

**State Bar of Michigan
Information Technology Law Section**

Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2010 2 6:45 p.m.
Dykema Gossett PLLC, Bloomfield Hills

1. Call to Order – Mark Malven, Chair.

Council Members Present: Mark Malven, Charles Bieneman, Karl Hochkammer, Ronald Nixon, Brian Hall, Mary Ann Wehr, William Cosnowski, Carla Perrotta, Claudia Rast, David Syrowik, Susanna Brennan, Nilay Dave, Michael Gallo, Jeremy Bisdorf (ex officio).

Council Members Absent: Mr. Malven noted the excused absences of Jeanne Dunk, William Lamping, Vincent Polley, Tatiana Melnik

2. Reading and approval of minutes from the August 11, 2010 Meeting – Charles Bieneman, Secretary (2009-2010).

Mr. Cosnowski moved to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2010 meeting as presented. Mr. Bieneman seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer’s Report and Proposal of 2010-11 Budget – Ron Nixon

Mr. Nixon presented the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Mr. Nixon noted that the proposed budget is similar to the budget for the prior fiscal year, except that certain expenses related to Council meetings and the annual meeting are proposed to be reduced significantly due to the expectation that the Section will combine the annual meeting with the ICLE seminar.

After discussion, Mr. Bieneman moved to approve the proposed 2010-2011 budget as presented. Mr. Cosnowski seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

4. Committee/Working Group Reports

a. 2010 ICLE Seminar/Annual Meeting – Charles Bieneman

Mr. Bieneman reported on the 2010 ICLE Seminar and annual meeting. By combining the seminar with the annual meeting of the Section, the Section was able to reduce expenses. Based on the feedback received, the combination of the annual meeting with the ICLE seminar was viewed as a success and there is a desire to continue holding the events together in the future. In addition, it was noted that the move to an all-day seminar and the increase in attendance fee and sponsorships resulted in a very successful seminar and a reduction in the amount of the loss incurred by the Section, even though attendance was down slightly

over the prior year. It was noted that a continued focus on increasing attendance and maintaining sponsorships could result in the seminar generating a small profit for the Section in subsequent years.

Mr. Bieneman agreed to chair the ICLE seminar/ annual meeting committee for the 2010-2011 year and expressed a desire to include new members on the committee. Ms. Perrotta agreed to work on this committee. Mr. Bieneman will seek out other volunteers from among the Council and Section members.

b. Newsletter Committee – Mike Gallo

Mr. Gallo noted that 6 issues of the Michigan IT Lawyer were published in the prior fiscal year and that 6 issues are planned for this fiscal year. Mr. Gallo noted that he still needs 2 articles of 10-20 pages for this year and is open to submissions. Mr. Gallo expects to publish 3 student articles from the writing competition this year.

Mr. Gallo noted that there are 5 subscribers who receive the Michigan IT Lawyer in hard format and that publication of these versions has resulted in the Section incurring an unnecessary expense. After discussion, it was moved that Section cease publishing hard copies of the Michigan IT Lawyer after the next issue and that the recipients of the hard copies will be so notified with the next issue. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

c. Writing Award Committee – Dave Syrowik

Mr. Syrowik noted that the Section awarded prizes to 3 student authors last year. Submissions for the 2011 award are due on June 30, 2011. There was a general discussion about how the Section can better publicize the writing award. Mr. Gallo agreed to contact the winners of the 2010 awards to determine how they learned of the award.

d. Proprietary Rights Committee – Dave Syrowik

Mr. Syrowik's annual report is forthcoming in the November 2011 issue of the Michigan IT Lawyer.

e. IT-Themed SBM Journal – Mark Malven

Mr. Malven noted that the June 2011 issue of the Michigan Bar Journal will have an IT theme. Mr. Malven solicited 4 articles of approximately 2,500 words in length. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2011.

5. New Business

a. Discuss Possible New Committees / Initiatives for 2010-2011

Mr. Malven presented the following list of potential new committees or initiatives for the Council to consider undertaking in 2010-2011. The list was based, in part, on the recommendations of Mr. Bisdorf, Chair of the Section in 2009-2010.

1. Revision of By-Laws

After discussion, Mr. Malven, Ms. Wehr, Ms. Rast and Mr. Bisdorf agreed to meet for the purpose of reviewing the current By-Laws of the Section and to make a recommendation to the Council at the next meeting on whether a Committee should be formed for the purpose of revising the By-Laws.

2. Essential knowledge for IT Lawyers

Mr. Malven suggested that the Council consider an initiative to collect and publish a work that identifies area of law that are cortical for the practice of IT law and the related legal resources. It was noted that this would be a very ambitious project. Mr. Malven suggested that this could be simply an outline of topics. Mr. Malven, Ms. Wehr and Mr. Bieneman agreed to meet to further discuss this idea and make a presentation of their ideas at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

3. Privacy

After a general discussion, it was decided not to pursue this as a separate topic at this time and to address the issue of privacy as part of the “essential knowledge for IT lawyers” topic under consideration.

4. LinkedIn / other social media

There was much discussion on the ways in which the Section could use social media to increase membership and pursue the mission of the Section. It was noted that the Section currently has a presence on LinkedIn and Facebook, though these resources are currently underutilized. Ms. Rast noted that the Section should also consider a presence on Legally Minded, a similar service directed towards the legal community. Mr. Lamping, who was not present, is currently in charge of the Section’s social media presence. Ms. Perrotta, Ms. Rast and Ms. Brennan expressed an interest in working with Mr. Lamping on this effort.

5. Relationships with other Sections that hold successful events

Mr. Bisdorf noted that this has long been a topic of interest to the Section in order to increase our visibility among members of the Bar.

6. Facilitating recruitment / job search activities

There was a general discussion as to whether and how the Section can assist new and experienced IT lawyers in their job searches and recruitment efforts. There was no general consensus as to what, if anything, the Section should do in this regard.

b. Speaker for Winter Council Meeting

Mr. Dave agreed to reach out to her contacts at Wayne State Law School to identify a candidate to speak at this event which will occur in January or February of 2011. It was noted that there are no specific requirements for a topic other than a topic of interest to IT lawyers.

c. Discussion of Spring Section Event

Mr. Targan previously agreed to chair this Committee and to identify another group with whom to hold the Section's Spring Event. It was noted that last year's Spring Event, held in connection with DetroitNet.org was generally viewed as a success and, if they are available again, they would be a desirable partner. Mr. Malven agreed to follow up with Mr. Targan.

d. Business from the floor

None.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Nixon moved to adjourn and Mr. Bieneman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.