



***ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER 5, 2024 COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE BUSINESS LAW SECTION***

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. Continue to sponsor programs for continuing legal education and skills-based training within the Section. (Article I, 3 of the Strategic Plan).

Response: The PHBF continues to produce the Annual Business Law Symposium. The 7th Annual State Bar of Michigan Business Law Symposium, "Mediation Mastery," will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the Gem Theatre in downtown Detroit, from 5:00 – 9:00. The program will feature individual speakers and panel discussions regarding negotiation and mediation strategy and method. Presenters include Charles "Chip" Brower, Thomas Cranmer, Dan McCarthy, Tom McNeill, E. Powell Miller, Hon. Denise Langford Morris (Ret.) Hon. Julie Nicholson (Ret.), Jerome Rock, Mark Rossman. This program was recently featured in the Detroit Legal News - <https://www.legalnews.com/Home/Articles?DataId=1559751>. The cost of the program is \$135 for in person ticket, and \$50 for a virtual ticket. For information concerning registration, agenda and logistics, see www.bizsymposium.com.

The 6th Annual Symposium was held February 8, 2024, and it focused on the use of expert testimony in trial work. The program was

2. Address substantive legal issues for committee members. (Article I, 4 of the Strategic Plan).

Response: Not applicable.

3. Promote strong committee leadership and active committee member involvement. Please comment on your plan regarding succession. (Article I, 5 of the Strategic Plan).

Response: Each year, the PHBF holds an Annual Meeting to review membership, leadership and committee establishment, as well as maintaining co-membership between Powell Miller and Mark Rossman.

4. Provide an alternative source of information and communication for members by improving the website and maintaining and improving social media presence. (Article I, 6 of the Strategic Plan).

Response: There is a website to promote the Symposium. The cost of the site is donated by Rossman, P.C. The PHBF also has a LinkedIn site that it uses to communicate updates and events to the membership. In addition, there is a good deal of direct contact related to the Annual Meeting and the Symposium Events, which involve hundreds of people, thus raising awareness of the program and developments in the legal industry.

5. (A) monitor and raise awareness of laws or developments in laws that affect Michigan businesses and, when appropriate, make recommendations for updates and improvements;

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

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

(D) educate and seek input from Michigan businesses, their owners and employees, and Michigan attorneys 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 of the Strategic Plan).

Response: See above.

6. Encourage increased member participation through the development of personal relationships with other Section members. (Article IV, 1 of the Strategic Plan).

Response: See above. In addition, the Symposium this year will incorporate a 45 minute networking block to enhance the networking experience that was already strong at prior symposia.

Respectfully submitted,

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