SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED FOR THE
DECEMBER 6, 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Please describe your committee's activities during the 2013-2014 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 cosponsored (along with the Commercial Litigation Committee and the In-House Counsel Committee) a seminar on November 20, 2014. The event, "Governmental and Internal Investigations: What In-House and Outside Counsel Need to Know", was well attended (about 30 people including speakers) despite the snow.

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).

Legal issues were discussed at the event mentioned in no. 1. A report of that seminar was included in the quarterly report 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 informal 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).

No succession plan is in place or contemplated.

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, and to encourage business owners and advisors 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,

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Date of Report: November 26, 2014