

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
ANNUAL REPORT**

Bar Year: 2014-2015

Section Name: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION

MISSION STATEMENT: The Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information, and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, our website, public service programs, and publication of the Michigan Environmental Law Journal. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan and to law students. Statements made on behalf of the Section do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar of Michigan.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

OFFICERS 2014-2015

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	E-mail
Chair	S. Lee Johnson P48907	660 Woodward Ave., Ste. 2290 Detroit, MI 48226	(313)465-7432	sljohnson@honigman.com
Chair-Elect	William R. Schikora P53862	125 Walnut St Northville, MI 48167	(248) 974-4376	wrschikora@gmail.com
Secretary-Treasurer	Dennis J. Donohue P47229	111 Lyon St NW Ste 900 Grand Rapids, MI 49503	(616) 752-2192	ddonohue@wnj.com

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION COUNCIL 2014-2015

Member	Term	Member	Term
George F. Curran, III, P31328	2015	Scott J. Steiner, P42490	2016
James P. Enright, P46355	2015	Scott Michael Watson, P70185	2016
Tammy Lyn Helminski, P69431	2015	Rebecca J. Cassell, P64456	2017
Kurt A. Kissling, P61937	2015	Ross A. Hammersley, P70105	2017
Kelly Marie Martorano, P66968	2015	Steven C. Kohl, P28179	2017
Robert P. Reichel, P31878	2016	AnnMarie B. Sanford, P44166	2017
Nicholas Joseph Schroeck, P70888	2016	Brad H. Sysol, P58138	2017
Scott J. Sinkwitts, P56107	2016		

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COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE:

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	October 28, 2014	Lansing, MI
Council Meeting	February 24, 2015	Grand Rapids, MI
Council Meeting	April 21, 2015	Lansing, MI
Council Meeting	June 12, 2015	Lansing, MI
Council Annual Meeting	October 8, 2015	Novi, MI

GENERAL BUDGET INFORMATION: As of April 30, 2015, the Section has an ending Fund Balance of **\$44,530.84**. Budget expenses seem to be in line for this point in the year.

EVENTS AND SEMINARS:

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
2014 Joint Conference of the Air Quality Committee together with the East and West Michigan Chapters of the Air & Waste Management Association	October 28, 2014	Lansing, Michigan
Hazardous Substances and Brownfields Committee Open Conference Call	February 17, 2015	Conference Call
Environmental Litigation and Administrative Practice and the Energy, Sustainability, and Natural Resources Committees: "Natural Resources Permits and Administrative Challenges"	February 18, 2015	Webinar
Hazardous Substances and Brownfields Committee: "2015 Statutory Update"	February 25, 2015	Webinar
"Clearing The Air 2015: An Overview of Federal, State & Regional Regulation Air Quality Issues" Sixth Annual Joint Program with the Michigan Manufacturers' Association	April 21, 2015	Lansing, Michigan
"Energy & Sustainability Committee Open Conference Call	April 23, 2015	Conference Call
ELS Great Lakes and Inland Waters Committee: Lake Erie Algae Update: Background on the Problem and Michigan's Response	April 28, 2015	Webinar
ELS/FBA Joint Program on Allocation/ Apportionment and Agreements in Cleanups for Superfund and Similar Sites	May 27, 2015	Webinar
ELS Annual Summer Program: Panels on "The Grand River Restoration Project" and a "Part 301/303 Update," with a midday keynote address from Valerie Brader	June 12, 2015	Bath, Michigan
Fourth Wednesday Webinar: Topic To Be Announced	June 24, 2015	Webinar
Fourth Wednesday Webinar: Topic To Be Announced	July 22, 2015	Webinar
Fourth Wednesday Webinar: Topic To Be Announced	August 26, 2015	Webinar
Annual Meeting: Program, Elections and Council Meeting	October 8, 2015	Novi, Michigan

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: Numerous individual members of the Section actively work on legislative issues, as advocates, spokespersons and experts. Those members regularly share their experiences with the Section and offer their opinions and outlooks. However, the Section itself is not presently active with respect to any pending legislative issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT COUNCIL: The next Council is encouraged to continue the focus on the growth and diversity of Section membership, starting with law school students and continuing through newer practitioners. Continued outreach through multiple media adds value for the existing members and encourages new members to be involved as recipients and providers of a wide spectrum of programming. Cooperative efforts with other sections of the State Bar and other affinity organizations, as well as among the Committees of this Section, can bring synergistic effects. Also, continuing the ongoing efforts to secure more stable committee leadership and to develop more committee/section member interaction and continuing to increase value for section members, with a focus on effective transitioning from committee membership to effective leadership, should remain in the forefront to assure continued growth for the Section and its membership.

