

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
REPORT PREPARED FOR THE MAY 4, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee

The next Small Business Forum event is likely to occur either June 5 or 7, 2012 and will be co-sponsored by the Regulation of Securities Committee (chaired by Jerry Schwartz). The topic will be: "The JOBS Act: What Is It and How Will It Affect Michigan Businesses?" Confirmed speakers include: Gerald L. Moore, Michigan District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration; and Gregory A. Coursen, Director of Professional Standards, Plante & Moran, PLLC. We expect three attorneys (TBD) will also speak.

2. Council Approval

No matters require Council approval.

3. Membership

We communicate with the planning committee primarily by e-mail. We publicize the Small Business Forum events through e-mails to BLS members, e-mails to previous attendees, press releases, and LinkedIn posts.

4. Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives

We continue to accomplish our objectives of holding two or three Small Business Forum events per year. One of our objectives is promoting Michigan as a "go to" venue for business.

Regrettably, minority attorneys are still woefully underrepresented at our gatherings. We welcome anyone's help in improving the number of minority attorneys who attend the SBF functions.

5. Meetings and Programs

On March 29, 2012, the Small Business Forum and the Commercial Litigation Committee jointly sponsored a seminar on business courts in Michigan. Speakers included Judges John Foster, Michael Warren, and Christopher Yates of the Macomb, Oakland, and Kent County Circuit Courts, respectively. In addition, Michael Gadola, Office of the Governor-Legal Division, spoke on the business court bill in the state house of representatives (HB 5128). Approximately 43 people attended. Perhaps the most interesting part of the seminar was Judge Warren's explanation

of why Oakland Circuit's pilot program (effective July 1, 2012) establishes a \$500,000 threshold for cases to be included in its business docket and why every Oakland Circuit judge will have a business docket. Several attendees disagreed. They suggested that the threshold was too high, and that only selected judges should serve as business court judges.

6. Publications

We have published no articles.

7. Methods of Monitoring Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments and Recommended Action

We do not regularly monitor court decisions or activities in the Michigan legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

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