about protecting intellectual property against cyber-theft and infringement, jurisdictional differences in international trademark registration and enforcement, the international trade in Middle Eastern antiquities, enforcing IP rights in software in China and the U.S., working with international data laws and deemed exports, and creating international sales agreements. Our Section also joined forces with other SBM sections to host joint programs, and we expanded the geographic footprint of our Section by sponsoring a highly successful legal track in Grand Rapids as part of the West Michigan World Trade Week. As mentors in the field, we sponsored the Young Lawyers Forum and continued to explore methods and means by which to engage and mentor newer attorneys.

Lara, we thank you for making the trains run on time. You are a wonderful mentor, and I am lucky to call you friend.

This year, we will continue on the forged path, and we will do our best to take it up a notch. Some of the goals and missions that we are setting out to accomplish this year build upon successes that we have had in the past. Thus, our first goal will continue to be to provide our wonderful Section members with interesting

Continued on the next page
Michigan International Lawyer

Submission Guidelines

The Michigan International Lawyer, which is published three times per year by the International Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, is Michigan’s leading international law journal. Our mission is to enhance and contribute to the public’s knowledge of world law and trade by publishing articles on contemporary international law topics and issues of general interest.

The Michigan International Lawyer invites unsolicited manuscripts in all areas of international interest. An author is encouraged to submit a brief bio and a photograph for publication. An article, including footnotes, should contain between 1000 and 3000 words.

Articles can be submitted for consideration in hard copy or electronic format. Manuscripts and photographs cannot be returned unless accompanied by a $5 check or money order made payable to Wayne State University Law School for shipping and handling.

The Michigan International Lawyer will consider articles by law-school students and may publish student articles as part of a regular column. A student should submit the article either through a law-school faculty member or with a law-school faculty member’s recommendation.

Submissions should be forwarded to:
Professor Fox, Faculty Editor
Michigan International Lawyer
Wayne State University Law School
471 W. Palmer
Detroit, Michigan 48202
Telephone: (313) 577-0110
E-Mail: gfox@wayne.edu

Michigan International Lawyer

Publication Deadline Dates

Fall Issue
Articles due August 15

Winter Issue
Articles due January 15

Summer Issue
Articles due April 1

educational programs on practice-relevant international law topics. Equally as important, is our Section’s second goal: To encourage initiative by all members, and to provide opportunities to expand the social, professional, civic, and geographic diversity of our membership. In this manner, we will work to promote our third goal, which is to increase engagement and empowerment of Council and ILS embers to accomplish the goals and missions of the ILS. Just as an ocean vessel requires many hands to sail, so too do our Section’s goals and missions require participation by all to give them life. Our fourth goal actually allows us to move beyond our legal setting in order to increase the visibility of the ILS within our community. Through this goal, we aim to provide business development and personal growth opportunities for our Section’s members. We, as a Section, all benefit when our members achieve great things. Thus, we will endeavor to promote the visibility of our membership through professional and community activities, and cheer on their successes along the way. Finally, our fifth goal, which I hope underscores each of the prior goals, is for us as a Section to aim high and have fun! We have a kind, amazing, and talented membership. With everyone’s contribution, guidance, and heart, we will grasp our goals. To take a page from the playbook of W. Clement Stone, let us aim for the moon. If we miss, we still may hit a star.

Warmest regards,

Debra Auerbach Clephane
Chair, International Law Section, SBM (2017-2018)
A big question about access to online data is coming to the Supreme Court. In October, 2017 the Court granted the government’s petition for a writ of certiorari from the Second Circuit to hear In re A Warrant to Search. The question is whether the government can compel companies to access electronic communications overseas with a warrant granted under the Stored Communications Act (“SCA”). The nature of ownership and territoriality of data has long been a challenge. This problem has grown with the prevalent use of cloud storage that disperses data throughout the world. This shift in the way companies store data creates a real problem for the government. The government utilizes the SCA as an essential tool to investigate criminal activity. On the other hand, an overbroad reach of the SCA warrant ability creates issues of extraterritoriality in its application of warrants. Unfettered use of the SCA may produce conflicts of law not only between governments, but also places these companies in an untenable position of infringing the law of one country to comply with the laws of another.

**The Microsoft Case**

In Microsoft, a magistrate from the Southern District of New York issued a warrant on the government’s behalf “that directed Microsoft to seize and produce the content of an e-mail account that it maintain for a customer who uses the company’s electronic communications services.” Although Microsoft complied by handing over data about the user stored in its servers in the United States, it moved to quash the warrant with regard to the content stored in its servers in Ireland. The Second Circuit reversed the lower court’s holding and stated that Microsoft did not have to comply with the warrant in connection to the data stored abroad. The government’s argument expressed concerns that a holding disallowing use of the warrant would place “a substantial burden” on agents attempting to investigate crimes. That it would be easy for users to hide their data from the grasp of the government under this system by simply misleading the service providers of their location and triggering Microsoft and others to store their data abroad. This would protect data by making it virtually inaccessible to American law enforcement without having to resort to use of the burdensome Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (“MLAT”). Although the Second Circuit acknowledged the practical concerns over the frustrating process of obtaining this data abroad, the court did not find this persuasive enough to ignore important issues of state sovereignty.

