

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

Bar Year: 2007-2008

Section Name: Real Property Law Section

Mission Statement: The Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education and information about current real property issues through meetings, seminars, its website, pro bono service programs, and quarterly publication of a journal. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan.

As further stated in the Section's By-Laws, the Section's purpose is to study the laws and procedures pertaining to Real Property Law and to promote the fair and just administration of Real Property Law; to study and report upon proposed and necessary legislation, including, but not limited to, pending legislation and drafting and introducing legislation; to study and report on pending litigation, including, but not limited to, the filing of amicus curiae briefs; to promote throughout the State of Michigan the legal education of members of the Bar and the public on Real Property Law by sponsoring meetings, institutes and conferences devoted to Real Property Law, by the preparation and dissemination of books, booklets, materials, pamphlets and brochures with respect thereto and by preparing and sponsoring and publishing legal writings in this field. The Section endeavors to promote professional responsibility and the prevention of malpractice among the members of the Bar.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Lawrence R. Shoffner	535 Griswold St., Detroit	313-806-0076	lshoffner@comcast.net
Chair-Elect	C. Leslie Banas	38500 Woodward Ave., #100 Bloomfield Hills	248-566-8406	lbanas@honigman.com
Secretary	Ronn S. Nadis	32255 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills	248-865-3700	rnadis@tnnlaw.ocm
Treasurer	Mark P. Krynski	27777 Franklin, Ste 2500 Southfield	248-351-3000	mkrynski@jaffelaw.com

Member	Term	Member	Term
William B. Acker	2010	Brian P. Henry	2008
C. Leslie Banas	2010	Mark P. Krynski	2008
Howard A. Lax	2010	Patricia Paruch	2008
David E. Nykanen	2010	David E. Pierson	2008
Jerome P. Pesick	2010	C. Kim Shierk	2008
Glen M. Zatz	2009	Nicholas Scavone, Jr. (Rep. Michigan Land Title Standards)	
Ronn S. Nadis	2009		
Gregg A. Nathanson	2009		
Ronald E. Reynolds	2009		
Lawrence R. Shoffner	2009		

Council Meeting Schedule:

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	September 19, 2007	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	October 10, 2007	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.

Council Meeting	November 14, 2007	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	December 2, 2007	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	January 9, 2008	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	February 13, 2008	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	April 9, 2008	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	May 14, 2008	Butzel Long Offices, B.H.
Council Meeting	July 19, 2008	Grand Traverse Resort

General Budget Information: The Section's financial condition remains strong. Once again, the Section will carry a surplus into the following year.

Events and/or Seminars:

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Homeward Bound: RPLS/YLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Basic Michigan Real Estate Practice- Buying, Selling, Renting”	November 15, 2007	St. John Conference Center Plymouth
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Water and Real Estate Transactions”	December 6, 2008	St. John Conference Center Plymouth
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Current Issues in Construction Law”	February 7, 2008	St. John Conference Center Plymouth
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “Dealing With Drop Downs, Drop Ups, Defeasance and other Complex Transactional Real Estate Issues”	March 20, 2008	St. John Conference Center Plymouth
Homeward Bound: RPLS/ICLE – Live and Webcast “The Urban Village and Form Based Zoning”	May 15, 2008	St. John Conference Center Plymouth
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: RPLS – “Title Insurance 2008: New Policies, New Rules”	January 17, 2008	The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: RPLS – “Zoning and Land Use”	April 10, 2008	The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham
Groundbreaker Breakfast Roundtables: RPLS/MDBA – “Bankruptcy and Workouts”	June 5, 2008	DAC - Detroit
2008 Winter Conference – “Chicago Style: Deep Dish Development”	March 6-8, 2008	Sofitel Chicago Water Tower
2008 Summer Conference – “What Goes Down Must Come Up: Advising Clients About Real Estate in Michigan”	July 16-19, 2008	Grand Traverse Resort

Legislative Issues: During the 2007-2008 Legislative Session, the Section opposed 8 House Bills and 2 Senate Bills. The positions taken by the Section are set forth in its Public Policy Reports, which may be viewed at www.michbar.org/realproperty/publicpolicy.cfm.

