

**LAW SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE
DECEMBER 3, 2011 ANNUAL MEETING**

Please describe your committee's activities during the 2011-2012 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).

- (a) On January 29, 2010, the UDM Business Law Association sponsored "Surviving in a Drowning Economy as a Business Lawyer" at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi. Although the Law Schools Committee was not involved in this, Ed Lukas was one of the keynote speakers.
- (b) On February 10, 2011, the UDM Business Law Association sponsored a mixer at the Black Finn in Royal Oak. Both UDM law students and BLS members attended.
- (c) On October 24, 2011, three of our attorney liaisons (Eric Gould, Shanna Kaminski, and I) presented on various business issues to law students and others at Wayne State University Law School. This was part of the 313 Project.

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).

None of these is part of the focus of the Law Schools Committee.

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, and 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.

That said, some law schools this year did not express an interest in hosting an event with BLS speakers. In that regard, the attorney liaisons on the Committee have decided that the law students should drive the events. In other words, the Committee has apprised the students that we have excellent business attorneys available to present on various business-related issues. It then is up to the law students to contact the attorney liaisons for their respective schools to arrange the events.

Additionally, law students need attorney mentors. 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 law student or a new business attorney, please contact me.

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).

In years past, 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." Again, it is up to the law students to request such a presentation.

8. Other

On July 19, 2011, Bob Wilson spoke to the summer business planning students at Cooley Law School-Auburn Hills. He provided excellent advice on becoming a successful business lawyer. Likewise, on October 17, 2011, Ed Lukas provided his wise counsel on that same subject to the fall business planning students. Thank you, Bob and Ed!

Also, the Macomb County Bar Association has recently established a "Masters Section", under which accomplished attorneys will mentor new lawyers. So far, at least twenty-three attorneys have volunteered as mentors for the "Macomb Project". The kickoff occurred September 22, 2011 at Cooley Law School-Auburn Hills.

Respectfully submitted,

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