“"Our conclusion today also serves the interest of comity that, as the MLAT process reflects, ordinarily govern the conduct of cross-boundary investigations...we find it difficult to dismiss those interest out of hand on the theory that the foreign sovereign's interests are unaffected when a US judge issues an order requiring a service provider to collect form servers located overseas and import in into the US data, possibly belonging to a foreign citizen, simply because the service provider has a base of operations within the United States."" The Stored Communications Act in Need of An Update

The Stored Communications Act protects users’ data from access by third parties as part of the Electronic Privacy Communications Act (EPCA). Subject to certain exceptions, section 2702 of the Act prohibits providers of electronic communication services and remote commuting services from disclosing information associated with the contents of stored communications. Companies like Microsoft argue that the EPCA has failed to keep up with the technology used to store data. Using the SCA under the EPCA is no longer a viable method because of the global nature of data storage. Brad Smith, President of Microsoft stated, “The EPCA was enacted in 1986 when the World Wide Web was still a few years away from being invented and no one conceived of conducting most work and personal business online. A world connected by cloud services simply didn't exist."
In a statement on his website, Smith listed a few problems with the Department of Justice’s interpretation of the reach of the SCA. First, in order for a law to have extraterritorial reach requires clear intent by congress which he contends is not the case for the SCA.15 Second, that the Department of Justice incorrectly argues that the data is the property of the email provider. Microsoft asserts that the email is the property of the customer and this application would “cause people to lose their rights when they go online.”16 Third, that this application of the SCA creates conflict of law issues with other countries which may have stricter privacy laws.17 Finally, that the Government’s stance will create reciprocity issues. “If the U.S. government can unilaterally use a warrant to seize emails outside the United States, what’s to stop other governments from acting unilaterally to seize emails stored inside the United States?”18

In response to the challenges of modern application of the SCA warrant provisions Senators Orin Hatch and Chris Coons have introduced the International Communication’s Privacy Act (“IPCA”).19 The IPCA would amend both section 2702 of the SCA and would update the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty process. Senator Hatch stated in his address introducing the legislation to the Senate that the EPCA needed to better reflect issues of sovereignty of other nations and privacy rights.20 “[T]he right approach to international data privacy is to ground the analysis on the location of the person whose data is being sought.”21

The proposed IPCA modifies the warrant requirements under the SCA to provide more information about individual in question’s nationality. “[I]f a person is a U.S. national or located in the United States, then law enforcement may compel disclosure no matter where the data is stored, provided the data is accessible from the U.S. computer and law enforcement uses proper criminal process.”22 The provisions would amend the law to require that the government in its application for a warrant “shall include a fully and complete statement of the facts and circumstances relied upon and the investigative steps taken to ascertain the nationality and location of the subscriber or customer whose contents are sought by the warrant.”23 The amendment additionally states that a warrant can be used if the court finds “that the governmental entity has taken all reasonable steps to establish the nationality and location of the subscriber or customer whose contents are sought.”24

Microsoft’s position in its brief to the Supreme Court is that proposed IPCA will resolve this issue without interference needed by the Court.25 This is not the position of the government. In their reply brief, the government maintains that the Court’s involvement remains important. “[I]n light of the importance of the question presented and the uncertainty and ongoing harms caused by the panel’s decision, the speculative possibility of congressional action is not a sound reason to deny review.”26 The government went on to say that Microsoft’s position that this issue will be resolved in a few months is not a realistic outcome. “[C]onsensus on the need for some update is not the same thing as consensus on how the statute should be revised—much less a guarantee of prompt congressional action.”27 The government requested that while updated legislation is litigated through Congress, that the Court “determine the correct interpretation of existing law.”28

Potential Consequences to Data’s Movement in the World

If, and until, Congress passes an amendment to the EPCA, the focus remains on the issues created by the Second Circuit in its In re A Warrant to Search. This centers around the great debate of where data fits in to territoriality. Microsoft, in their reply brief to deny review en banc in the Second Circuit, warned of the dangers of overextending the United States territorial reach into other sovereign nations to take the data stored abroad. Microsoft cites from Mastafa v Chevron Corp. stating “in all cases applying the presumption against extraterritoriality of statutes, courts must be careful to recall the relevance of this canon—namely, to protect against unintended clashes between our laws and those of other nations which could result in international discord.”29 In addition, Microsoft cited the European Commission’s formal position on the original warrant issued by the United States Government, “that personal data held by private companies in the EU should not, in principle, be directly accessed by or transferred to foreign enforcement authorities outside the formal channels of cooperation, such as…MLATs.”30

The potential conflicts of law concerned many of the companies that submitted amicus briefs on behalf of Microsoft while in the Second Circuit. A large concern is for reciprocal actions against the United States by other countries. “Reciprocal actions by foreign governments may include demanding information stored on servers in the Unites States or otherwise in possession of an American ISP.”31 The dissent to a denial of rehearing en banc by the Second Circuit did not see an extraterritoriality issue on the application of the warrant to Microsoft. “Extraterritoriality need not be fussed over when the information sought is already within the grasp of the domestic entity served with a warrant.”32

On the other side, there are negative repercussions to basing the jurisdiction of data solely on its location. This could lead to different international issues in which countries make laws mandating companies host user data of its citizens exclusively inside that country. Service Providers store this data around the world to help with speed and efficiency that creates better and faster systems. “Data localization is not demonstrably good for privacy, and it’s bad for innovation. Perhaps established internet giants like Google, Facebook and Twitter can afford to build or rent data centers around the world—and figure out how to allocate user data to them. But data localization is a huge expense to smaller businesses and startups.”33
This is more than an abstract fear. Countries are starting to control where the data of their citizens is stored to assure access. “Brazil considered passing a bill that would give the executive branch the power to force internet companies to install or use structured for storage management and dissemination of data in the country.”34 Russia has passed a localization law and has started demanding that companies begin storing data in the country.35

The warrant capability of the SCA may be insufficient to the global nature of data. Questions about who the data belongs to seem simple in comparison to a bigger question looming as what is the territoriality of data? With the fix proposed in Congress unlikely passed anytime soon, it will be up to the Supreme Court to determine these questions. The debate will most likely center around the Justices who believe that the data is accessible in the Unites States through Microsoft’s headquarters, and the Justices who worry about the United States using the SCA to go beyond the borders of the United States. The country of origin of the person of interest was never revealed in the lower court opinions. It appears that the Government, at least for now, is avoiding the question of who the emails belong to and focusing more on Microsoft’s contacts in the United States. As countries around the world diverge in the way that they protect data, if the Court allows the warrant to compel this data from Ireland, it will be important to watch for the international reaction to the new reach of the SCA warrants. 

