

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
REPORT PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER 3, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING**

1. **2011-2012 Budget Request and Anticipated Use of Funds:** We request \$2,000 (net of revenue) to assist in co-sponsoring one event with the Commercial Litigation Committee and in solely sponsoring one or two other events. A modest amount may be used for publicity. We project expenses of \$3,000 and revenue of \$1,000.
2. **Use of Budgeted Funds During 2010-2011.** The budgeted funds for 2010-2011 were used to assist in sponsoring one SBF event and in co-sponsoring and publicizing (with the Commercial Litigation Committee) one other SBF event.
3. **Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee:** The next Small Business Forum event will probably occur during March 2012. To be co-sponsored with the Commercial Litigation Committee, this seminar will focus on the business dockets of individual counties (Oakland County and possibly Wayne County and Kent County). Also, Judge John C. Foster of the Macomb County Circuit Court will report on the status of the Specialized Business Docket, which took effect in Macomb County on November 1, 2011.
4. **Council Approval:** No matters require Council approval.
5. **Membership:** We communicate with the planning committee by e-mail and occasionally by telephone. We publicize the Small Business Forum events through e-mails to BLS members, e-mails to previous attendees, and press releases.
6. **Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives:** We are achieving our goal of hosting two or three Forum events throughout the year.
7. **Meetings and Programs:** On Thursday, October 20, 2010, the Small Business Forum and the Commercial Litigation Committee co-sponsored "Business Courts in Michigan." Held at the Columbia Center in Troy, speakers included former BLS Chair Diane L. Akers; Honorable Mark S. Switalski, Chief Judge of the Macomb County Circuit Court; Michael F. Gadola, Chief Counsel to the Governor; and BLS Council Member Julia A. Dale, Director, Corporation Division of LARA. Approximately 45 people (including speakers and a reporter from the *Macomb Daily*) attended.
8. **Publications:** We have published no articles.
9. **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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