

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM

REPORT PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 18, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

1. Next meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the Small Business Forum will probably occur in May 2010, at a date and location to be determined.
2. Council approval: No matters require Council approval. Allow me to suggest, however, that we seek specific recommendations of the Council members on ways to increase diversity in the Business Law Section and then to establish specific plans to implement those recommendations.
3. Membership: Our communications with committee members along with our reach-out to new members and our efforts to increase diversity in membership are discussed in item no. 5 below.
4. Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives: This is discussed in no. 5.
5. Meetings and Programs: On Tuesday, March 2, 2010, the Small Business Forum sponsored its first event for 2010. The topics were "Opportunities for Small Business in Alternative Energy" and "Opportunities for Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses." Arcadio (Kayo) Ramirez of the MI-SBTDC presented the former, and Cynthia Grubbs of the MEDC discussed the latter. Their presentations were very good, and so were their handouts. The presentations were well received, and everyone seemed to have had a good time. Over 30 people attended, of whom perhaps 1/3 were non-attorneys.

Cynthia Umphrey and I had hoped the topics at this event would help increase diversity in the Small Business Forum. This succeeded, in part: Perhaps 1/3 or more of the attendees were women; regrettably, only one African American attended.
6. Publications: We have published no articles.
7. Methods of Monitoring Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments and Recommended Action: We do not make regular efforts to monitor court decisions or activities in the Michigan legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

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