

Information Technology Law

THEME INTRODUCTION 01

By Mark G. Malven

As chair of the Information Technology Law Section, I am very pleased to present this month's theme issue.

Information technology (IT) law is an exciting, cross-disciplinary practice area that has grown in importance in recent years as IT has become increasingly critical to the success of every enterprise, and electronic communications and interactions become substantially more prevalent in daily life. An IT lawyer is confronted with legal issues from a variety of traditional legal practice areas including but not limited to transactions, contracts, intellectual property, torts, employment, the First Amendment, health care, tax, and consumer protection. The application of both longstanding and new legal principles to the area of information technology makes the practice of IT law challenging and rewarding. The IT Law Section strives to assist its members in staying up to date and informed in a legal environment that is sometimes volatile and always in flux.

We present four articles in this month's *Journal* that illustrate the breadth of topics and expertise involved in the practice of IT law. Brian Balow and Tatiana Melnik highlight recent privacy-related developments in "Internet Privacy Concerns Reignited in 2010." Dave Syrowik addresses issues for IT-related patents in "Bridging the Gap Between the Abstract and Real Worlds of Patent Eligibility Using the 'Guideposts' of *Bilski*." John Hazewinkel describes recent developments in health care information tech-

nology in "Digital Health Care Reform Under the HITECH Act." Finally, Dwayne Stresman and William Lentine provide "A Primer on IT Outsourcing: What to Look for *Before* You Leap." Section council members Bill Lamping and Ron Nixon also provided valuable contributions in reviewing and editing these articles.

We urge those who wish to learn more about these and other IT law subjects to join the Information Technology Law Section; please visit <http://www.michbar.org/computer/> for more information.

Lastly, I would like to invite all interested parties to attend our Fourth Annual ICLE Information Technology Law Seminar. The seminar will be held Wednesday, September 21, at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth (with a webcast also available); registration is available on the ICLE website at www.icle.org. ■



Mark G. Malven is the leader of Dykema's Technology Transactions practice. He has many years of experience negotiating technology transactions and representing technology-based businesses, often as outside general counsel and strategic advisor. Mr. Malven serves as chair of the SBM Information Technology Law Section and is recognized as a Michigan Super Lawyer in the areas of information technology and outsourcing by the publishers of Law & Politics.