About the Author

Monica Batsford is a 3L student at Wayne State Law School. Monica currently serves on the Board of the Free Legal Aid Clinic and is on the inaugural board of the Journal of Business for the Law School. Before law school, she spent many years living in Spain and Brazil where she taught English as a second language.

Endnotes

3 Microsoft Corp. v. United States (In re Warrant to Search a Certain E-Mail Account Controlled & Maintained by Microsoft Corp.), 829 F.3d 197, 200 (2d Cir. 2016)
4 Id.
6 Id.
7 Id.
8 Microsoft Corp. v. United States (In re Warrant to Search a Certain E-Mail Account Controlled & Maintained by Microsoft Corp.), 829 F.3d 197, 207 (2d Cir. 2016)
9 Id. at 200.
11 Microsoft, 829 F.3d at 221.
13 In re Search Warrant No. 16-960-M-01, 232 F. Supp. 3d 708 (E.D. Pa. 2017). See Jennifer Daskel, Article: The Un-Territoriality of Data 125 Yale L.J. 326, 361 (Nov 2015). (Explaining that the government uses the SCA to compel a provider to disclose the records, information and potentially the content of users. In addition, the SCA subpoena can be used for non-content data like customer names and session times. Investigating officials need a court order for more detailed records on the customer’s activities: like a record of to whom the suspect has sent emails, or lists of sites the suspect has visited. In order to disclose content however, the government must obtain a warrant based on probable cause. Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure creates the process through which a government entity may obtain a warrant under the SCA.).
15 Id.
16 Id.
17 Id.
18 Id.
21 Id. at S3083.
22 Id.
24 Id.
26 Id. at 17.
Saudi Legal Reform—The Female Driving Movement

By Ryan Mardini

Abstract

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Saudi women in particular—were euphoric when the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman issued the royal decree on September 27, 2017. It is clear that Saudi is easing its restrictions on female drivers in its attempt to modernize its economy and legal system. While this historic movement spells freedom for women Kingdom-wide, unanswered questions remain as the future implications of this decision are looming.

What is the Royal Decree?

Contentment and serenity replaced the deep-rooted segregation and gender-marginalization endured by women in Saudi Arabia for decades. Historically, women have led vastly different lives than men under Saudi law. In September 2017, however, a big part of that changed, as the decree allowing women to drive jettisoned a bedrock of the Kingdom’s conservatism. This article examines both the economic and legal reforms that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is currently undergoing, particularly with respect to its “Vision 2030” master-plan, and its attempt to modernize its outdated legislation and policies.

Kingdom-wide, women were commemorating their civil rights following the issue of a royal decree from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, permitting them to drive for the first time in Saudi history. The new law is set to take effect in June of 2018, ending Saudi Arabia’s long-lived status as the only country to ban women drivers on the roads. Women find themselves liberated from their legal and political constraints. This hard-earned transformation was brought to fruition after decades of gender-based protests; women have challenged the law by committing subversive acts such as driving on public roads without valid licenses in an attempt to fight against the patriarchal system.

The recent decree has mustered a host of opinions: conservatives denounced the law, stating that the government is “bending the verses of Sharia law,” while advocates praised the fact that women can now drive. Irrespective of societal concerns, looming legal implications prove to be the impetus behind the nine-month delay between the issuance of the royal decree and its procedural implementation. Systematically, when a royal decree of this magnitude is issued, the Council of Senior Scholars (“Council”) perform a comprehensive review to determine whether there is an objection with respect to Sharia law. While the Council gave the green light, the concern remains that the nine-month waiting period provides the government with ample time to compose some restrictions on women’s rights while driving. But this concern might soon be abandoned, as the Saudi government is currently working on introducing an anti-harassment law in an attempt to combat sexual harassment and make it safer for women to drive the streets alone. Further fueling the progression of female independence is the abolishment of the requirement that females need the consent of their male guardians to obtain driver’s license or to drive.
Legal & Economic Implications of Saudi Arabia’s Political Reforms

The interplay between the Saudi government and its economy is a synergistic one – where the former is endorsed and emboldened by the latter. Legally, there was never a formal law or decree that collectively and collaterally called for the banning of female drivers. Procedurally however, women were unable to obtain driving licenses due to the government’s reluctance to issue them to females.12 The issuance of this decree is used as propulsion to push an economic movement funded by the government.13 While the lifting of the driving ban is honed globally, there will undoubtedly be some pushbacks and resistance within more the conservative segments of Saudi society who see this decree as a move towards greater female independence, a position they oppose explicitly. There is a certain level of polarization that exists in Saudi society between the more “modern” Saudis and the more “traditional” Saudis.14

For working women in the Kingdom, transportation has proved to be a leading obstacle impeding their ability to freely navigate around the city. Until recently, women were largely dependent on male drivers to chauffeur them around town. The streamlined shift in Saudi’s tenor towards women is not without consequences, though. While the lifting of the long-standing ban spells freedom for women, it will also have a significant impact on the Kingdom’s economy, as an estimated 800,000 imported drivers work in Saudi Arabia. Such drivers cost families nearly one-third of their budget.15 Other changes will largely consist of procedural, logistic, and bureaucratic adjustments in the form of restructuring the public roads16 and the implementation of driving schools for women.17 Leaders expressed their qualms about the promptness of this sudden evolution – some suggest that the Saudi leadership “will continue to support a private sector that will nonetheless still be semi-dependent on the good will of the government.”18

Facially, this sudden evolution in governmental policy and procedure nullifies the Saudi ministry’s deep-seated concern of drifting away from Sharia principles. This shift is materialized less by the progressive advancement of women’s rights and more by the rampant economic perils that the Kingdom has faced in recent years. It should be noted, however, that the Saudi government is publicly casting its appreciation for the value of women, that “Saudi women are integral parts of public life … as they already work in various sectors in medicine, law, education, engineering, among others.”19 Further, according to International Chamber of Commerce board member, Dr. Shadi Khawandanah, this royal decree is “a step towards realizing the Vision 2030 that promotes equality and justice.”20

But how much of a change is really coming? Through the blueprint of Vision 2030, the thirty-two-year-old Crown Prince, Muhammad bin Salman is striving to reconstruct Saudi’s economy altogether. Within the past year, Prince Salman has delivered dynamic and progressive policy reforms, insisting that the Kingdom is due for a change in its political course. He intends to deploy this new structure with a vision of carrying the society into the 21st century – generating a broader industrialized economy that is less dependent on the oil industry. Through this economic revolution, the Prince has received criticism from an array of political leaders.21 His overly-liberal, reformist approach suggests that a change is certainly coming.

