

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

February 26, 2013, 4:00 p.m.  
at Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C.  
27777 Franklin Rd, Ste. 2500, Southfield, MI

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – Elaine Pohl, Chair  
Quorum of members present
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, Council Meeting November 19, 2013  
Hal Carroll moved for approval, Mark Cooper seconded, motion passed, minutes approved
3. TREASURER’S REPORT, Larry Bennett  
As of December 31, 2013, there is a \$41,000 balance
4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT, Elaine Pohl  
  
700 members currently
5. CHAIR REPORT, Elaine Pohl
  - Listserve – money has been approved for member announcements. At this time, Elaine Pohl is the sole member with authority to operate the listserve and will send announcements out.
  - Proposed legislation relating to State Bar membership – the legislation was reviewed and concerns a move to make the State Bar a voluntary association with right to opt out. Some sections have taken a position against the legislation and a discussion was conducted among those in attendance at the meeting. Concerns were voiced related to the oversight and licensing role of the State Bar and how that would be replaced if membership were voluntary. It was also discussed that the legislation appears politically motivated. Elaine Pohl agreed to investigate this and report to the board.
6. EDITOR’S REPORT, Hal Carroll
  - **E-BLASTS**  
Currently we send an e-blast after each issue comes out.  
The first two worked to get more authors, but the last two did not.  
Still, I think we should continue. They don’t cost much, and I can’t think of a more effective way to canvass all of our members.  
We have been having trouble getting enough authors.  
I ask council members to recruit an author.

- **TOPICS**

I think it helps to recruit authors if we can suggest topics.

I do that in each e-blast, but the topics are just the ones I can think up.

So you can each help by coming up with new topics.

**Please look at the e-blast and see if you can come up with new ideas.**

**Maybe you can recruit an author.**

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Membership, Co-chairs Barry Feldman, Dan Steele

It is unclear whether Barry and Dan remain interested in heading this committee.

Elaine will discuss it with them.

Program, Kathleen Lopilato

Considering a webinar and participating in a young lawyers summit. Elaine and Kathy are taking the lead on this.

Publications, Hal Carroll

Hal would like more active support from the committee members and Elaine will handle notices.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Business Court Project and Database Update (Hal Carroll) – the database is up and running with Hal handling the approval process. It was proposed that the database be checked annually to verify section membership of database names. An eblast will be sent out by Hal at the end of March regarding the database. Still working on marketing ideas. Marketing ideas include county publications, circuit court administrator contacts, bar journals and section publications, chairs and business court judge mailings.
- Social media  
Adam Kutinsky will work on establishing a section LinkedIn page.
- Other?  
Hal believes (and the board agrees) that committees need to be more involved and active. He suggested soliciting new young attorneys and have a resolution to be created to require all 10 council members to actively participate in committees, with a pass for sitting chair and officers.

9. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING** June 3, 2014, Southfield 4:00 p.m.

10. **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn seconded and passed.

## Report on the Searchable Directory

We are ready to send out the e-blast. It will have the link, so they can just click on it.

### Questions:

1. Should we make this a directory of all members? If so, then for anyone who doesn't sign up voluntarily, we will have to insert their name and address and contact information. We can do that from the Excel list of members. But maybe we should just see how many we get when we send the announcement.

2. How do we "market" the list, i.e., let other attorneys and court personnel know that it is available and searchable?

Some possibilities:

A. We could send an announcement in pdf format to certain sections. Some possibilities: Negligence Law, Litigation, Property. We might have to pay for it.

B. We could make that announcement an advertisement and pay the section for running it in several issues.

C. Other groups we can notify:  
Association of Circuit Court Administrators  
Michigan Judicial Institute,  
SCAO Office of Dispute Resolution,  
Insurance Institute of Michigan,  
Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

D. How do we reach Business Court judges? Email notice with a link?

# SENATE BILL No. 743

January 23, 2014, Introduced by Senator MEEKHOF and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1961 PA 236, entitled  
"Revised judicature act of 1961,"  
by amending section 901 (MCL 600.901).

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 901. (1) The state bar of Michigan is a public body  
2 corporate, the membership of which consists of all ~~persons~~  
3 **INDIVIDUALS** who are ~~now and hereafter~~ licensed to practice law in  
4 this state **AND WHO ELECT TO JOIN.**

5           (2) **ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE STATE BAR:**

6           (A) The members of the state bar of Michigan are officers of  
7 the courts of this state. ~~and have the exclusive right to~~

8           (B) **AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT REQUIRED TO PAY A PERIODIC FEE FOR**  
9 **CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE STATE BAR.**

1           (2) ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THIS  
2 **STATE MAY** designate themselves as "attorneys and counselors," or  
3 "attorneys at law," or "lawyers." ~~No person is authorized to~~

4           (3) **AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL NOT** practice law in this state unless  
5 he **OR SHE** complies with the requirements of the supreme court with  
6 regard ~~thereto.~~ **TO THE AUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW IN THIS STATE.**