

Bar Year: 2009-2010

Section Name: Worker's Compensation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan

Mission Statement: The Worker's Compensation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, a web 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.

Officers and Council Members:

Chair: Joel Alpert, Alpert & Alpert
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Chair-Elect: Dave DeGraw, Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge
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Secretary: John M. Sims, Sims & Stern, P.C.
13464 Preston Drive, Suite 200, Marshall, MI 49068, (269) 789-9535
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Treasurer: Denice LeVasseur, LeVasseur & LeVasseur, P.C.
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Members:

Joel Alpert
John Charters - 2010
David DeGraw
Timothy Esper - 2011
Murray Feldman
Dennis Flynn - 2012
William Housefield - 2010
Denise LeVasseur
Chuck Palmer - 2012
Ella Parker - 2011
Chris Rabideau - 2012
Tom Ruth - 2011

John M. Sims
Mark Viel - 2010

Council Meeting Schedule:

Meeting Type:

Annual Meeting	June 18, 2009	Crystal Mountain, Thomsonville, MI
Section Council Meeting	July 31, 2009	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	Oct. 30, 2009	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	Dec. 11, 2009	Detroit offices of Workers' Compensation Agency
Section Council Meeting	Jan. 15, 2010	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	Feb. 19, 2010	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	March 19, 2010	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	April 16, 2010	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	May 17, 2010	Detroit/Lansing offices of Workers' Compensation Agency teleconference
Section Council Meeting	June 17, 2010	Crystal Mountain, Thomsonville, MI

General Budget Information:

Events and/or Seminars:

Winter Seminar	Dec. 11, 2009	Cadillac Tower Building, Detroit
Seminar	February, 2010	Costa Rica
Seminar	April, 2010	Las Vegas, Nevada
Past Chairpersons' Golf Outing	May 14, 2010	Forest Akers Golf Course, Lansing
Annual Meeting/Election of Officers	June 17-18, 2010	Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville

Legislative Issues:

The Worker's Compensation Law Section Council reviewed, investigated and/or commented upon various forms of legislation. The Section Council considered the implications upon the practice of workers' compensation law with regards to various pieces of legislation. The Section Council concerned itself with Federal legislation effecting the practice of workers' compensation, most particularly with regard to Medicare and Medicare Set-Aside issues - HR 4796 and HR 2641. The Section Council also considered the executive orders dealing with budget cuts and the effect upon the practice, and it was actively involved in the Governor's Workers' Compensation Efficiency Initiative.

Additionally the Section commented with regard to various decisions of the Supreme Court. The Section was requested to file Amicus Briefs with regard to several cases pending in the Supreme Court. The Section Council declined the filing of Amicus briefs during this year.

Recommendations for next Council:

The Section hopes that in the coming year, to pursue aggressively the availability of new technology and its application to the practice of workers' compensation law in the form of electronic filings, electronic file keeping and electronic maintenance of records by the Agency and practitioners.

The Section Council will be preparing for the 2011 celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the enactment of Workers' Compensation Law in the United States. Given the budget crises in the State of Michigan and its effect upon the practice and practitioners, the Section looks forward to the challenges that it will be facing in the practice of workers' compensation over the next

years,

Other Information:

In the course of this year the Worker's Compensation Law Section Council has maintained various section committees dealing with events and activities sponsored by, or proposed by the Section. These committees include the Past Chairpersons' Golf Outing Committee, the Hall of Fame Criteria Committee, the Hall of Fame Nomination Committee, the Technology and Practice Committee, the Historical Documents Committee (which focuses on the preservation of historical documents in the practice of workers' compensation), and the Worker's Compensation Law Section Scholarship Committee. Each of these Committees were assigned a particular task over the course of the year to improve the efficiency of activities of the Worker's Compensation Law Section and its council. These Committees exist in addition to the Committees that generally handles the yearly seminars, to-wit: the Winter Seminar, which provides an annual update with regard to Michigan Workers' Compensation Law and Practice, and the Spring Seminar, which is the annual meeting held in June with regard to the Section, dealing with the election of officers and members of the Section Council.

Membership:

With 791 members, the Michigan Workers' Compensation Law Section has one of the largest memberships of any Section in the State Bar of Michigan.

By-Laws:

The By Laws of the Section were amended in the past year to change the payment of fees and dues with regard to individuals who are working in the Workers' Compensation Agency. A Section By Law Amendment was proposed and passed at the annual meeting, has been properly instituted through the State Bar, which removes the necessity for payment of dues for membership in the Section from any Agency representative as set forth in the new By Law.

Publications:

The Michigan Workers' Compensation Law Section has maintained a Newsletter published on a regular basis during the course of the year. Special mention must be made of Member Tom Ruth who has worked diligently to maintain that particular Newsletter and to see to its production. During the course of this year a change was made with regard to the Workers' Compensation Law Section Newsletter in that hard copies are no longer sent through the US mail. Instead the Newsletter is sent to our members by electronic mailing.

During the course of the year meetings, activities and seminars were carried out as noted in that the Section sponsored or took part in a Winter Seminar to Costa Rica, a Las Vegas Seminar in April, a highly informative educational seminar held in Detroit in December, 2009, as well as the important annual meeting held in June, 2009 and which will be held again in June, 2010.

The Awards:

The Workers' Compensation Law Section has maintained a Hall of Fame over many years. Most recently we have reinitiated the practice of nomination and appointment to the Hall of Fame. A Hall of Fame Committee and Criteria Committee was created over the last year and we have again nominated and appointed to the Hall of Fame members who show distinction in the practice and/or administration of the Workers' Compensation Law in the State of Michigan. Ray W. Cardew, Jr. and John P. Baril will be and/or inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Annual Meeting held at Crystal Mountain in June, 2010.

Joel L. Alpert, Chair
John M. Sims, Secretary
Worker's Disability Compensation Section
May 26, 2010