

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
REPORT PREPARED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will occur in October 2012.

2. Council Approval

No matters require Council approval.

3. Membership

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

4. Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives

We continue to accomplish our objectives of holding two or three Small Business Forum events per year. In October 2012 (date TBD), the Small Business Forum and Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) will jointly sponsor a seminar (roughly titled), "New ways to promote your clients, your state, and your practice." We plan to discuss the Pure Michigan Business Connect B2B purchasing program (to go live September 21), the PMBC *pro bono* program for approved CPAs and attorneys, AutoHarvest, and MichAuto. Confirmed speakers include Vince Nystrom or Jacob Schroeder of the MEDC and Rob Luce of MichAuto (Detroit Regional Chamber). The event will run from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Columbia Center, 201 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48084. The MACPA will offer continuing professional education credit for the seminar. The MACPA is also interested in co-sponsoring future seminars with the Small Business Forum.

5. Meetings and Programs

On June 5, 2012, the Regulation of Securities Committee (chaired by Jerry Schwartz) and the Small Business Forum co-sponsored a seminar, "The JOBS Act: What is it and what does it mean for Michigan businesses." Speakers included: Diane Bissell, Deputy Commissioner of the Securities Division; Don Kunz of Honigman; Mark Metz of Dykema; Gerald Moore, Michigan District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administrative; and Greg Coursen, Director of Professional Standards at

Plante & Moran. About 40 people attended the seminar at the Columbia Center in Troy. Thank you to Jerry Schwartz and (as always) to Terri Shoop.

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.

8. Miscellaneous: Update on Business Courts

Macomb County's Specialized Business Docket (SBD) has been in operation for nine months as of August 1. As of that date, a total of 19 cases have been assigned to the SBD. Six cases have closed, all without going to trial; those cases were open for an average of 109 days.

The Kent County SBD became operational on March 1, 2012. Since then, the Kent County SBD has taken in 89 cases, closing 20 of them already. Judge Christopher Yates has published 14 decisions, which are available online. The Kent SBD has successfully implemented an electronic filing system as well. Judge Yates is interested in holding a seminar on business courts in the Grand Rapids area, but nothing has been planned.

Oakland's SBD launched July 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

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