Chair's Letter from Robert T. (Bob) Wilson

Acronyms on the Move: DELEG, LARA, and ORR

As many of you are aware, in connection with far-reaching plans to reorganize state government, Governor Rick Snyder appointed Steven H. Hilfinger as director of the Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth (DELEG) in February of this year.

On April 24, DELEG was restructured and renamed the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), with responsibility for licensing and business regulation. In connection with the restructuring, the Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) will be established with Hilfinger as director and chief regulatory officer for the State of Michigan.

What do these changes and the changes that will result from them mean for Michigan business lawyers and their clients?

Although their ultimate effect will only become apparent with the passage of time, Hilfinger's vision for LARA is described on the DELEG website as creating "a licensing and regulatory environment that is more effective and streamlined and eliminates unnecessary or burdensome regulation. The newly reorganized department will be customer driven and business minded, with a regulatory environment that promotes business growth and job creation."

I am pleased to announce that in addition to the other quality programs, attendees at the 23rd Annual Business Law Institute will have the opportunity to hear Director Hilfinger speak. Please plan to attend what is likely to be an informative and timely presentation. I hope to see you there, on May 6-7, at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.