

**IN-HOUSE COUNSEL COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 5, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Gerard V. Mantese**

**1. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee/Directorship.**

Two zoom meetings have already been held and an in-person meeting is being scheduled for April.

**2. Council Approval.**

The Committee does not request Council approval of any matters at this meeting.

**3. Membership.**

The Committee remains open to any Business Law Section members who wish to participate. The Committee has numerous members on its roster.

**4. Accomplishments Toward Committee/Directorship Objectives.**

Among other matters, the Committee seeks to promote valuable programming for in-house counsel and promote best practices.

**5. Meetings and Programs.**

After being appointed Chair of the Committee in December, I immediately developed a program for a seminar for in-house counsel and business attorneys. I enlisted the support of the LLC and Partnerships Committee, which I co-chair, and the Commercial Litigation Committee to co-sponsor this program on May 7, 2026 from 3:30 – 7:45 PM at the Troy Marriott.

Below is the tentative schedule for this exciting Seminar.

**Registration and Networking**

3:30-3:55 PM

**Employment Law Update.** This will include the most recent case law on the at-will doctrine and employment discrimination, drafting strategies, internal and people management, and possibly I-9 audits. Aaron Burrell, of Dickinson Wright, will present.

4:00 - 4:35 PM

**Drafting Corporate Governance and Succession Planning Documents.** This will include supply agreements, operating agreements,

shareholder agreements, and buy-sell agreements. Gerard Mantese, of Mantese Honigman, PC, will present.

4:35 - 5:10 PM

**Artificial Intelligence, Data Security, and Recent AI Case Law.** Issues regarding A.I. seem to change on almost a daily basis. One key issue is discoverability of A.I. James Sherer, of Baker Hostetler, will present.

5:10 - 5:45 PM

**Litigating in Michigan Business Courts.** A rare opportunity for direct dialogue among in-house counsel and Business Court Judges, including Judges David Allen, Judge Matthew Antkoviak, Judge Curt Benson, Judge Annette Berry, Judge Chris Christenson, Judge Muriel Hughes, Judge Victoria Valentine, Judge Jon Van Allsburg, Judge Kathryn Viviano, and, likely, Judge Michael Warren. Doug Toering, of Mantese Honigman, PC will moderate.

5:45 - 6:25 PM

**In-House Counsel Panel Discussion.** Topics will cover regulatory compliance, risk management, intellectual property, the Great Retirement, tariffs, retaining outside counsel, and health and wellness. Names of presenters will be decided soon.

6:25 - 7:05 PM

**Internal Investigations.** Former Assistant US Attorneys Tom Cranmer, of Miller Canfield, and Ken Chadwell, of Plunkett Cooney, will cover this topic.

7:05 - 7:40 PM

### **Wrap-up**

7:45 PM

There is no charge for judges and in-house counsel. All Circuit Court Judges are invited.

## **6. Publications.**

The In-House Counsel committee has two authors for the 2026 Spring issue of the Michigan Business Law Journal and 9 Authors available for the 2026 Summer issue of the MI Business Law Journal

## **7. Methods of Monitoring Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments and Recommended Action**

Committee members will review and discuss various developments in connection with updates prepared by the Business Law Section as these matters unfold.

**8. Miscellaneous.**

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

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