Recommendations for next Council: The recommendations for the next RPLS Council are identified in the RPLS Long Range Plan dated July 23, 2005.

Section Membership: The Section membership for FY 2007-08 was 3438. The Section membership for FY 2006-07 was 3560.

Section Bylaws: The most recent version of the Section's By-Laws may be viewed on the Section's website - www.michbar.org/realproperty/generalinfo.cfm.

Section Publications: The Section publishes the *Michigan Real Property Review* on a quarterly basis. This year the Section will also publish the *Michigan Land Title Standards 6th Edition*. Under the leadership of Russell Prins, the Section's Standing Committee on Land Title Standards has brought this invaluable resource into the electronic age and will greatly extend its impact on Michigan jurisprudence. The Standards will soon be available on-line at the Section's website and in an enhanced version on CD-ROM.

Section Amicus Activity: The Section submitted amicus briefs in the following cases

- *Houdini Properties, LLC v City of Romulus*, Supreme Court 132018; Court of Appeals 266338
- *Adams v Adams*, Court of Appeals 274497
- *DF Land Development, LLC v Charter Township of Ann Arbor*, Court of Appeals 275859

Awards: This year Robert Mollhagen was honored with the C. Robert Wartell Distinguished Service Award.

Administration: Arlene Rubinstein continues to excel as the Section's Administrator. Arlene is the cornerstone of the Section's accomplishments during the past year.

Special Committees: This year the Section tried something entirely different with respect to the special committees - it made an effort to break out of Southeastern Michigan. Most of the Section's special committees are now co-chaired by a lawyer from each side of the state, bringing a broader range of insight and experience to the Section. Councilmember Kim Shierk devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to this initiative, which has helped ensure the Section's development as a truly statewide institution. Melisa Collar, Nyal Deems and John Cameron also played important behind-the-scenes roles in helping recruit talented co-chairs from across the state.

Communications: The Section continues to make great strides in its use of technology. The RPLS Council now routinely includes remote attendees as part of its monthly meetings through use of web-conferencing. The Section's partnership with ICLE has allowed our Homeward Bound series to viewed over the internet from anywhere in the world. With the help of Councilmember Howard Lax, the Section is also in the process of developing an internet bulletin-board for use by the special committees. Continuing improvements in technology will help the Section incorporate lawyers from all across the State more directly into its educational and governance activities.

Continuing Legal Education: The Section's continuing legal education program continues to grow and prosper thanks to the efforts of Councilmember David Nykanen and Homeward Bound Chair Richard Rattner. The Section's relationship with ICLE has never been stronger or more positive, thanks in great part to Kay Holsinger's involvement. The Section has extended its existing contract with ICLE for an additional two years and looks forward to developing stronger bonds in the future. The Winter Conference continues to flourish, this year thanks to the efforts of Marie Racine and Greg Gamalski. The Summer Conference is well on its way to another success, thanks to the leadership of Dawn Patterson and Melissa Collar.

Strategic Partnerships: During the past year the Section vigorously pursued creative partnership opportunities with other legal and professional organizations. The Section now hosts joint programs with ICLE, the Young Lawyers Section, the Metropolitan Detroit Bar Association, and the International Council of Shopping Centers. However, the partnership that has developed most over the past year is that between the Section and the State Bar of Michigan. The current relationship between the Section and the SBM is both positive and dynamic, thanks to the SBM's current leadership and its responsive and committed staff. The Section's Chair thanks Candace Crowley and Elizabeth Lyon for attending our Council meetings. The RPLS Council looks forward to holding its September 2008 Council meeting in conjunction with the SBM's Annual Meeting in Dearborn, Michigan.

Lawrence Shoffner, Chairperson