

# State Bar of Michigan | 2015-2016 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

## Article VIII §1, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

*Every Section and State Bar entity so directed by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year which shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before May 31. Annual reports may not exceed five 8 1/2" x 11" pages unless a waiver of this limitation is approved by the Executive Director.*

## Solo & Small Firm Section

### Chair

P64215 Mary Catherine Ericson  
Law Office of Mary C Ericson  
145 N Center St Ste A  
Northville MI 48167-1472  
Phone: (248) 425-3675  
e-mail: marycericsonjd@gmail.com

### Vice Chair

P71716 Tanisha Monique Davis, Southfield

### Secretary

P71763 Lesley A. Hoenig, Mount Pleasant

### Treasurer

P76460 Odey K. Meroueh, Dearborn

### Council Member

#### Term Ending: 2017

P37075 Elizabeth A. Silverman, Farmington Hills

P75194 Joshua Ryan Van Laan, Mount Clemens

#### Term Ending: 2018

P38062 Maury Klein, Canton

P20796 Edward Sosnick, Bloomfield Hills

### Editor

P37673 William L. Cataldo, Mount Clemens

### Commissioner Liaison

P49219 Erane C. Washington, Ann Arbor

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**Council Meeting Schedule:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Council meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Regular Business Meeting	6/18/15	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Regular Business Meeting	9/17/15	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Annual Meeting	10/9/15	Suburban Showcase, Novi
Regular Business Meeting	11/12/15	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Regular Business Meeting	1/21/16	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Regular Business Meeting	2/18/16	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Regular Business Meeting	3/17/16	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Regular Business Meeting	4/21/16	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield
Regular Business Meeting	5/19/16	Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield

**General Budget Information:** Please refer to p. 49 of the SBM Final Audited Financial Statement FY 2015

See attached Addendum.

**Events and/or Seminars:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding events and/or seminars as an addendum.

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Developing a Real Estate Practice	6/25/15	Andiamo's, Bloomfield Twp
Sponsor, Solo & Small Firm Institute	10/8-9/15	Suburban Showcase, Novi
Attorney - Judge Crossfire	10/9/15	Suburban Showcase, Novi
Arbitration and Mediation Case Law Update	4/27/16	U of D Mercy Law School
Co-Sponsor, Marketing in the 21st Century	5/7/16	State Bar Offices, Lansing
Co-Sponsor, 9th Annual Young Lawyer's Summit	6/3-4/16	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Novi
Drone Law Seminar	6/9/16	U of D Mercy Law School

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**Legislative issues:**

MCR 2.403 - proposed change to MCR 2.403 to reduce the amount of time to respond to case evaluations. Council voted to object to the proposal and submitted comments to that effect.

**Recommendations for next Council:**

Follow up on survey results to provide greater value to Section members, particularly with regard to providing events and opportunities for member involvement at a variety of geographic areas within the State.

**Other Information:**

See attached Addendum.

**Reports must be submitted before May 31, 2016 to:**

Jennifer Williams  
Administrative Assistant  
306 Townsend Street, Lansing MI 48933  
Email: [jwilliams@mail.michbar.org](mailto:jwilliams@mail.michbar.org)  
Phone 517-367-6421 Fax: 517-482-6248

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Addendum

General Budget Information:

The Section has met its budget objectives of (1) bringing in income through maintaining/increasing membership, (2) offering/sponsoring events at a cost to members that enables us to break even, and (3) spending money on activities (e.g., newsletter, member communications) that provide useful information to our membership.

Other Information:

1. Council updated our Section's Mission to better reflect our name change (from General Practice – Solo & Small Firm to Solo & Small Firm):

“The Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar of Michigan strives to enhance the quality of practice for the solo and small firm attorney as well as the lawyer who has interests beyond the bounds of a single professional specialty.”

2. Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Thomas C. Rombach, then-president of the State Bar of Michigan, at the Annual Meeting on October 9, 2015.

3. A Survey of Section Membership was conducted this March and gleaned much useful information the Section Council will be implementing over the next year.

4. Section Member Professor Gary Bauer was recognized by Section Council for his receipt of the ABA's Small Firm Trainer Award.

5. The Newsletter continued its bi-monthly publication under new management with William L. Cataldo as Editor and Joshua R. Van Laan as Associate Editor.

6. Section Council Chair (Mike Gunderson) and Vice Chair (Mary Ericson) attended the Bar Leadership Forum on June 11-12, 2015 to strengthen their leadership capabilities.

7. A Networking Event will be held this summer to provide Section Members an opportunity to meet other Members.

8. The Mutual Mentorship Program will be officially launched this summer at the Networking Event.

9. A Council Retreat is planned for this summer where the Council will set an agenda for the upcoming year.