

**LAW SCHOOLS COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE  
DECEMBER 4, 2010 ANNUAL MEETING**

Please describe your committee's activities during the 2009-2010 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. Sponsorship of programs for Continuing Legal Education via a means accessible to Section Members, including holding at least one program yearly (Article I, 3).**

The events for 2009-2010 year included:

(a) October 7, 2009: Reception for law students and attorneys at the Black Finn in Royal Oak;

(b) March 23, 2010: UDM Law School Business Law Society Award Ceremony, Opus One, Detroit (this was not sponsored by the Law Schools Committee, but many attorneys from the LSC attended);

(c) March 29, 2010: "Preparing for a Career in Business Law", MSU School of Law (panelists were Ed Lukas, Bodman LLP; Brandon Dalziel, Bodman LLP; and Doug Toering, Grassi & Toering, PLC);

(d) April 1, 2010: Reception for law students and attorneys at the Black Finn in Royal Oak; and

(e) Other programs or presentations at various law schools.

**2. Addressing substantive legal issues for committee members, including holding regular committee meetings (at least once a year) and reporting on the meetings to the Council (Article I, 4).**

Committee meetings occur as needed, either in-person or by teleconference. Reports of the programs are included in the quarterly reports to the Council.

**3. Promoting involvement in the committee and making the committee more responsive to members including the designation of a contact person (Article I, 5).**

We promote the Law Schools Committee via the Section website, via e-mails to the attorney liaisons and law student representatives, and via Facebook pages or calendars at the individual law schools (maintained by the student leaders). I am the contact person.

**4. (A) monitoring and raising awareness of laws or developments in laws that affect Michigan businesses and, when appropriate, making recommendations for updates and improvements;**

**(B) providing 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) educating Michigan businesses, their owners and employees 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).**

N/A

**5. Please comment on your plan regarding succession (Article III, 5).**

Having just become chair of the Law Schools Committee in September 2010, I do not have a succession plan.

**6. Please list your Committee's goals and objectives for the next 12 to 24 months and whether you will require additional support from the Section to achieve these goals (Article III, 5).**

During the next 12-24 months, we expect to offer lunch or late-afternoon programs at law schools in the Detroit area, Lansing, perhaps Grand Rapids. These programs will probably address topics such as "Preparing for a Career in Business Law" or "How to Become a Successful Business Lawyer" or possibly "Law Practice Management." Our goal is to offer one or two programs per campus per year. The greatest concern of the students continues to be locating employment after graduation. In that regard, we have only limited advice to give.

That said, the SBM has just established a Master Lawyers Section; the Macomb County Bar Association is doing the same. We have reached out to officers of both groups, in the hope that experienced business attorneys may be willing to mentor newly-minted law graduates interested in becoming business lawyers. The Macomb County Bar Association is in the process of identifying experienced attorneys who may

be willing to mentor law students or new attorneys, both in business law and many other substantive practice areas and in law practice management. A few members of the Committee do mentor individual students, but at present we do not have sufficient attorneys to do more than that. If any Council member would like to mentor a new business attorney, please contact Doug Toering.

**7. Encouraging law students to become members of the Section through participation in events of business law societies, holding two social events each year, and supporting one substantive presentation or panel discussion at each Michigan law school each year (Article IV, 4).**

During 2009-2010, we held two social events and sponsored a number of programs at various law schools. The socials are expensive. For now, we believe the most cost-effective way of serving the law students is to sponsor programs at the individual law school campuses on "Preparing for a Career in Business Law", "How to Become a Successful Business Lawyer", or perhaps "Law Practice Management."

Respectfully submitted,

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