OTHER INFORMATION: The Section is on a sound financial footing despite a net loss of membership during the economic downturn. Several multi-year initiatives continue to show progress, including significant headway toward completion of a second edition of its online Deskbook and the transition of the Deskbook to systems preferred by the State Bar of Michigan.

Reports must be submitted by May 31, 2015, to:

Heather Anderson
Sections & Committees Administrator
306 Townsend Street, Lansing MI 48933
Email: hkanderson@mail.michbar.org
Phone 517-346-6414 Fax: 517-372-1139

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
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SECTION NAME: Have there been any changes in the section name? Details provided may be interesting to the public and other readers.

There have been no changes to the section name.

SECTION MISSION STATEMENT: A section's mission statement is a critical description of the goals the section sets for the whole of its membership. Including the statement in an Annual Report serves as a yardstick by which to measure progress.

See above.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: Including P#s; accurately identifies officers and the council.

See above.

SECTION COMMITTEES: Descriptions of the various committees provides a clearer picture of a section's work, especially if the name of the chair and description of committee activities are included. Including meeting schedules allows potential future volunteers for committee work to better understand the frequency with which the committee meets.

THE AIR COMMITTEE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION is composed of attorneys interested in federal, state, and local air pollution control laws and policy. Air laws and policies continue to evolve and raise significant issues for government, business, and citizen organizations in Michigan. The Air Committee meets several times a year to discuss emerging air-related topics, organize air-related programs, and conduct other types of outreach to Environmental Law Section members, including sponsoring site visits.

The Air Committee welcomes any Environmental Law Section member interested in air issues to participate in upcoming activities, which are typically publicized through the Environmental Law Section e-mail distribution list, calendar, and social media outlets.

THE DESKBOOK COMMITTEE is responsible for completion of a second edition of "Michigan Environmental Law Deskbook, 2nd Edition," an online publication which is in the process of revision and transition to systems preferred by the State Bar of Michigan.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE COMMITTEE is responsible for legal issues that relate to environmental disputes in administrative, state, and federal jurisdictional forums. The committee periodically arranges programs on these topics. The environmental litigation committee welcomes any Section member interested in the foregoing issues and maintains an e-mail list to notify members of meetings and events.

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THE GREAT LAKES AND INLAND WATERS COMMITTEE closely follows environmental developments regarding the Great Lakes and tracks developments in federal, state, and local regulation of discharges to and use of surface water and groundwater. The Committee periodically arranges programs in which experts in these areas discuss important developments. These programs also offer an opportunity for Section members to meet and benefit from learning about other attorneys' experiences in working on water-related matters. The Great Lakes and Inland Waters Committee welcomes any Environmental Law Section member interested in the foregoing issues and maintains an e-mail list to notify members of meetings and events.

THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND BROWNFIELDS COMMITTEE is responsible for legal issues that relate to the treatment, storage, disposal, and remediation of hazardous substances (including hazardous wastes) under both federal and state law, including CERCLA, RCRA subtitle C, and Parts 111 and 201 of NREPA. It is also responsible for the topics of liability under those statutes for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs and natural resource damages, related contribution actions, and associated claims for insurance coverage. Finally, it is responsible for the topic of managing transactions that are complicated by the real or potential presence of hazardous substances by environmental investigations, baseline environmental assessments and related mechanisms, environmental insurance, and incentives for brownfield re-development.

The Hazardous Substances Committee welcomes any Environmental Law Section member interested in the foregoing issues and maintains an e-mail list to notify members of meetings and events.

MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL/PUBLICATIONS: The Journal Committee publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter that includes scholarly articles about environmental issues, as well as information about section activities and events, important decisions by Michigan and federal courts in environmental cases, and new Michigan environmental regulations and legislation. The committee increases the level of interest in environmental law by sponsoring an annual writing competition among law students at all Canadian and U.S law schools. Winners of the writing competition receive generous cash awards and have their articles published in the section's Michigan Environmental Law Journal.

