

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE
DECEMBER 1, 2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

Please describe your committee's activities during the 2011-2012 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 co-sponsored three events in 2011-2012. These include: (a) two programs on business courts co-sponsored with the Commercial Litigation Committee (October 20, 2011 and March 29, 2012); and (b) one program on the JOBS Act co-sponsored by the Regulation of Securities Committee (June 5, 2012).

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 and legal issues were discussed at the events mentioned in no. 1. Reports of those seminars were 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 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, LinkedIn posts, and occasional press releases. 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 rulemaking.

In addition, we continue to look for ways to promote Michigan as a “go-to” venue for business.

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

Having become sole chair of the Small Business Forum in 2010, 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 to 24 months, we would like to continue to hold two or three 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
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)
dltoring@toeringlaw.com

Date of Report: November 16, 2012