As it stands, allowing women to drive is merely one mechanism of reforming the Kingdom’s economic agenda, particularly by streamlining the amount of money the government spends on its citizens.22 But this royal decree isn’t the only legal reform that is in line with Vision 2030. Saudi’s Sovereign Wealth Fund recently announced its intention to establish a company within the entertainment division; this particular sector has been legally banned within the Kingdom for decades.23 Prince Muhammad bin Salman has also taken the initiative to launch a Kingdom-wide crackdown on dissent, with political rivals, clerics, and even critics, falling victim to this movement.24 While such reforms exemplify the Kingdom’s independence from the oil industry, unpredictable changes are approaching.

Although this royal decree spells freedom for Saudi women, an abundance of questions are still left unanswered. Will the government need to introduce female police to regulate traffic? Will women be permitted to drive with non-relative males in the car? Will women be held to the same standards as men if found negligent? While these issues remain a concern, one thing is certain: a positive change is coming, and the hope is that all people within the Saudi society will be ready for it when it comes.

Conclusion

In sum, the Saudi government’s Vision 2030 aims to enact new legal and political policies throughout the entire Kingdom. These reform policies were created to drive the younger generation of Saudis to seek professions within the private sector, producing less dependence on government sponsorships and subsidies.25 As a result, legal (and economic) reformists aspire to build a progressive evolution in governance in order to restore the rapport between the people and the government.

About the Author

Ryan M. Mardini is a 3L student at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, focusing his legal concentration on corporate and business law. This past summer, Mr. Mardini worked as a Summer Associate at Baker McKenzie in their Dubai office. He focused his work within the Firm’s corporate and commercial litigation team. Mr. Mardini is striving to become recognized as an up-and-coming corporate attorney with a keen focus on making a change within the city of Detroit.
Endnotes

1. This momentous day was celebrated with “jubilation” on a multitude of social media platforms, resulting in all networks, such as Twitter and Facebook, to be submerged with the hashtag “Saudi women can drive”. See generally, Harriet Alexander, Saudi Arabia to allow women to drive in major milestone for country, The Telegraph, Sept. 26, 2017, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/26/saudi-arabia-allow-women-drive/.

2. On April 25, 2016, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, via the King Salman and his son, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, released a forward-looking economic plan attempting to modernize itself and publically declared itself as “the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds, the investment power house, and the hub connecting three continents.” See generally, Vision 2030, http://vision2030.gov.sa/en (Last visited Nov. 18, 2017).

3. While the Kingdom is traditionally known to venerate both royal status and age, Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman is thought to be the impetus behind this large-scale revolution, via his father’s authority as King. Elyem Atakav, Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia argues that this royal decree was promoted not solely for women’s rights, but for other ideological and political reasons why it was implemented at this time.


5. Yasemin Saib, Saudi Activist, Chariwoman, Muslim Woman’s Organization of South Florida Board of Advisors, Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality & Equality; Eylem Atakav, Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia; and Rothna Begum - Women’s rights researcher, Human Rights Watch. During the interview conducted by Sami Zeidan, all of these female leaders agreed that women around the Kingdom shared similar sentiments regarding the lifting of the ban. See Sami Zeidan, Is Saudi Arabia on a reform path?, Al Jazeera, Sept. 2017 [hereinafter “Is Saudi Arabia on a Reform Path?”].

6. Extrinsicaly, the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is legally responsible for the royal decree. However, the pathway to this transformation has been paved for decades by brave women across the Kingdom. These women tempted arrests by fighting for the rights. See generally, Manal Al-Sharif, Daring to Drive-A Saudi Woman’s Awakening (2011).

7. See, Is Saudi Arabia on a Reform Path?, supra note 5.

8. The Council met and discussed the potential implications with respect to this royal decree, but saw no impediment to women driving within the Kingdom. See, Staff Writer, Senior scholars see no impediment to women driving in Saudi Arabia, Al Arabiya English, Sept. 2017.

9. Many people also believe that this nine-month period will be used to allow the Saudi society some time to digest this historic movement. The word “change” has been used rather discretely in the past. When the Kingdom has pushed for a transformation, any progress has been dressed up with legal garb as “reform.” But because this “change” is a momentous impact, both politically and economically, the concern remains whether the government will procedurally implement the royal decree. See Women are still not in the driving seat, supra note 10.


11. See Madawi Al-Rasheed, Women are still not in the driving seat in Saudi Arabia, The Guardian, Sept. 2017 [hereinafter “Women are still not in the driving seat”].


13. See discussion infra below.

14. This is more evident within the bigger cities in Saudi—Jeddah’s atmosphere is more liberal in lifestyle, dressing, and within the segregated compounds, while Riyadh adopts a more conservative view within that aspect.


16. The Saudi government will need to restructure its public roads in order to account for the upsurge in drivers. While this issue may be relieved by the potential elimination of the male chauffeur’s that currently occupy the roads, the concern remains that the sudden influx of female drivers will spell disastrous outcomes for traffic congestions and time-delays. Nicolas Parsie and Margherita Stancati, Car Makers Woo Millions of Saudi Women as Driving Ban Ends, WALL ST. J., Oct., 2017, available at: https://www.wsj.com/articles/car-makers-woo-millions-of-saudi-women-as-driving-ban-ends-1507201201.

