

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

**Bar Year: 2008-2009**

**Section Name:** Real Property Law Section

**Mission Statement:** RPLS' purposes are 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; to study and report on pending litigation, including filing amicus briefs; to promote the legal education of members of the Bar and the public regarding real property law by sponsoring meetings, institutes and conferences devoted to real property law, by the preparation and dissemination of books, materials, pamphlets and brochures and publishing legal writings; and promote professional responsibility and prevention of malpractice among members of the Bar.

**Officers and Council Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	C. Leslie Banas	Banas and Associates PLLC 330 E. Maple Road Suite 245 Birmingham, MI 48009	248.719.0032	CLBanasLaw@comcast.net
Chair-Elect	Jerome P. Pesick	Steinhardt Pesick & Cohen, PC 380 N. Old Woodward Ave. Suite 120 Birmingham, MI 48009-5307	248.646.0888	jpesick@spclaw.com
Vice-Chair	Mark P. Krysinski	Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC 27777 Franklin Road Suite 2500 Southfield, MI 48034-8222	248.351.3000	mkrysinski@jaffelaw.com
Secretary	Ronn S. Nadis	Taubman Nadis & Neuman PC 32255 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 200 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1574	248.865.3700	rnadis@tnnlaw.com
Treasurer	C. Kim Shierk	Myers Nelson Dillon & Shierk PLLC	248.203.2040	kshierk@mnds-pll.com

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		40701 Woodward Avenue Suite 235 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304		
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Member	Term	Member	Term
Melissa Collar	2008-09	Jerome Pesick	Officer
Gregory Nathanson	2007-09	Ronn Nadis	Officer
Ronald Reynolds	2007-09	Kim Shierk	Officer
Glen Zatz	2007-09	Mark Krysiniski	Officer
Howard Lax	2008-10	David Nykanen	CLE Chair
William Acker	2008-10	Richard Rattner	CLE Chair
Brian Henry	2009-11	Nicholas Scavone	Land Title Rep.
Patricia Paruch	2009-11	Lawrence Shoffner	Imm. Past Chair
David Pierson	2009-11		
C. Leslie Banas	Officer		

***Council Meeting Schedule:***

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Council meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	September 17, 2008	Hyatt, Dearborn
Council Meeting	October 15, 2008	Honigman, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	November 5, 2008	Honigman, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	December 3, 2008	Honigman, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	January 14, 2009	Honigman, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	February 4, 2009	Honigman, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	April 1, 2009	Honigman, Bloomfield Hills
Council Meeting	May 6, 2009	Jaffe, Southfield
Council Meeting	July 18, 2009	Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

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**General Budget Information:** The RPLS Annual Budget for 2008-2009 provided for total income of \$252,000 and total expenses of \$251,000. As of May 31, 2009, income and expenses were on track to “make budget.”

**Events and/or Seminars:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding events and/or seminars as an addendum.

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
1. Homeward Bound (with ICLE) (Afternoon Seminars)		
• Foreclosures and Workouts: Hard Lessons for Hard Times	November 13, 2008	Plymouth
• Buying a Condo: Understanding Contingencies, Restrictions and Operations	December 4, 2008	Plymouth
• Green Building and Sustainable Development: the New Competitive Advantage	February 5, 2009	Plymouth
• Zoning Litigation 101	May 7, 2009	Plymouth
2. Groundbreakers (Breakfast Roundtables)		
• How the Wall Street Bailout Affects Lending on Main Street	January 15, 2009	Detroit
• 2009 Michigan Continuing Education Program for Real Estate Professionals (with ICSC)	April 29, 2009	Birmingham
3. Winter Conference		
• Ports in the Storm: Setting a New Course in 2009	March 12-14, 2009	Bonita Springs, FL
4. Summer Conference		
• Isles of Prosperity	July 15-18, 2009	Mackinac Island
5. RPLS 35th Anniversary Dinner Celebration	November 11, 2008	Detroit
6. Law School for Legislators-Real Estate Law (with SBM)	March 5, 2009	Lansing

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### Legislative issues:

- The Section supported SB927 and 1160 which amended the land document recording acts to clarify when such documents were deemed to be recorded (and thereupon in the chain of title). The bills were passed by the legislature and became 2008 PA 357 and 2008 PA 358.
- The Section opposed SB1313, the so called “broker’s lien bill” which died at the end of the 2007-2008 legislative session.
- The Section opposed HB6122 an amendment to the state transfer tax act. The bill which was passed by the legislature at the end of the 2007-2008 legislative session and became 2008 PA 473.

### Other Significant Activities:

- Publication of 2008-2009 Volume of the *Review* (4 issues).
- Publication of new monthly Newsletter directed to members (June, 2009).
- Publication of residential foreclosure pamphlet, and distribution to non-profit housing-related organizations.
- RPLS Award of \$500 book award scholarship to a student at each of Michigan’s 5 law schools.
- Presentation of the Robert Wartell Award for service to the Section to Robert Berlow.
- Formation of a new special committee focusing on entrepreneurial development entitled “Real Estate Development and Ownership Committee.”
- Activation of a new Membership Committee to study changes in Section membership, identify groups of prospective members and reach out to them in the hopes of having them become involved in the Section.
- Sponsorship of Young Lawyers Section annual conference.

### Recommendations for next Council:

- During the 2008-2009 Section year, Council realized that it was necessary to create ways to communicate with members on a timelier and less formal basis than exclusively through the *Review* and listserv. It launched a new monthly Newsletter which is being sent out electronically. Council should monitor members’ responses to the Newsletter and modify/broaden the content and presentation in response to members’ reactions.

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- During the 2008-2009 Section year, Council noted a drop in Section membership. It launched a new initiative to reach out to prospective members and encourage them to join the Section. Initially, the newly formed Membership Committee elected to focus on new SBM members, and began to interface with the Young Lawyers Section to acquaint its members with RPLS. The Section should continue to reach out to younger lawyers and expand its outreach to other groups.
- The amount of attorney and administrative effort incurred to produce CLE programming is enormous. Attendance at all CLE programs combined is in the hundreds, out of a Section membership of about 3,000. Council should consider whether to redeploy some of their energies and efforts to other types of communications (such as more comprehensive publications or committee activities) that might reach a broader Section membership.

**Other Information:**

- Certain amendments to the Section's Bylaws were proposed in early 2009 and recommended for approval by Council. A vote on the proposed amendments will be taken at the Section's annual meeting in July, 2009.
- The Section inked an agreement with Thomson West to make the *Review* available to Westlaw subscribers.

**Reports must be submitted before May 31 of each year, to:**

Heather K. Anderson  
Sections and Committees Administrator  
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