

COUNCIL
OFFICERS & MEMBERSCHAIR
MICHAEL S. KHOURY
27777 FRANKLIN RD., STE. 2500
SOUTHFIELD 48034-8214VICE CHAIR
DIANE L. AKERS
1901 ST. ANTOINE ST. FL. 6
FORD FIELD
DETROIT 48226SECRETARY
TANIA E. (DEE DEE) FULLER
700 WEST RANDALL ST., STE. B
COOPERSVILLE 49404TREASURER
ROBERT T. WILSON
STONERIDGE WEST
41000 WOODWARD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS 48304COUNCIL
JUDY B. CALTON
DETROIT
MATTHEW A. CASE
DETROIT
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BUSINESS LAW SECTION

Dear Business Law Section Member – Welcome to the Business Law Section website. I hope you will participate in Section programs and become involved in Section activities. The Section and its committees are always seeking new members. This year, especially, is a great time to get involved – we are reviewing almost all of the basic business organizational statutes in our state. Please contact me or any of the Committee or Directorship Chairs listed on our website if you are interested in participating – we need you! I am honored to serve as Chairperson of the Business Law Section and look forward to expanding Section activities. My three initiatives for the year are to establish the Section electronic newsletter, develop a Section history and to continue outreach to special purpose bar associations. Let me describe a few of the activities the Section has planned for 2008.

Annual Business Law Institute. The Section's 20th Annual Business Law Institute is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, 2008 at The Dearborn Inn. The BLI provides an excellent opportunity for Section members to keep up with developments in business law while meeting old friends and developing new ones at social events. This year's institute will feature a reception and dinner on June 13 and a family luncheon on June 14. We will post details regarding the program on our website as they develop. Please plan to attend – it promises to be an informative and worthwhile experience.

Council Meetings. A good way to become more involved in Section activities is to participate in BLS Council meetings. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to all Section members. The Section will hold its 2008 Annual Meeting in Southeastern Michigan in September. In addition to the Annual Meeting, Council meetings are scheduled for March 6 in Lansing, June 14 as part of the Business Law Institute and in December at a place to be determined. We post minutes for past meetings on our website, along with our financials and committee reports. Please check in and see how we are doing.

Michigan Business Law Journal. The *Michigan Business Law Journal* is published three times a year in conjunction with ICLE. Section members receive the Journal by mail. It is also available on our website. The *Journal* offers informative articles on topics of interest to business lawyers, including regular columns such as Did You Know? by G. Ann Baker. If you want to submit an article (or even just an idea for an article), please contact Dan Kopka at ICLE. If you have any other comments about the *Journal*, please contact the Section's Publications Director, Bob Wilson.

Business Boot Camp: Basic Training for Every Business Lawyer. The Section's Business Boot Camp program, co-sponsored with ICLE, is planned again for 2008-2009. You can learn more about Boot Camp at www.icle.org.

Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award. The Section established the Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award in 2006. The award honors Michigan business lawyers who have consistently exemplified the characteristics the Section seeks to foster: the highest quality of professionalism and practice, an unwavering dedication to service, ethical conduct and collegiality within the practice. We will name the 2008 Award winner at our Annual Meeting in September. In 2006, the Section honored James C. Bruno, Hugh H. Makens, Cyril Moscow and Martin C. Oetting. In 2007 we honored Charles McCallum and Vernon Hampton. This was not only a great opportunity to recognize six of our most distinguished BLS colleagues, but the resulting press coverage spread the Section's name and accomplishments throughout the state.

Small Business Forum. An exciting new program is our Small Business Forum, a subgroup of our Programs Directorship. Chaired by Cyndi Umphrey, the Forum brings together Section members active in representing small and other closely-held companies for educational and networking events. Often, business leaders and other professionals are included, expanding the contact opportunities. The Forum is planning quarterly events in 2008, most to be held both in Southeast Michigan and the Grand Rapids area. Please check our calendar.

Outreach, Workshops and Presentations. The Section's Development Directors and other Committees work hard to develop interesting and educational programs for our members. We are also beginning to carry our programs into local areas and to target specific groups. Information on all of the Section's activities can be found on our website, and periodic updates are distributed on our listserv. (If you would like to be a member of our listserv, please sign up on our website.)

The Section is very fortunate to have dedicated and talented members who are willing to devote their time and energy to ensure the Section's success. I'd like to thank the Section's prior Chairperson, Mark High, for his efforts on behalf of the Section. I would also like to thank my fellow officers, Diane Akers, Dee Dee Fuller and Bob Wilson and our members who are serving on Council, committees and directorships for their diligent efforts on the Section's behalf. I encourage you to participate in Section activities and hope you will take advantage of all the Section has to offer.

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