17. The government will also need to initiate the issuance of driver’s licenses for women across the Kingdom. This can take a toll of the financial implications that Saudi is undergoing. But what is more important, perhaps, is the fact that the government will need to implement driving schools specifically for women. This is largely due to the fact that men and women cannot “comingle” in a given area if they are not blood related or related by marriage. In turn, the government will need to construct and actualize new female-only driving schools in order to accommodate and educate the female population.

18. Nasser Al Wasi, Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030: economic reform likely to bring political changes too, The National, July 2017 [hereinafter “Economic Reform”] (citing a report published by the UK-based Chatham House that, “This transition will be a difficult one, and will create winners and losers. In particular, a generation of less well-educated youth will find it extremely
difficult to make a decent living in the private sector and are thus likely to need social and economic support”.

See generally, Laya Damanhouri, A step forward for women, Saudi Gazette, September, 2017.

Id.

The decision to lift the driving ban is likely to “save families billions of dollars, boost industries from car sales to insurance, and reassure investors that the Kingdom’s push to diversify its economy beyond oil is on track.” See Katie Paul and Andrew Torchia, End to women’s driving ban to save Saudis billions, support reforms, Reuters, Sept. 2017.

See generally, Simon Tisdall, Mohammed bin Salman al-Saud: the hothead who would be king, The Guardian, June 2017, available at: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/25/mohammed-bin-salman-saudi-heir-young-hothead-with-ambitions (explaining that the Prince “is seen as a reform-minded new broom who could sweep the country to a brighter, more open future”).

While allowing women to drive is a mechanism for increasing women’s participation in the economy, another momentous event was women were allowed to enter the King Fahad stadium for the first time to celebrate the 87th anniversary of the Kingdom’s foundation. See Stephen Kalin, National celebrations open Saudi sports stadium to women for first time, Reuters, Sept. 2017.

The Saudi government is venturing to taper off its dependence on oil. This will be achieved by increasing the amount of participation within its economy, particularly by women in the workforce. Melissa Etehad and Nabiha Bulos, Allowing women to drive is expected to boost Saudi Arabia’s economy, L.A. TIMES, Oct. 2017, available at: http://beta.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-saudi-arabia-driving-2017-story.html.

Karen Young, Arab Gulf States Institute, Guest on Is Saudi Arabia on a Reform Path?, supra note 5.

See generally, Staff Writer, Saudi sovereign wealth fund to launch entertainment investment company, Al Arabiya English, Sept. 2017 (stating that “[t]he company, which will have an initial capitalization of $ 2.67 billion (SAR 10 billion), will play an active investment role in various areas of the entertainment sector, and seek to attract strategic partnerships to build the eco-system within the Kingdom”).

Is Saudi Arabia on a Reform Path?, supra note 5; See also, Leyal Khalife, 4 moments that prove Saudi Arabia is serious about its shift to ‘moderate’ Islam, Stepfeed, Sept. 2017, available at: https://stepfeed.com/4-moments-that-prove-saudi-arabia-is-serious-about-its-shift-to-moderate-islam-1544 (illustrating Saudi’s departure from its “fundamentalist interpretation of Islam,” with a focus more geared towards “returning to a moderate Islam that is open to all religions” (quoting a speech delivered by the Crown Prince during the Future Investment Initiative Summit).

Economic Reform, supra note 16.

2017-2018 Goals and Missions

“Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What’s a sundial in the shade?” —Benjamin Franklin

2017-2018 Goals and Missions

1. Provide Members with Interesting Educational Programs on Practice-Relevant International Law Topics
2. Encourage Initiatives and Provide Opportunities to Expand Social, Professional, Civic, and Geographic Diversity of Membership
3. Increase Engagement and Empowerment of Council and ILS Members to Accomplish the Goals and Missions of the ILS
4. Provide Business Development and Personal Growth Opportunities for Members by Increasing Visibility of ILS within the Community
5. Aim High and Have Fun!

2017-2018 Strategies to Achieve Goals and Missions

Goal and Mission #1: Provide Members with Interesting Educational Programs on Practice-Relevant International Law Topics

• Establish a “Programs” Team comprised of at least 3 Council Members and/or Members-at-Large to identify program topics, speakers, and venues for quarterly programs. The “Programs” Team will work with the Executive Group to finalize programs.

• Invite speakers with diverse expertise to speak on variety of topics

• Emphasize relevance of ILS/international law issues to most practice areas
• Use technology to have members attend remotely
• Keep the ILS Section website updated
• Hold informal “Brown Bag” Lunches to share ideas, lessons learned, mini-topics

Goal and Mission #2: Encourage Initiatives and Provide Opportunities to Build Social, Professional, Civic, and Geographic Diversity of Membership
• Expand use of SBM Connect and Social Media – Road trip to SBM Lansing for a tutorial?
• Hold joint meetings with other SBM Sections
• Expand geographic locations of meetings
• Invite other SBM Sections to attend ILS meetings
• Hold meetings in conjunction with other organizations
• Expand collaboration with Michigan law schools by going to each school to speak with the students
• Facilitate further law student/young lawyer attendance and involvement by expanding mentorship activities
• Hold social events outside of quarterly and annual meetings
• Appoint Diversity/Inclusion Coordinator – perhaps Co-Coordinators?

