

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.

Business Law Section

Chair

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Vice Chair

P38733 Judy B. Calton, Detroit

Secretary

P56136 Kevin T. Block, Detroit

Treasurer

P48917 Mark W. Peters, Troy

Council Member

Term Ending: 2016

P56136 Kevin T. Block, Detroit
P38733 Judy B. Calton, Detroit
P38306 Mark E. Kellogg, Lansing
P41017 Hon. Christopher P. Yates, Grand Rapids

Term Ending: 2017

P68496 Jennifer E. Consiglio, Bloomfield Hills
P34523 Shane B. Hansen, Grand Rapids
P43310 Daniel M. Morley, Traverse City
P34329 Douglas L. Toering, Troy

Term Ending: 2018

P63904 Julia Ann Dale, Lansing
P69996 John Thomas Schuring, Grand Rapids
P65481 Aaron M. Silver, Warren
P70033 James Robert Waggoner, Birmingham

~~P48917 Mark W. Peters, Troy~~
Commissioner Liaison

P27732 Gregory J. Ulrich, Grosse Pointe Woods

Administrator

Terri A. Shoop, Farmington Hills

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Council Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	6/4/15	Southfield
Council Meeting	9/25/15	Grand Rapids
Annual Meeting	9/25/15	Grand Rapids
Council Meeting	9/26/15	Grand Rapids
Council Meeting	12/5/15	Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	3/10/16	Lansing

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

Treasurer's reports, budget information, and financial information can be found on the Section's website.

Events and/or Seminars:

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

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Presentation of Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award	9/26/15	Grand Rapids
27th Annual Business Law Institute, Cocktail Reception, and Pub Event	9/26/15	Grand Rapids
A (Habeas) Chorus-Line Social Event	10/24/15	Berkley
Changes To the Nonprofit Corporation Act	11/15	Webcast
Business Courts and Early ADR: The Latest from Bench and Bar	11/12/15	Troy
Trends in Business Court Practice	1/16	Webcast
International Business	4/16	Webcast
Update On Receivership Law Issues	5/11/16	Southfield
Crain's 2016 General & In-House Counsel Summit	5/17/16	Detroit

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Legislative issues:

See attached for legislative activities in which the Section is involved.

Recommendations for next Council:

Other Information:

See attached Addendum for further information regarding the Section.

Reports must be submitted before May 31, 2016 to:

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

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e-mail form

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
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SECTION MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Business Law Section is to foster the highest quality of professionalism and practice in business law and to enhance the legislative and regulatory environment for conducting business in Michigan. To fulfill this mission, the Section shall: (1) expand the resources of business lawyers by providing educational, networking and mentoring opportunities; (2) review and promote improvements to Michigan's business legislation and regulations; and (3) provide a forum to facilitate service and commitment and to promote ethical conduct and collegiality within the practice.

SECTION COMMITTEES: Complete contact information for committee chairpersons is available on the Section's website.

Business Courts Committee

The Committee's objectives are to serve as a liaison between the Business Court Judges and the Business Law Section, to serve as a resource for the Business Court Judges, and to assist the Business Court Judges in whatever ways they and the Business Law Section deem appropriate.

Commercial Litigation Committee

The Commercial Litigation Committee assists litigators as well as business and corporate counsel in addressing issues that may lead to or arise in business-related litigation. The Committee sponsors seminars and other programs that address such issues and that are designed to enhance the practice of those involved in commercial litigation.

Corporate Laws Committee

The Corporate Laws Committee monitors and reviews matters relating to corporate law statutes and developments in the law of corporate governance. The committee also works with the Business Corporation Act Revision Subcommittee, which reviews the Michigan Business Corporation Act for the purpose of keeping it current with developments in corporate law and which assists from time to time in drafting and advocating proposed changes to the Act.

Debtor/Creditor Rights Committee

The Debtor/Creditor Rights Committee focuses on issues of insolvency, such as bankruptcy, state law alternatives to bankruptcy, secured lending (Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code), and state law exemptions.

Financial Institutions Committee

The Financial Institutions Committee focuses on legislative, regulatory and judicial developments and issues of interest to financial institutions (primarily banks) and their affiliates.

In-House Counsel Committee

The In-House Counsel Committee is committed to addressing the professional interests of in-house counsel by sponsoring continuing legal education programs, informing members about issues of particular interest to them, and offering social and professional networking opportunities.

Law Schools Committee

The Law Schools Committee is designed to promote an interest in business law among students at each of the law schools located in Michigan. The Committee represents a collaborative effort between the Section and the business law societies at the University of Michigan Law School, Michigan State University College of Law, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Wayne State University Law School and the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. The Committee supports programs initiated by the business law societies within the law schools and provides a forum for networking among law students and members of the Section.

LLC and Partnerships Committee

The Committee remains active in conducting seminars regarding unincorporated enterprises, focusing principally on limited liability companies. The Committee has also assisted in informing members of the bar from other sections as to legislation affecting unincorporated enterprises.

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Nonprofit Corporations Committee

The Nonprofit Corporations Committee's principal responsibility is to review and update laws relating to the organization of nonprofit corporations in Michigan. The principal focus has been on the Nonprofit Corporation Act, but it also reviews other legislation, such as bills regulating the solicitation of contributions by charities. The committee also assists with sponsoring continuing legal education programs directed at nonprofit organization issues.

Regulation of Securities Committee

The Regulation of Securities Committee is concerned with federal and state laws and regulations relating to the offer, sale and trading of securities. The Committee also supplies a liaison to the Securities Law Advisory Committee of the Michigan Corporations, Securities and Commercial Licensing Bureau. Activities are designed to inform members of current developments and issues and provide input to appropriate administrative and legislative bodies.

Small Business Forum

The Small Business Forum specifically caters to business owners, attorneys, accountants, and other professionals who work with closely held businesses. The Forum hosts two to three highly-productive, time-efficient and fun educational events throughout the year. Every event includes a networking portion to mingle with other business professionals.

Uniform Commercial Code Committee

The Uniform Commercial Code Committee monitors developments and issues under all Articles of the UCC and related commercial statutes. In October of each year, the Committee presents a seminar on recent developments in commercial law. Additionally, the Committee prepares an annual survey of case law involving the UCC and commercial law.

SECTION LEGISLATURE AND POLICY:

The Business Courts Committee worked with the Business Court Judges on amendments to the business courts legislation.

The Debtor Creditor Rights Committee filed an Amicus Brief in *Casa Bella Landscaping v Lee* (Mich. Ct. App. no. 326237); opinion issued 5/26/16.

The Debtor/Credit Rights Committee is advocating for amendment to MCL 600.60231(k) and (l).

The LLC & Partnership Committee filed an amicus brief in *Allard v Allard* (Michigan Supreme Court case no. 150891).

AWARDS: Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award

The Section established the Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award in 2006, to be presented annually. The award honors Michigan business lawyers who consistently exemplify the characteristics the Business Law Section seeks to foster and facilitate: the highest quality of professionalism, the highest quality of practice, and an unwavering dedication to service, ethical conduct, and collegiality within the practice of law. The Section honored Laurence S. Schulz at its Annual Meeting on September 25, 2015, at Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The Award for 2016 will be presented at the Annual Meeting on October 7, 2016 in Grand Rapids.

PUBLICATIONS:

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The *Michigan Business Law Journal* is published three times per year and is sent to members via U.S. mail and electronically. The *Journal* is posted on the Section's website.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Members can follow the Section on LinkedIn.

FUTURE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES: See the Section's Strategic Plan revised in June of 2010. The Strategic Plan is currently being reviewed and is expected to be updated in late 2016.