

**State Bar of Michigan
Information Technology Law Section
Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date

December 12, 2013 at 5:30 PM

Telephone Conference Information

1-866-434-5269, Passcode 9226568#

I. Networking

II. Call to Order – Ron Nixon, Chair

A. Council Members Present:

Steven D. Balagna
Susanna C. Brennan
Michael Gallo
William Hartwell
Donna K. Mallonee
Jeanne Whalen
Christopher J. Mourad
Ronald S. Nixon
Carla Perrotta
Robert L. Rothman
Clara Seymour
Isaac T. Slutsky
David R. Syrowik

B. Council Members Excused: Brian Hall, Daniel Henry, Nathan Steed, James Seitz

C. Council Members Absent: Dalpreet Singh Saluja

D. Section Members Present: Mark Malvern

E. Hope Shovein, Commissioner Liaison was also present.

F. A quorum of Council members was confirmed, and the meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

II. Approval of September 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes – Susanna Brennan, Secretary

A. Steve Balagna moved to approve the September 25, 2013 Council Meeting minutes, which was seconded by Jeanne Whalen and approved by the Council.

B. The 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Annual Reports have yet to be submitted for posting to the IT Law Section web site, on the Council Information page

III. Treasurer's Report – Michael Gallo, Chair-Elect

A. The Treasurer reported various expected expenses were submitted since the last meeting, and all reported revenues and expenses to date are in line with expectations. For the year ending September 2013, Revenue was \$11,740, Expenses were \$5,967.87, Net Income was \$5,772.13, and the Section Fund balance was \$45,952.51.

- B. We have over \$45,000 in reserve, which is higher than what the State Bar requires (generally 1.5 times annual revenue). We don't have to give this money back to the State Bar, but eventually they may strong-arm us to spend the money.
- C. The budgeted amount for the annual networking event was raised from \$500 to \$2,000. The Council will continue to discuss the budget before approval.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. ICLE Seminar/Annual Meeting – Ron Nixon
 - a. The Section Event was one of our most successful ever and we received good comments. Ron Nixon will send around a PDF of the comments on the Section Meeting.
 - b. Looking ahead, the Council will have to determine how to replace the IT Law Seminar as an annual event, review the impact to the Annual Section Member meeting, and make appropriate recommendations.
- B. Newsletters/Social Media – Michael Gallo
 - a. As of December 2013, the IT Law LinkedIn group has 189 members.
 - b. As of August 7, 2013, the IT Law Section's Announcement mailing list, which corresponds more closely to the number of Section members, has about 800 subscribers.
 - c. Council members are encouraged to show support by to the group's 'Discussions' tab. Contributions could be of interesting cases, upcoming Michigan events, new clips, 'Like' feedback on existing contributions, etc.
- C. Writing award – Michael Gallo, on behalf of Dave Syrowik
 - a. The 2013 Edward F Lang Award writing competition received 27 entries.
 - i. First Place (\$750): Shannon K. Murphy, "How Recent Attempts to Expand Economic Espionage Protection Will Likely Be Futile in Light of Trade Secret Protection Schemes Already Available to U.S. Companies"
 - ii. Second Place (\$500): Patrick Benjamin MacDonald, "Multiplayer Streaming as a Career – A New Industry or Copyright Infringement?"
 - iii. Third Place (\$250): Melissa Chan, "Cyberbullying: What Can We Do?"
 - b. Steve Balagna moved to approve the winners, which was seconded by Jeanne Whelan and approved by the Council.
 - c. For the 2014 Edward F. Langs Writing Competition, there will be an increase in the total award from \$1,500 to up to \$3,000, and the total number of awards from *three* to *up to six*. The actual number of awards and total award amount shall be dependent on the number of submissions deemed worthy of publication in *The Michigan IT Lawyer*.
- D. Privacy Law Committee – Bob Rothman and Keith Cheresko
 - a. Bob Rothman reported on the first in-person meeting of the Privacy Committee at Bodman in their downtown Detroit office. There is a

variation in expertise and different formats will be explored for each meeting. Steve Balagna added that he thought it was a successful meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of February.

V. New Business

- A. New Council Members: everyone in the room and on the phone gave a brief introduction about themselves.
- B. Treasurer Vacancy: Steve Balagna moved to nominate Christopher Mourad as Treasurer, which was seconded by Jeanne Whelan and approved by the Council.
- C. Meeting dates for remainder of year
 - a. Thursday, February 13, 2013
 - b. Thursday April 24, 2013
 - c. May / June – Spring Networking Event (TBD)
 - d. Thursday, August 14, 2013
- D. Annual Seminar
 - a. Discussion involving what to do about the Annual Seminar for 2013. In the past we would line up the speakers and ICLE would do the rest (venue, food, materials, registration, marketing, speaker shepherding, materials, and sponsors). The significant contribution by ICLE was managing all of the vendors and logistics and giving the Section a check at the end.
 - b. Hope Shovein indicated that the State Bar can provide registration and marketing.
 - c. Mark Malven indicated that the events person at Dykema will assist with coordination and facilitation, specifically venue, food, materials, registration, speaker shepherding and marketing.
 - d. An Annual Seminar Committee was formed:
 - i. Steve Balagna will look into private companies who will take over functions for ICLE, and find out what the Business Law Section is doing to replace the ICLE function.
 - ii. Ron Nixon will look into the resources provided by the State Bar and St. John's Inn.
 - e. Everyone should begin to think about either speaking at the Annual Seminar or ideas for speakers. A subcommittee is usually formed to discuss speakers and topics. Some topics/potential speakers could be the FTC, Mobile Apps, Big Data.
 - f. For anyone else in the Section who wants to get involved, this is a good time.
- E. Everyone should think about additional ideas for Section activities, e.g., law school presentations, sponsorships, networking, educational activities.

VI. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Malven, seconded by Bob Rothman, and approved by the Council at 7:01 pm.