Goal and Mission #3: Increase Engagement and Empowerment of Council and ILS Members
• Schedule regular Council conference calls and/or in-person meetings to ensure that tasks are progressing and to further the goals and missions of the Section
• Encourage Council Members to facilitate at least 1 function and 1 Michigan International Lawyer article during the year, bringing in non-Council Members for able assistance
• Promote a “Bring a Friend” policy within the Section
• Encourage each Council Member to become fully engaged in the Section by attending Council meetings and by actively participating in or facilitating at least 1 SBM ILS goal

Goal and Mission #4: Provide Business Development and Personal Growth Opportunities for Members by Increasing Visibility of ILS within the Community
• Hold joint programs with other sections of the SBM, the Ontario Bar Association, Chambers of Commerce
• Create a “Member Directory” of specializations
• Have Detroit Legal News photograph and publish photos of our Section’s activities
• Provide professional and volunteer outreach to community and civic groups – Example: Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, Greening of Detroit, Adopt-a-Family, etc.
• Establish an annual award to an individual who most closely represents the aims, goals, and mission of the ILS
• Encourage authorship of scholarly articles in the Michigan International Lawyer.
• Beg someone to take charge of our Section’s digital footprint

Goal and Mission #5: Aim High and Have Fun!
• Establish a “Camaraderie” Team to identify opportunities for social gatherings
• Host an “End of Year” or a “Welcome in the Year” mixer
• Hold informal ILS breakfasts at area restaurants for Members to meet each other

2016-2017 Goals
1. Provide Educational and Interesting Council Meeting Programs for Members
2. Increase Membership and Diversity of Membership
3. Increase Engagement and Activity of Council Members and Committees

2016-2017 Accomplishments
Goal #1:
• Business meetings were run on time and within 30-45 minutes
• Invited amazing speakers with diverse expertise to speak on variety of topics
• Emphasized relevance of ILS/international law issues to many practice areas
• Increased ILS member social interaction time by having excellent networking opportunities after each program

Goal #2:
• Held joint meetings with other SBM Sections
• Invited other SBM Sections to attend ILS meetings
• Held meetings in conjunction with other organizations
• Continued efforts to collaborate with Michigan law schools and to try to encourage law student/young lawyer attendance and involvement
• Sponsored Young Lawyers Forum
• Explored methods to increase social media presence
• Surveyed members to better understand what benefits they seek from section membership
• Expanded geographic locations of meetings
Goal #3:
• Scheduled monthly Council and Committee Chair conference calls
• Asked Committee Chairs to facilitate one function and one MIL article during year
• Ensured each Council Member is engaged and attending Council meetings and actively participating or facilitating at least one SBM ILS goal

Minutes of the Council of the International Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan

The quarterly meeting of the Council (“Council”) of the International Law Section (“Section”) of the State Bar of Michigan (“State Bar” or “SBM”) was held on May 10, 2017, at the L. William Seidman Center of Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan in conjunction with the Section’s sponsorship of a program of the U.S. Commercial Service entitled Managing Global Teams as part of West Michigan World Trade Week. Written notice of the meeting was provided to all members of the Council and to Members of the Section in accordance with the Section’s Bylaws.

The following officers of the Council were present in person: Debra Auerbach Clephane, Chair Elect, and James Rayis, Treasurer. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair-Elect assumed duties and chaired the meeting. In the absence of the Secretary, minutes were taken by the Treasurer. A quorum of voting members of the Council was determined to be present in person. Names of the attendees will be filed with these meeting minutes.

Call to Order
The Chair-elect called the meeting to order at approximately 11:05 a.m. A quorum was determined to be present and announced by the Chair-elect.

Approval of Agenda
The Chair-elect circulated an agenda for the meeting, which was approved as presented by the Council in voice vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
There being no minutes of the March 8 Council meeting available, a vote to approve such minutes was dispensed with.

Treasurer’s Report
The Treasurer announced that financial statements for the prior quarter were not yet available. Therefore, the financial statements were neither presented nor submitted.

Chair’s Report
The Chair-elect relayed the regrets of the Chair as she was unable for good cause to attend.

The Chair noted that the Secretary had been tasked with drafting a survey of the membership and reported that the Secretary is to provide an update on that effort. She noted that he had made available to the Council a draft membership survey but did not have one available.

The Chair-elect then announced that the publication of the Michigan International Lawyer, whose publication this year had been delayed as discussed at the previous meeting of the Council, was reportedly delayed by reason of the promised submission of an article by the U.S. Department of Justice. The article was not submitted and was ultimately withdrawn.

The Chair-elect reminded Council that the February 2018 issue of the Michigan Bar Journal is to be devoted to Immigration law. She announced the deadline to submit articles to be included in the Immigration issue was October 15, 2017 for release of the issue in February 2018. As the Chair-elect is also serving as co-editor of the issue, articles may be submitted directly to her. Such articles should be approximately 2,500 words in length.

Committee Chair Reports
The Chair-elect then invited the Section’s Committee Chairs to report on their activities.

Council member Douglas Duchek, as Chair of the Mentor Committee reported that efforts are underway by the Mentor Committee to re-launch the Mentor Program by having it administered out of the career development offices of the five law schools in Michigan with the support of the Section’s Law School Representative from each law school. To this end, the Mentor Committee has been in Email communication with each law school’s dean or career development person to explain, begin to organize locally at the school re-launch the Mentor Program at the start of the next academic year. The school’s Law Student Representative will act as the resident support person for the Mentor Program at their
respective school. In this way the committee believes that Law School Representatives to the Section should become more engaged with the law students at their school and promote Section participation and membership. As of the meeting date responses from Michigan State and WMU-Cooley have been received and responses from all five law schools are anticipated in the near future.

The Treasurer, as Chair of the Social Committee, announced his communication with the French American Chamber of Commerce Deputy Executive Director, Elodie Russery, to promote a joint social activity between the two organizations. Mme. Russery requested details concerning specific programming details that the Section would like to organize for participation with FACC. Council member Reinhardt Lemke suggested that numerous foreign chambers are participating at the Meadowbrook Wine and Food Festival in August. The Section might consider joining as a sponsor of the event.

Council member Reinhard Lemke further raised the issue of a meeting sponsored by Automation Alley for SMEs on the topic of industry 4.0 initiatives to be held at the Detroit Renaissance Center in November. The conference focus is the digitalization of business. Mr. Lemke announced that he knows Mr. Tom Kelley, a man involved in the program, and would be happy to initiate a dialogue as representative of the Section.

The Chair-elect then posed a consideration to the meeting in regards to purely social events of the Section general membership. Events such as a Tigers game or Red Wings outing might be considered to raise social interaction. No determinations were made or specific action approved in regard to the social issues discussed.

