

**2006-2007 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT  
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

***Section Name:*** Consumer Law Section

***Mission Statement:*** The Consumer Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, our web site, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter.

***Officers and Membership:***

***Officers:***

Chair: Lurray S.C. Brown  
Chair-Elect: Lawrence J. Lacey  
Secretary: Dani K. Liblang  
Treasurer: Terry J. Adler

***Council Members:***

Term Expires 2007:  
Kathy P. Fitzgerald  
Frederick L. Miller  
Karen M. Tjapkes

Term Expires 2008:  
Carolyn B. Bernstein  
Steven E. Goren  
Michael O. Nelson  
Adam G. Taub

Term Expires 2009:  
Julie A. Petrik  
Lynn Shecter  
Gary M. Victor

Immediate Past Chairperson:  
Josh Ard

***2006-07 Council Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

March 8, 2007 – State Bar Building, Lansing  
May 10, 2007 – State Bar Building, Lansing  
July 19, 2007 – State Bar Building, Lansing  
September 27, 2007 – At the SBM Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids

***Section Activities:***

In August 2006, the Section filed in the Michigan Supreme Court an amicus brief on behalf of appellees in *Hartman v Eichhorn/Liss v Lewiston* addressing the issue of whether a licensed residential builder is exempt from the MCPA under the "specifically authorized by law" exemption. Council member Gary Victor wrote the amicus brief.

In November 2006, the Section also filed in the Michigan Court of Appeals an amicus brief in the case of *Davis v Forest River* seeking an affirmance of the trial court rulings. The case involved liability of the manufacturer of an RV under implied warranty and Magnuson-Moss theories, including use of revocation of acceptance as a Mag-Moss remedy. Council member Dani LiBlang wrote the amicus brief for the Section.

In February 2007, the Section assisted in the creation of an ad hoc coalition named the Campaign to Protect Michigan's Consumers. The mission of the Campaign is to seek vigorous consumer protection through legislation and education. To that end, the Section and the Campaign to Protect Michigan's Consumers addressed legislation around the Michigan Consumer Protection Act (MCPA) and predatory mortgage lending. At a House Committee hearing, Council member Fred Miller testified on behalf of the Section and the Campaign. We applauded the House Committee in its attempt to fix the MCPA (HB 4217) and offered suggestions to eliminate the exemption created by the *Smith v Globe Life* case. On behalf of the Section, Council member Michael Nelson also presented testimony before a Senate Committee hearing on the appraisal fraud package bills (Senate Bills 342, 343, 356). The Section did not support those bills as they do not address the problem of predatory lending.

***Future Goals and Activities:***

Continue to seek vigorous consumer protection in Michigan through legislation, education, and litigation by way of amicus briefs.

***Events/Seminars:***

"Nuts and Bolts in Litigating a Predatory Mortgage Lending Case"  
Thursday, September 27, 2007, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel/De Vos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan

***Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan***

All the services coordinated through the Sections and Committees Department such as staff support around financial reports, meetings, events planning, website updates, listserv, and publications.

***Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:***

Chair: Lorrain S.C. Brown  
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Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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lorrainb@umich.edu

Chair-Elect: Lawrence J. Lacey  
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Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 584-2170  
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**Article VIII, § 1**

***Every Section and State Bar entity so directed by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year which shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before May 31. Annual reports may not exceed five 8 1/2" x 11" pages unless a waiver of this limitation is approved by the Executive Director.***

Please submit your report via e-mail to [smcmann@mail.michbar.org](mailto:smcmann@mail.michbar.org)

***Return to: Susan McMann - [smcmann@mail.michbar.org](mailto:smcmann@mail.michbar.org)  
Sections and Committees Administrator***