

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 19, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING

1. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee

No meeting has presently been scheduled. However, the Committee is planning a program on April 22 and will have meetings/conference calls before then as needed.

2. Council Approval

At the Council meeting, a request for funding for the April 22 program will be presented. The program will be jointly sponsored by the Environmental Law Section, and its Council has already approved funding for the program.

3. Membership

The Committee currently has 14 members, all of whom actively participate.

4. Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives

The Committee's initial goal was to assess the degree to which Michigan business lawyers are already aware of challenges and opportunities created by climate change issues and report to the Section on that. The Committee very quickly concluded that lawyers' and businesses' knowledge lags far behind what they need to know to take advantage of opportunities and avoid pitfalls that already exist or will exist in the immediate future.

The Committee therefore decided almost immediately to move beyond its initial objective of assessment and is planning a symposium on April 22 designed to raise businesses' and business lawyers' awareness of the issues.

The morning session will feature speakers from Lansing and Washington, D.C. to give an overview of what is going on in terms of governmental regulation. The lunch keynote speaker will be Stanley F. "Skip" Pruss, Director of the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, who will speak on Michigan's new energy and economic development initiatives. The afternoon session will include four breakout panels on business law, environmental law, real estate law and tax law issues.

The symposium will be "green." For example, we are exploring ways to make it paperless and to do a webinar. We are purchasing carbon credits as a promotional device.

The Committee's activities also advance other Section goals. For example, we are cooperating with other SBM Sections. The symposium will be jointly sponsored by

the Environmental Law Section, and the Tax and Real Estate Sections are providing speakers.

We are expecting a high turnout (150+) and are talking about establishing this as an annual event.

5. Meetings and Programs

The symposium will be presented on April 22, 2009 at the Inn at St. John's.

6. Publications

Materials from the symposium will be available on CD.

7. Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments

None.

8. Miscellaneous