

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM**  
**REPORT PREPARED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee**

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will occur October 20, 2011.

**2. Council Approval**

No matters require Council approval.

**3. Membership**

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

**4. Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives**

We continue to accomplish our objectives of holding two or three Small Business Forum events per year. On October 20, 2011, the Small Business Forum and the Commercial Litigation Committee will jointly sponsor a seminar on the proposed Business Court as well as on updates from LARA. The event will run from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Columbia Center, 201 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48084. Speakers include Michael Gadola, Office of the Governor-Legal Division. Mr. Gadola is drafting a bill for a Business Court that will probably be introduced in the legislature this fall. (Kudos to the BLS's former Chair, Diane Akers, for her ten-year effort in promoting a Business Court.) In addition, Ann Baker or Julia Dale will update us on activities at LARA. More details to follow.

Regrettably, minority attorneys are still 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 July 13, 2011, two CPAs from Plante Moran, PLLC, Rachel Keller and Michael Merkel, made an excellent presentation on the Michigan Corporate Tax (which replaced the Michigan Business Tax). Following that, the audience discussed how individual business owners and advisors can help make Michigan a "go to" state for business. About 25 people attended this event in Troy.

Going forward, promoting business in Michigan will typically be a part of each Small Business Forum event.

**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,

Douglas L. Toering, Committee Chair  
Toering Law Firm PLLC  
888 West Big Beaver, Suite 750  
Troy, MI 48084-4745  
(248) 269-2020  
(248) 269-2027 (direct)  
(248) 269-2025 (fax)  
[dltoering@toeringlaw.com](mailto:dltoering@toeringlaw.com)

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