

**COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORSHIP
REPORT PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER 2025 COUNCIL MEETING**

1. 2025-2026 Budget Request and Anticipated Use of Funds.

\$5,000 – for outreach programs. If the Directorship is able to make a recommendation on social media strategies, a further investment may be sought.

2. Use of Budgeted Funds during 2025-2026.

None to date. Funding may be requested at some point to support social media initiatives.

3. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee.

Upcoming meetings, to be held via Zoom at 3:00 PM Eastern:

Thursday, January 8, 2026
Thursday, March 26, 2026
Thursday, June 18, 2026
Thursday, October 29, 2026

4. Council Approval.

None requested

5. Membership.

Kevin Block, Jennifer Consiglio, Julia Dale, Mark High, Michael Khoury, Stacey Knowles, Edward (E.J.) Leuschner, John Schuring, and Eric Zacks

6. Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives.

See below.

7. Meetings and Programs.

The Directorship met via Zoom on March 27, 2025, in addition to ongoing communications between members. It reviewed the goals and objectives from the Section's 2023 Strategic Plan that contemplates involvement by the Directorship:

- A. Social media/social networking
- B. Communication with members
- C. Increased participation by attorneys from locations other than Detroit and Grand Rapids
- D. Increase participation by newer lawyers
- E. Mentorship opportunities

The Directorship's initial efforts will focus on (A) and (B). We contacted other sections of the State Bar, and the State Bar itself, to discuss social media strategies and resources. We received multiple proposals from third party service providers. Proposals received to date have not, in the view of the Directorship, been particularly well-suited to the Section's needs.

Based on phone conversations with other sections of the State Bar, it appears that most sections are actively managing and implementing their social media efforts via the attorneys on the applicable committee of the section. It is our recommendation that we attempt to do so as well, and our initial efforts in 2026 will be directed accordingly.

We welcome any volunteers with an interest in assisting with this effort.

8. Publications.

None

9. Methods of Monitoring Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments and Recommended Action

Not applicable

10. Miscellaneous.

Volunteers, or suggestions for additional Directorship members, are welcome.

Respectfully, John Schuring, on behalf of the Directorship