

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE
DECEMBER 4, 2010 ANNUAL MEETING**

Please describe your committee's activities during the 2009-2010 year toward achievement of the goals outlined in the Section's Strategic Plan. Each question below corresponds to a specific Section of the Plan, a copy of which is attached and to which reference may be made for further guidance in providing responses. If the question is not applicable to your particular committee or directorship, please note as such.

1. Sponsorship of programs for Continuing Legal Education via a means accessible to Section Members, including holding at least one program yearly (Article I, 3).

The Small Business Forum hosted three events in 2010:

(a) March 2, 2010: "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.

(b) May 11, 2010: "Developing Foreign Markets: New Opportunities for Small Businesses in Exporting". The speakers were: Richard Corson, Director, U.S. Commercial Service; John R. O'Gara, Regional Manager, Export Solutions Group, Office of International Trade, U.S. Export Assistance Center, U.S. Small Business Administration; and Maurice F. Snyder, Ph.D., Spes Development Co.

(c) October 5, 2010: "Leadership in Business During Uncertain and Challenging Times". The speaker was Larry Fobes, the Director of the Institute of Industrial and Organizational Competitiveness at Wayne State University's School of Business Administration.

2. Addressing substantive legal issues for committee members, including holding regular committee meetings (at least once a year) and reporting on the meetings to the Council (Article I, 4).

Business issues and some related legal issues were discussed at the events mentioned in no. 1. Reports of the seminars are included in the quarterly reports to the Council.

3. Promoting involvement in the committee and making the committee more responsive to members including the designation of a contact person (Article I, 5).

We promote the Small Business Forum via Business Law Section announcements, via announcements to those who have previously attended SBF events, and in some cases via articles in the Oakland Legal News. I am the designated contact person.

4. (A) monitoring and raising awareness of laws or developments in laws that affect Michigan businesses and, when appropriate, making recommendations for updates and improvements;

(B) providing assistance to appropriate state government personnel with respect to business-related legislation and rule making;

(C) as appropriate, providing amicus curiae briefs related to business-related issues being addressed by the courts, and

(D) educating Michigan businesses, their owners and employees about changes to Michigan's laws in order to maintain Michigan's ability to attract and retain new business enterprises and enable existing businesses to remain competitive. (Article II, 1).

The Small Business Forum attempts to inform attorneys, accountants, and other business advisors along with business owners themselves about current issues affecting small businesses in Michigan. This is done through our seminars. If requested, we will provide advice on legislation and rule-making.

In addition, I am attempting to determine how Section members can, consistent with our charter, work with the State of Michigan or non-profits to promote Michigan as a "go-to" venue for business.

5. Please comment on your plan regarding succession (Article III, 5).

Having recently become sole chair of the Small Business Forum, I do not have a succession plan.

6. Please list your Committee's goals and objectives for the next 12 to 24 months and whether you will require additional support from the Section to achieve these goals (Article III, 5).

During the next 12-24 months, we would like to continue to hold 2-3 seminars per year, to increase attendance of accountants and business owners, to increase involvement of minorities and women, and to encourage business owners and advisors to do whatever they can to promote Michigan as a "go-to" state for small business.

Other than the requested budget, we do not expect to need additional support from the Section.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas L. Toering, Committee Chair
GRASSI & TOERING, PLC
888 West Big Beaver, Suite 750
Troy, MI 48084-4745
(248) 269-2020
(248) 269-2027 (direct)
(248) 269-2025 (fax)
dltoering@aol.com

Date of Report: November 22, 2010