**New Business**

The Chair-elect reported that the next Council meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2017, to be held in conjunction with the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting. The venue for the Council meeting and Section program will be at Cobo Hall in Detroit, from 1-4PM. The Section Council meeting will be from 1:00-1:40PM with the legal program presentation following thereafter, from 2-4PM. The program topic will be, “The Face of Immigration Under a New Administration: Policy and Practice”. The program will feature a discussion of immigration laws under the current administration. Topics will include: (1) historical review of immigration policy; (2) legal impact of new laws on business immigration; (3) criminal aliens and inadmissibility; and (4) family-based immigration and asylum/refugee issues. Confirmed speakers are: Hon. Elizabeth A. Hacker U.S. Immigration Judge (Ret.); Robert M. Birach, Immigration Attorney, AILA Dept of Labor Liaison and former AILA Board of Governors; Rachel Settlage, Asst. Professor and Director, Asylum and Law Clinic, Wayne State Law School; and Dorothy H. Basmajji, Shareholder, The Murray Law Group, Michigan AILA Customs and Border Protection Liaison. Additional speakers may be forthcoming.

Outreach has been made to Chris Perry, DHS Customs and Border Protection, Nabeela Barbari DHS Civil Rights/Civil Liberty Division, and Kevin March ICE District Director for the Detroit District.

The Chair-elect then passed out a Cobo Hall price list for food and beverages and suggested to the Council that the cost seemed expensive and that while we may have coffee/tea, etc., it might be better for us to have a gathering after the program at a nearby restaurant, perhaps using the Q Line to get there. This idea was roundly supported and many ideas floated, including El Barzon (Junction Street) near the former Tiger Stadium and Detroit Coney Island/American Coney Island. This was agreed by the Council without specific vote.

The Chair-elect next discussed the possibility of issuing an award to Section members with significant accomplishment that could be presented as a recognition by the Section. As this issue was being discussed, Council member Lemke raised the idea of sponsoring an award to outside recipients for accomplishments in an area within the Section’s mission and interest. This could be awarded at a special banquet or meeting organized for the purpose of granting the award, thereby also raising the profile of the Section. This suggestion was met with enthusiasm. The Chair-elect then created a special committee and named three Council members, Tim Kauffman, Randy Wright and Bob Rothman, to serve on a committee for the purpose of exploring the award issue. No specific name was assigned to the committee.

Next the Chair-elect announced that three Council positions will expire at the SBM annual meeting this year. She reported that names of those interested in serving on the Council should be given to her as Chair-elect for presentation to the Council.

The Chair-elect then noted that too many Committees were entirely inactive and had no reports throughout the year. She hoped chairs would be more active and engaged. Council member Duchek suggested that several committees could be combined, as they have overlapping areas of focus. An example was the Emerging Nations Committee. He suggested some committees could instead be made as task forces with a specific mandate and duration, thereby ensuring an expiration upon the end of the mandate.

Section member Marianna Wess then announced that the sponsorship by Turkish American Society of Michigan for the International Children’s Festival at the Balkan American Community Center in Troy had been dropped and was being supported by the Russian Cultural Center and smaller groups. She indicated the value of the festival and the good works resulting from the funds raised. Ms. Wess distributed information about the festival. She hoped other groups could step in for sponsorships of any size and even individuals could
contribute in smack dollar amounts. The Chair-elect noted that the festival date was already May 21 and too soon for any action to be taken by the Section.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:43 p.m.

Hors D’oeuvres and Program

The Quarterly Meeting program was held in conjunction with this year’s West Michigan World Trade Week, at Grand Valley State University, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Section sponsored a three-part legal program. The first session was entitled, “Protecting Intellectual Property against Cyber theft and Infringement.” The moderator was Elliott Church, Kreis Enderle, and the panelists were: John Seurynck, Director and Associate General Counsel, Patents & Product Regulatory, Alticor Inc. (parent company of Amway); Thomas Moga, LeClair Ryan; and John King, FBI, Internet Crime Unit. The second program was entitled, “Working with Foreign Nationals, International Data Laws & Deemed Exports,” and was moderated by Ryan McKnight, In-house Counsel, Avasure. The panelists for this program were: Robert Rothman, Principal, Privacy Associates International LLC; Anne Blake-Dreher, Assistant General Counsel, Global Labor and Employment, Perrigo; and James Rayis, Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C. The third session was called, “Creating International Sales Agreements that Stick.” The moderator was Tracy T. Larsen, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. Panelists were: Jennifer Miller, Associate General Counsel, Wolverine Worldwide; Jean G. Schtokal, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC; Jand im O’Connor, Vice President, Corporate Compliance Officer, Steelcase. A networking reception followed, which was hosted by World Trade Week sponsors. The programs and reception were very well attended and received.

Respectfully submitted,

James Y. Rayis, for the Secretary
International Law Section State Bar of Michigan

At the Annual Meeting—September 2017

Front row (l-r): Lara Phillip, Debbie Clephane, James Rayis, Betina Schlossberg, Bob Rothman, Amanda Osorio, Troy Harris
Back row (l-r): Paul Vandevert, Neil Woelke, Reinhard Lemke, Tim Kaufmann, John Wright, Doug Duchek, David Sloan

Photo by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC
# Treasurer's Report

## For the ten months ending July 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Activity July 2017</th>
<th>Year-to-date July 2017</th>
<th>Year-to-date July 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Law Section Dues</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>14,350.00</td>
<td>14,315.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Stud/Affil Dues</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue:</strong></td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>14,385.00</td>
<td>14,350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ListServ</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>3,771.96</td>
<td>3,610.25</td>
<td>3,610.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>330.00</td>
<td>310.00</td>
<td>310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>55.49</td>
<td>55.49</td>
<td>810.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>135.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Expenses</td>
<td>1,343.72</td>
<td>1,289.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>1,182.26</td>
<td>1,285.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>20.43</td>
<td>20.43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>104.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>598.63</td>
<td>235.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses:</strong></td>
<td>125.92</td>
<td>7,663.26</td>
<td>8,480.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income:</strong></td>
<td>(90.92)</td>
<td>6,721.74</td>
<td>5,869.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Beginning Fund Balance:** 15,053.56 13,814.23  
**Total Beginning Fund Balance:** 15,053.56 13,814.23  
**Ending Fund Balance:** 21,775.30 19,683.60

