

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM COMMITTEE
OF THE PROGRAMS SECTION**

1. **2008-2008 Budget Request and Anticipated Use of Funds.**

\$7,500. This will be used to fund educational and marketing events and the marketing of same in Southeastern and Western Michigan.

2. **Use of Budgeted Funds During 2007-2008.**

As of September 5, 2008, the Small Business Forum spent \$8,561.34, but brought in income of \$6,870, for a total spend of \$1,691.34.

3. **Next scheduled meeting of the Committee:** First week of October and then in early Nov, both here in Southeastern MI. Grand Rapids events are not yet scheduled.

4. **Council Approval:** NONE

5. **Membership:** No updates from last report

6. **Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives:** Our primary objectives are:

- Increase involvement of smaller firms in the Section and to add a few new Forum Leaders. -We have added two new attorneys in Southeastern MI as leaders and have the west side Forum well underway. I may need to weed out a few of the less participatory Leaders down here as I phase out of running this.
- Create a bridge between business attorneys and the small business community.-This was actually very successful so far this year with both of our first two events getting a pretty good turn out from actual business owners.
- Provide resources and networking opportunities between attorneys, CPAs, lenders, investment bankers, financial professionals and related advisors. -The Survey results from attendees seem to confirm we are delivering.
- Provide time-efficient, educational and fun events. - The Survey results from attendees seem to confirm we are delivering.
- Create perception of lawyers as valuable members of a business team. - Again, we try to structure our topics to achieve this goal.
- Improve perception of Michigan as a good environment in which to do business. - Hopefully our upcoming programs will assist in this.

- Help attorneys gain new tools and contact to provide quality service to business owners. - The Survey results from attendees seem to confirm we are delivering.

Our objectives for this year are:

- To continue to have a diverse range of attorneys from across Michigan who primarily represent closely-held and family businesses with less than \$50 million in annual gross sales. We are trying to get more Macomb County participation and have a Macomb Event scheduled for October.
- Host about 3 -4 useful events each full year, some here and some on the West Side.
- Involve small business owners in at least two of our events. This remains a challenge.
- To get the SBF to a point where it is largely self-sustaining from a budget perspective. We are moving toward this goal.

Meetings and Programs: The programs already held are described above. Our program topics and event plans are as follows: For Southeastern MI (1) October Topic- Practical Tips on Running the Family Business As a Business: use of employment agreements; who controls the company; resolving deadlocks; rules of entry, compensation; other family issues. David Eberhard is coordinating and it will be in Macomb County. He may try to make this attractive to business owners as well as advisors and attorneys. (2) Early Nov. Topic- Economic Development Resources - What's out there and to whom is it available? Examples: Automation Alley; Ann Arbor Sparks; Oakland County ADC- Bruce Haffey coordinating. He may try to make this attractive to business owners as well as advisors and attorneys.

For Grand Rapids: (1) Practical HR Tips and Tricks for the Business Lawyer (previously postponed due to low confirmed attendance) (2) Finance and Economic Development Resources - What's out there and to whom is it available?; (3) Late Fall: A Litigator's Perspective on Business Organization and Transaction Documents.