

# State Bar of Michigan Information Technology Law Section – Annual Report

**Bar Year:** 2014-2015

**Section Name:** Information Technology Law Section

The Information Technology Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information, and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, this site, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan. Statements made on behalf of the Section do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar of Michigan.

**Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the section is to review, comment upon, and apprise members of the State Bar of Michigan and others of developments in the law relating to information technology, including:

- the protection of intellectual and other proprietary rights;
- sale, leasing, distribution, provision, and use of, hardware, software, services, and technology, including computer and data processing equipment, computer software and services, games and gaming, information processing, programming, and computer networks;
- electronic commerce
- electronic implementation of governmental and other non-commercial functions;
- the Internet and other networks; and
- associated contract and tort liabilities, and related civil and criminal legal consequences.

**Bylaws:** The Information Technology Law Section bylaws were last amended November 16, 2012, and are available at <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw/council>

**Officers and Council Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Michael Gallo	2700 Renshaw Dr Troy, MI 48085	313-667-0031	michael@gallo.us.com
Chair-Elect	Susanna C. Brennan	Kelly Law Registry 3331 W Big Beaver Rd Suite 310 Troy, MI 48084	248-952-0539	brennsc@kellyregistry.com
Secretary	Christopher J. Mourad	269 Ridgemont Rd Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236	313-330-3455	cjmourad@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Donna K. Mallonee	PO Box 2265 Midland, MI 48641	989-793-5080	donnamallonee@yahoo.com

*Council Members with a term that expires September 30, 2015*

Steven D. Balagna – P33230  
Christopher J. Mourad – P68011  
Dalpreet Singh Saluja – P72292

*Council Members with a term that expires September 30, 2016*

Susanna C. Brennan – P67018  
William Henry Hartwell – P73847  
Donna K. Malonee – P68649

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Carla M. Perrotta – P67644  
 Robert L. Rothman – P23651  
 James McCauley Seitz – P23654  
 Clara Lauren Seymour – P74421  
 Nathan William Steed – P72355  
 David R. Syrowik – P25331

*Council Members with a term that expires September 30, 2017*

Keith A. Cheresko – P32663  
 Daniel John Henry – P68296  
 Jeanne Marie Moloney – PP72253  
 Isaac T. Slutsky – P72253

**Meeting Schedule:**

Minutes from all Information Technology Section meetings are available at <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw/council>

<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Privacy Law Committee	October 29, 2015	Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C., Southfield
IT Law Council	November 13, 2015	Bejin Bieneman PLC, Detroit
IT Law Council and Section	February 12, 2015	Teleconference
Privacy Law Committee	February 20, 2015	Kemp Klein Law Firm, Troy
IT Law Council and Section	May 14, 2015	Kemp Klein Law Firm, Troy
IT Law Council and Section	August 13, 2015	Kelly Law Registry, Troy
IT Law Section Annual Meeting	September 10, 2015	The Inn at St. John’s, Plymouth
IT Law Council	September 10, 2015	The Inn at St. John’s, Plymouth

**General Budget Information:** The Information Technology Law Section continues to be in excellent financial shape. Expenses are expected to be within the amounts proposed in the 2014/2015 budget, providing the 2015/2016 Information Technology Law Council with a fund balance of approximately \$50,000.

**Events and Seminars:**

<b>Event or Seminar Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
First Annual Entrepreneurial Law Institute	May 28-29, 2015	Detroit
8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Information Technology Law Seminar	September 10, 2015	The Inn at St. John’s, Plymouth

**Legislative issues:** None

**Recommendations for next Council:**

As always, new members can invigorate the Section and bring new ideas and programs alive. The 2015-2016 IT Law Section Council may wish to sponsor one or more events at Michigan Law schools to increase visibility.

Although the annual IT Law Seminar is doing well, improvements are always possible. By identifying a ‘Topics and Speakers’ committee earlier in the Council year, the Section could get a jump start on

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identification of that year's speakers and topics, which would allow for earlier development of flyers and communications, which may lead to an increased number of attendees and sponsors.

Adding a speaker or presenter at Section and Council meetings held during the year, combined with advertising of the presentation topic, may increase attendance by Section members, and encourage more volunteers for Council members and Section leadership positions.

The Council may wish to provide, sponsor, or co-sponsor other educational opportunities, such as a mid-year function with the International Law Section.

All State Bar of Michigan Sections are offered the opportunity to contribute to the *Michigan Bar Journal* 'Section Briefs', by submitting a notice of up to 75 words by the fifth of each month. The notice should contain significant developments in the law, noteworthy events, section publications or achievements, or any other information of interest. The IT Law Section took advantage of this opportunity several times during 2014-2015, and suggests the effort continue.