## For the eleven months ending August 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Activity August 2017</th>
<th>Year-to-date August 2017</th>
<th>Year-to-date August 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Law Section Dues</td>
<td>14,350.00</td>
<td>14,385.00</td>
<td>14,385.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Stud/Affil Dues</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue:</strong></td>
<td>14,385.00</td>
<td>14,420.00</td>
<td>14,420.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ListServ</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>275.00</td>
<td>275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>3,771.96</td>
<td>3,610.25</td>
<td>3,610.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>330.00</td>
<td>310.00</td>
<td>310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>55.49</td>
<td>1,000.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>135.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Expenses</td>
<td>1,343.72</td>
<td>1,289.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>722.46</td>
<td>1,904.72</td>
<td>1,895.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>20.43</td>
<td>20.43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>598.63</td>
<td>235.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses:</strong></td>
<td>772.46</td>
<td>8,435.72</td>
<td>8,741.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income:</strong></td>
<td>(772.46)</td>
<td>5,949.28</td>
<td>5,678.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Beginning Fund Balance:** 15,053.56 13,814.23  
**Total Beginning Fund Balance:** 15,053.56 13,814.23  
**Ending Fund Balance:** 21,002.84 19,492.72
Comprehensible Writing for Your Clients

By Roberta M. Gubbins, Clear & Convincing Feature Article

Organize Contacts

Long ago, the drafters of legal documents in the United Kingdom were paid by the word. This led to needless verbiage to raise the word count and fee. The practice was banned in the 19th century, but the habit of creating long wordy documents too dense to understand continued.

In the 90s, an executive memo from President Bill Clinton required government agencies to write in plain English. The Michigan legal community was ahead of the trend away from legalese to plain English with its Plain Language column in the Michigan Bar Journal which began in May 1984, and continues to this day.

Using plain language helps you to be precise in your writing, whether it be a legal contract, an e-mail to clients, or a blog post. Providing clear and succinct information the reader can access quickly and understand helps. Here are a few tips for improving your writing:

The Reader—What kind of client is reading the newsletter, blog, or article? Consider their occupation, age range, level of education, or experience in the field. Give readers as much as they need to understand the situation and explain how the law looks at the problem. Think of talking to the client rather than giving a speech about the topic to your peers.

Help the Reader—Change legalese into plain English, for example:
• Delay for defer
• Must for shall
• Grant for confer
• Stop for desist
• Reduction for abatement
• Follow for comply with

Replace wordy phrases such as prior to, with regard to, or in connection with; these words have little meaning for readers and get in the way of understanding.

Style & Structure

• Create white space with bullet points, boldface, lists, or subheads.
• Keep sentences and paragraphs short.
• Edit ruthlessly cutting out unnecessary words. Using fewer words improves speed, clarity, and impact. Adding more words distracts and slows down reading speed.
• Use action verbs. Instead of saying "The bill was passed by the legislature," try "The legislature passed the bill." Or, rather than "Billy was arrested by the FBI" use, "The FBI arrested Billy."
• Review the article. Did you start with the most important part? Read the story out loud to find the trouble spots.
• Sleep on it. Stephen King advises putting the manuscript in a drawer for six weeks to age. You don’t have that amount of time, but even a few hours can make a big difference.

Clean Up

• Don’t rely on a spell checker to catch all errors.
• Check for correct use of ‘its’ (possessive) and ‘it’s’ (it is).
• Use contractions consistently (e.g. don’t use ‘we’ll’ in one place and ‘we will’ in another.

Finally, have fun with it. It’s not a brief for a judge, it’s a story for your clients. Enjoy the telling.

Roberta Gubbins has served as the editor of the Ingham County Legal News. Since leaving the paper, she provides services as a ghostwriter editing articles, blogs, and e-blasts for lawyers and law firms. She is the editor of The Mentor, SBM Master Lawyers Section newsletter.
2017-2018 Officers

Chair
Debra Auerbach Clephane
The Murray Law Group, P.C.
dclephane@murraylawpc.com

Chair-Elect
Troy Harris
Harris Arbitration
troy.harris@harrisarbitration.com

Secretary
James Y. Rayis
Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C.
jrayis@gmhlaw.com

Treasurer
Elliott J. R. Church
Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C.
echurch@KreisEnderle.com

Immediate Past Chair
Lara Fetsco Phillip
Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP
lara.phillip@bonigman.com

2017-2018 Council Members
Reinhard Lemke (2018)
Lemke & Associates PLLC
reinhardlemke@sbcglobal.net

Timothy M. Kaufmann (2019)
Hewson & Van Hellemont, P.C.
tkaufmann@vanheucpc.com

Douglas F. Duchek (2020)
Duchek Law Office
dfduchek@ducheklaw.com

Amanda Osorio (2018)
Revision Legal
amanda@revisionlegal.com

David Sloan (2019)
Law Offices of David Sloan
history584@aol.com

Robert L. Rothman (2020)
Privacy Associates International LLC
rrothman@privassoc.com

Kozik Woelke
nwoelke@kozikwoelke.com

Paul Vandevert (2019)
International Trade Attorney
micawber414@gmail.com

Betina Schlossberg (2020)
Schlossberg Legal, PLLC
betina@bsblegal.com

John Wright (2020)
Burris Law, PLLC
john@burrisiplaw.com

Law Student Representatives
Monica Sue Batsford
Wayne State University Law School

Kerry Martin and Charles Baeder
University of Michigan Law School

Chanavia L. Smith
Western Michigan University Cooley Law School

Jeffrey O’Brien
University of Detroit Mercy Law School

Michigan International Lawyer
Justin Weber, Student Editor

Commissioner Liaison
Joseph J. Baumann