

MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Members of the Aviation Law Section
of the State Bar of Michigan**

FROM: Steven M. Chait, Chairperson 2006 - 2007

DATE: March 27, 2007

As the 2006-2007 Chairperson of the Aviation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan I want to welcome you as a member of the Section and Thank you for your membership!

This is actually the second time that I have been honored to be elected as your Chairperson, having first served as Chairperson for 1995 – 1996. As I recall, I was the first ever Chairperson of our Section to have given up my day job with a large law firm so that I could devote my full time and attention to the Section! I presume that was a good move on my part, since our Section Treasurer, Karl Randall recently gave me a bottle of wine and a card congratulating me for being unemployed now for the past 11 years! At least that was the last time I collected a paycheck.

Since 1996, I have had my office directly across the street from the Oakland County International Airport, where I can see my airplane hangar while sitting at my desk. I have owned the same Beechcraft Debonair airplane for over 21 years now (my wife says that she made the mistake once of saying I could get a plane, but if I ever sell this one I'm never allowed to purchase another).

It is my goal this year for the Section to have a very active and vibrant year for the membership. The following is a list of activities and events, which we are planning for our members. I would like to invite each and every one of our members to contact me with suggestions for other activities, which you believe would be beneficial to our members.

In October of this year, our 2006 – 2007 Section Council met to plan the agenda for this year. A number of our members attended the National Transportation Safety Board Bar Association Annual Meeting in Pensacola, Florida, and our Section was an honorary sponsor of that event.

In February of 2007, our Section provided a panel of speakers at the Great Lakes International Aviation Conference (GLIAC), which was conducted at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. We had a very lively debate regarding the amendments to the Michigan Aeronautics Code made in 2006, which made

airport trespass a criminal misdemeanor. We had members of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), The Airport Support Network Administrator of The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the FAA, members of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives and members of our Section, including Don Frank, Dean Greenblatt, Karl Randall, Euel Kinsey, Jr., and myself.

We were later advised that this turned out to be one of the most controversial and successful seminar presentations of the entire GLIAC Conference.

Historically, in May or June of each year, the Aviation Law Section has presented a free seminar to the flying public. These seminars are generally conducted one evening on the west side of the state, and a second seminar conducted on the east side of the state. We often bring in an attorney from the FAA Great Lakes Regional Counsel's Office in Chicago. If any of our members are interested in speaking at this conference, please let me know.

Other ideas, which we are currently considering between now and the State Bar Annual Meeting in September 2007, are as follows:

1. A visit to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo Aviation Museum. A new addition to the Air Zoo opened within the last two years and contains, among other things, an SR71 Blackbird and the world's largest continuous mural, which was painted by Aviation Artist Rick Herter of Kalamazoo. We are working on having Rick Herter give us a personal tour of the museum and the mural, which took him over one year to paint.
2. The Michigan Air National Guard (ANG) has an Aerial Gunnery Range in Grayling, Michigan where A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthog" aircraft based at Battle Creek, Michigan as well as F-16 Falcon Fighters based at Selfridge, practice with live ammunition. There is a modern building at the site, which contains a scoring tower, much like an FAA control tower, and the aircraft fire live machine guns, live missiles (with practice warheads), practice bombs and set off flares designed to keep the ground based heat seeking missiles from finding their way to the aircraft.

My son, who is a film school graduate, had the opportunity to attend one of the Air National Guard live fire practice sessions where he filmed a public service announcement for the ANG (and for which he received a medal)!

We are attempting to get the Aviation Law Section invited to bring our friends and family to the Aerial Gunnery Range and observe a one-hour long practice session. I can assure you this is an air show the likes of which you have never seen in person before!

We might also combine this outing with a luncheon at one of the resorts in the area, such as Garland. We could probably also provide transportation to and from the local airport for those who would like to fly in.

3. On July 7 and 8, the Yankee Air Museum presents the "Thunder Over Michigan" Air Show at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti. For the first time since approximately 1999, the Willow Run folks have stolen the US Navy Blue Angels from the Selfridge Air Show. The Yankee Air Museum burned down several years ago and this air show is intended as a fundraiser to raise money to rebuild the Yankee Air Museum.

In years past, the Aviation Law Section had reserved an exclusive suite from which to watch the air show and have lunch. We have been discussing the possibility of our own "mini chalet" but the prices seem very steep this year, in excess of \$3,400 for the smallest area. However, if you purchase tickets prior to April 1, 2007, on-line the tickets for adults are \$10, parking is \$5 and children under 16 are free. From April 1, to July 6, the advanced ticket prices are \$15 per adult, \$5 for parking. The gate admission on the day of the air show is \$20 per adult and \$10 for parking. The website for advance ticket sales is as follows: www.yankeeairmuseum.org/airshow/tickets.htm.

As of now, it is our intention to have the Aviation Law Section members buy individual tickets and we will all meet and watch the show from the same area together, possibly with our own seating and refreshments, etc. Please purchase your tickets for the Sunday, July 8 show, and let me know how many people you expect to have with you. Perhaps the Section can provide the lunch and refreshments.

4. If there is enough interest, we are considering the possibility of a fly-in/drive-in event to occur on Mackinac Island this summer, possibly to be held at a private residence on the island. Please send me an email and let me know if you might be interested in attending such an event.

5. We have also been considering organizing an Aviation Law Section trip to the new National Air and Space Museum Annex at Dulles Airport near Washington D.C. It would be our intention to have the Section treated to a special guided tour of the new museum, which contains such things as the Hiroshima B-29 Enola Gay, etc. In past years, the Aviation Law Section has taken some trips to the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, which were very successful.
6. Finally, in past years the Aviation Law Section often had a program with nationally known guest speakers from the aviation and aviation legal professions. We will be conducting such a program at the Annual Meeting of the Aviation Law Section at the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting in September. Details will be provided as they become available.

We also intend to publish two issues of the Aviation Law Section's Newsletter, The Innermarker this year. Any one who is interested in submitting articles for publication in the Innermarker should contact me at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to an interesting and educational season for the Aviation Law Section.

Steve Chait

p.s. If you are interested in attending the "Thunder Over Michigan" Air Show, don't forget to order your ticket(s) by Saturday, March 31, to obtain the best discount.

Steven M. Chait, P.L.C.
Oakland County International Airport Office
6515 Highland Road, Suite 100
Waterford, MI 48327
(248) 666-1100
(248) 666-5050 (facsimile)
airchait@aol.com