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE mission is to: (1) assist the Section and each of the other committees in their respective functions by providing useful information about the membership of the section and its needs and interests; (2) increase Section membership; and (3) promote race/ethnic and gender diversity in the membership and leadership of the section. The Membership Committee encourages any interested Environmental Law Section members to join this committee or attend the next meeting.

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THE NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY and SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE tracks developments in federal state and local laws and regulations that relate to issues and topics concerning natural resources and energy, including wetlands, oil and gas, mining, forestry, and fisheries. The Committee periodically arranges programs on these topics.

THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE plans educational programs for the benefit of Section members. The Committee meets monthly by phone for about an hour to discuss the needs and interests of the members. The programs are designed to provide members with information on important new developments and opportunities for socializing and networking with other Section members. The length and content of programs vary widely, from informal lunch roundtables covering one topic to multiple day seminars that cover numerous topics. The committee selects dates, locations, and general themes for the programs, and one or two committee members will chair or co-chair the programs. The chair/co-chairs arrange for speakers and other details of the programs. Certain program committee members also function as liaisons to the subject matter committees to facilitate programming for those committees. This year the Committee has increased the Section's utilization of webinars as one of its programming methods.

In short, the Program Committee provides opportunities for members to be kept informed on important new developments in the environmental legal landscape. Planning those opportunities is an effective and fun way to participate in Section activities. The Program Committee welcomes any Environmental Law Section member interested in keeping Section members up to date on current events and maintains an e-mail list to notify members of meetings and events.

THE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE supports the Section's use of Bar-provided resources such as the list serve and the website, and investigates, develops and supports the use of newer communications technologies as suggested by the Section. The Technology Committee also investigates and prepares presentations for the Section on new environmental technologies. The Technology Committee welcomes any Environmental Law Section member interested in the section's technology related issues, and maintains an e-mail list to notify members of meetings and events.

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SECTION MEMBERSHIP: Section membership fluctuates from year to year. Tracking the membership numbers at a set time of year, such as the Annual Report deadline, can provide a good picture of changes in the section membership.

We have initiated a new form of outreach to section members about lapsed membership and the benefits for members of participating in the section listserv, and are seeing positive results from that outreach.

651 Members as of May 28, 2015

SECTION BYLAWS: Awareness of bylaw changes can be critical for understanding a section's operation. Including the most recent revision date of the bylaws will allow readers familiar with the bylaws to ensure they have the most current version at hand. Additionally, if there are any forthcoming changes, this is a good opportunity to summarize plans briefly.

Visit "Bylaws"<https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/MICHBAR/d8e19628-0b26-46ee-980a-1e1e37978900/UploadedImages/pdfs/bylaws.pdf> **to obtain the most current version. There have been no recent revisions.**

SECTION PUBLICATIONS: Some of the most frequent questions for sections are in regard to publications the section has produced. Providing a list including publication information for journals, newsletters, and other publications creates a valuable resource.

The Section has published the second edition of the Michigan Environmental Law Deskbook, consistent with our educational mission and this valuable resource is available electronically and is being updated for the benefit of all interested readers. Similarly, our respected Environmental Law Journal is in electronic format and with renewed energies and talents has been published regularly during the Bar year. Access to both publications is available on our website.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND SEMINARS: This is critical information for the Annual Report. Describing meetings, activities and seminars can be detailed, or brief. Suggestions for information to include are the date, location, and a minimum of one paragraph describing the event.

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Current and past event information is available on our website. Events are shown above on the template.

SECTION LEGISLATURE AND POLICY: The section's involvement in legislature, policy, or *amicus curiae* is a matter of great interest, many questions are asked regarding the sections involvement in such. A brief description of any such involvement is requested, as this falls under the heading of section activities.

See above.

AWARDS: Many sections present awards, honors, or scholarships. The Annual Report is another opportunity to laud the recipients, as well as detail any awards presented to the section itself. A description of the history of the award, or why the award is given, is useful.

The Environmental Law Section sponsors an annual environmental law essay contest open to students in U.S. and Canadian law schools. This year, the first place prize was \$2,000, second place was \$1,000 and third place was \$500.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Section finances vary from simple to complex. A brief statement of general budget information would be very appropriate to include in any Annual Report, or a reprinting of an annual treasurer's report if the section feel it is necessary.

See above.

FUTURE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES: Because the Annual Report is often used as a resource for future planning, and is viewed by members of the public who may be considering membership in the section, a brief description of future goals and activities is recommended. This may also serve as a recommendation to the next council.

See above.