Chair's Letter from Diane L. Akers
Assuming the chairmanship of the Business Law Section is both humbling and daunting. Our Section is already seen as a leader in the State Bar and business community and that will continue because of the energy and commitment of our members. Even so, there are many issues and challenges confronting businesses and business lawyers that are urgent and fundamental.

One such issue is climate change and the related but much broader concept of business practices that are sustainable from economic, environmental and social points of view. Governmental regulations already exist in this area and will only increase. Businesses are focusing on having a "green" image and some businesses are beginning to require their suppliers to demonstrate sustainable business practices as a condition of getting more business.

As part of my focus for the coming year, I have established an Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability, which will have four goals: (1) gather information regarding climate change/sustainability regulations currently affecting Michigan businesses; (2) gather information regarding the current state of Michigan businesses' awareness of and readiness for climate change/sustainability initiatives; (3) form recommendations regarding what Michigan businesses should do to prepare for climate change/sustainability issues; and (4) report back to the Council at its September 2009 meeting.

We need help. If you would like to contribute ideas or participate in the Ad Hoc Committee, please contact me.

Schulman Award Recipient: G. Ann Baker
At the Business Law Section Annual Meeting held on September 25, the Section presented its highest honor, the Steven H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award, to G. Ann Baker, the Director of the Corporations Division in the Michigan Bureau of Commercial Services. Ann has been a longtime member of the Section, a former Section Chair, and a tireless advocate for the improvement of services to the business and...
legal community. She also provides the Section with early information about legislation affecting all business lawyers in Michigan. Thank you and congratulations, Ann! This is a well deserved honor.

**MSU Hosts Securities Law Institute**

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is coming to MSU College of Law for the 2008 Midwest Securities Law Institute on October 17. Staff from the SEC will address important issues facing both public and private companies as well as investors. Representatives from the new Financial Industry Regulatory Authority will also attend.