Each year, the *State Bar of Michigan* sponsors an 'invitation only' *Bar Leadership Forum*, and extends an invitation to the IT Law Section Chair and Chair-Elect. This event provides an opportunity to meet with peer Section and Bar leaders, attend various presentations, and provide recommendations for Section and Council considerations. Past attendees have enthusiastically recommended that IT Law Section leaders attend this two day event during June, which is typically held at Mackinac Island's *Grand Hotel*.

### Other Information:

- *Privacy Law Committee*
  - o The Information Technology Law Section supports a standing Privacy Law Committee, which is co-chaired by Bob Rothman, [rrothman@privassoc.com](mailto:rrothman@privassoc.com) and Keith Cheresko [kcheresko@privassoc.com](mailto:kcheresko@privassoc.com).
  - o The Privacy Committee is a forum for discussing this new and developing area of the law affecting a broad range of practices at the state, national and international levels. The committee also works to help educate members of the State Bar of Michigan about the privacy and security obligations of their own organizations and of their clients. The committee targets meeting quarterly, to discuss various privacy related matters.
  - o For more information, visit <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw/newsletter/news>
- *Annual Entrepreneurial Law Institute*
  - o The First Annual Entrepreneurial Law Institute, held May 28-29, 2015, was coordinated by ICLE, (the *Institute of Continuing Legal Education*) and cosponsored by the, *Business Law Section Information Technology Law Section* and *Intellectual Property Law Section*. The IT Law Section may wish to continue sponsorship in the future. There should be no cost to the Section for sponsoring the event, and Section members are offered discount from the cost of attending. For more information, visit [www.icle.org/eli](http://www.icle.org/eli).
- *Edward F. Langs Writing Award*
  - o Each year the IT Law Section seeks student essays for *Edward F. Langs Writing Awards*. A total of up to \$3,000 is divided between up to six award winning essays that contribute to the knowledge and understanding of information technology law. The winning essays are published in the Section's newsletter, the *Michigan IT Lawyer*. Essays must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document, postmarked by June 30 of the award year, and emailed to [dsyrowik@brookskushman.com](mailto:dsyrowik@brookskushman.com). For more information, visit <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw/newsletter/news>
- *The Michigan IT Lawyer*

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- The Information Technology Section sponsors a newsletter titled *'The Michigan IT Lawyer'*, which is published in electronic format, between four to six times per year. Prior issues are available at <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw/newsletter/newsletters>
- Ex-Officio member David Syrowik, *Brooks Kushman P.C.*, submits the article *'Recent Developments in Information Technology Law'* several times each year, as well as the annual article *'The State of Information Technology Law'*. These articles are a highlight of the publication, and ***the IT Law Section is indebted to Mr. Syrowik for his tireless effort in providing concise reviews of thousands of cases over the years. Thank you David!***
- *Information Technology Law Section Website*
  - During 2015, the State Bar of Michigan deployed a new web infrastructure that includes new landing pages for all Sections. To access the new web site for the Information Technology Section, visit <http://connect.michbar.org/itlaw>
- *Section Membership*
  - Section Members: 650 members
  - *LinkedIn* Group Members: 221 members. The Information Technology Law Section has a *LinkedIn* Group, titled *'IT Law Section of State Bar of Michigan'*, which is open to all State Bar of Michigan attorneys. The group provides a way for non-members to learn more about the Section, and allow everyone to participate in discussions, share information, present career opportunities, identify others with common interests, and receive prompt and timely notification of Section efforts. Visit <http://linkedin.com> and search for *'IT Law Section of State Bar of Michigan'* to join!
- *Member Publication*
  - In 2015, Ex-Officio Member Mark Malvern's *'Technology Transactions: A Practical Guide to Drafting and Negotiating Commercial Agreements'* was published by the *Practicing Law Institute*, and is available at <http://amazon.com>. The 410 page spiral-bound edition provides the reader with the tools necessary to draft, review and negotiate technology transaction agreements with the confidence that he or she is properly addressing the most important issues. The guide is also available in a *Kindle* version.
- *Michigan Pro Bono Patent Project*
  - The State Bar of Michigan has a new program that matches patent attorneys willing to provide pro bono patent prosecution services with low-income inventors. For more information regarding the *Michigan Pro Bono Patent Project*: <http://connect.michbar.org/iplaw/patent>. Section members interested in participating can also contact Kim Paulson, IT Law Section Ex-Officio Member, who is involved with this effort.