

May 31, 2006

*Annual Report of the Intellectual Property Law Section
Of the State Bar of Michigan*

As Chair of the Intellectual Property Law Section, I am pleased to report that 2005-2006 was a highly productive year for the Section. This Report describes the key activities of the Section in 2005-2006 as we continued our efforts to refine and improve the various programs and core activities of the Section.

I. Seminars

In keeping with its core mission, the Section focused its attention on educational programs for its members.

On July 20-22, 2005, the Section hosted its annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute in conjunction with ICLE on Mackinac Island. The two-day program offered high-quality content from speakers across the country on a variety of intellectual property topics. Ten separate lectures were offered in addition to three special limited-enrollment advanced sessions. The limited-enrollment sessions, which were offered for the first time in 2005-2006, were in high demand and very well received. The Section also continued to offer networking opportunities through the Women's Networking Breakfast and a roundtable luncheon between corporate counsel and in-house counsel.

On November 7, 2005, the Section co-sponsored a seminar offered by the American Arbitration Association entitled "Arbitration of Intellectual Property and Licensing Disputes: Artful Drafting and Savvy Advocacy."

On March 20, 2006, the Section hosted its annual Intellectual property Spring Seminar in Lansing. Over 330 people registered for this event, which was a record for the program. The Seminar offered eleven lectures on various intellectual property law topics in addition to a keynote speech from U.S. District Judge George Steeh. The Seminar also offered a round table discussion of practicing IP attorneys for the benefit of law students.

During the year, the Section also finalized plans for the 2006 Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute to be held in Traverse City. The 2006 Institute will again be a two-day program offering eleven separate lectures on intellectual property law and three limited-enrollment advanced sessions. The Women's Networking Breakfast and the roundtable luncheon between corporate counsel and in-house counsel will also be continued this year.

The Section is also finalizing plans for a program in the Fall of 2006 regarding the new electronic filing system for patents at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. One or more speakers from the Patent Office will give a presentation on the new system. The program is being targeted for October, 2006 and will be offered in two locations – one in the Detroit Metro area and another in the Grand Rapids area.

II. Finances

The Section continues to have a strong financial position. As of March 31, 2006, the Section had a cash balance of over \$87,000. The only significant expenses remaining for 2005-2006 relate to the Spring Seminar and the final publication of the newsletter for this year. After these payments are made, it is expected that the cash balance will still exceed \$80,000 at the end of the 2005-2006 term. This is an increase of approximately \$10,000 from the prior year. This cash balance gives the Section significant flexibility to offer a variety of programs for its members. It also ensures that the Section will remain financially stable in the event that expenses at one or more programs are higher than expected.

III. Publications

The Section made significant efforts to improve the format and appearance of its newsletter *IPLS Proceedings*. The first edition of the newsletter under the new format came out in early 2006. Efforts are also underway to improve the content of the newsletter to make it more useful, informative, and relevant to the Section members.

Craig Baldwin
Chair, Intellectual Property Law Section
State Bar of Michigan