

PRIVATELY HELD BUSINESSES FORUM
{f/k/a Small Business Forum}
A Committee of the State Bar of Michigan Business Law Section

**ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER 7, 2023 COUNCIL
MEETING**

Please describe your committee's activities during the 2023-2024 year toward achievement of the goals outlined in the Section's Strategic Plan. Each question below corresponds to a specific Section of the Plan, a copy of which is attached and to which reference may be made for further guidance in providing responses. If the question is not applicable to your particular committee or directorship, please note as such.

1. Sponsorship of programs for Continuing Legal Education via a means accessible to Section Members, including holding at least one program yearly (Article I, 3, of the Strategic Plan).

- On February 16, 2023, the PHBF put on its 5th Annual Symposium concerning business law.
- The 6th Annual Symposium, "Expert Practice & Federal Court", will be held at the Guardian Building in Downtown Detroit on, February 8, 2024, from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. The agenda for the program will include various topics to be discussed in two roundtable sessions consisting of (1) financial and forensic experts; and (2) Federal Court Judges. The format will allow extensive discussion and audience participation. The Business Law Section has graciously committed \$10,000 toward the program, and the PHBF will stay within that budget and cover the remainder of costs with ticket sales and sponsorships.

2. Addressing substantive legal issues for committee members, including holding regular committee meetings (at least once a year) and reporting on the meetings to the Council (Article I, 4).

- Each year, starting in 2022, the PHBF holds an Annual Meeting in the Springtime, when the goals and objectives and committees for the following year are established. The minutes of these meetings are transcribed and submitted to the Section with the Committee's reports. With respect to addressing substantive legal issues, the PHBF conducts various programs, symposia and is creating a publication.

3. Promoting involvement in the committee and making the committee more responsive to members including the designation of a contact person (Article I, 5).

- The 2021-2022 membership initiative substantially increased the number of members and also consolidated and updated member information in a way that

communications have become very efficient and organized among the 59 members of the Committee.

4. (A) monitoring and raising awareness of laws or developments in laws that affect Michigan businesses and, when appropriate, making recommendations for updates and improvements

- The programs that the PHBF presents discuss these kinds of issues.

(B) providing assistance to appropriate state government personnel with respect to business-related legislation and rule-making;

- The PHBF does not engage in this manner of assistance.

(C) as appropriate, providing amicus curiae briefs related to business-related issues being addressed by the courts, and

- See above, subsection (B).

(D) educating Michigan businesses, their owners and employees about changes to Michigan's laws in order to maintain Michigan's ability to attract and retain new business enterprises and enable existing businesses to remain competitive. (Article II, 1).

- The PHBF has non-lawyer members as well as encourages non-lawyer members to attend programs and symposia. In addition, elements of the PHBF pamphlet is going to incorporate articles and information designed to link the communities of business lawyers and the private enterprises that they represent and serve.

5. Please comment on your plan regarding succession (Article III, 5).

- At the Annual Meeting, officers and executive positions are established and approved. In the event of an emergency in leadership due to resignation, death, or incapacity, the PHBF would hold an immediate Special Meeting and seek nominations for replacements, as needed. At the present time, the PHBF is co-chaired by two Members.

6. Please list your Committee's goals and objectives for the next 12 to 24 months and whether you will require additional support from the Section to achieve these goals (Article III, 5).

- *Symposium Committee.* The PHBF Symposium Committee puts on and produces a substantive program each year on business law, with multiple speakers, sponsorship and substantial attendance. This year's program is going to be on February 8, 2024 at 5:30 at the Guardian Building in Downtown Detroit. Information can be found at www.bizsyposium.com, the website for the program.

- *Additional Support.* At the present time, no additional support is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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