

# MEMORANDUM

To: State Bar of Michigan

From: Kester K. So, Chairperson  
Public Corporation Law Section

Re: Annual Report

Date: May 10, 2006

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Please consider this the Annual Report of the Public Corporation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Under the By-Laws, the Section is governed by the Public Corporation Law Section Council, which meets regularly throughout the year. This year, meetings took place on June 24, 2005, September 10, 2005, November 5, 2005, December 3, 2005, February 16, 2006 and March 4, 2006, with two more meetings scheduled.

We began the year at the Public Corporation Law Section's Annual Meeting, which was held on June 24, 2005 in conjunction with our Summer Seminar at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. For the last seven years, our Section has jointly sponsored the Summer Seminar with the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys. The program was chocked full of timely and interesting topics, speakers and written seminar materials. Sessions were held beginning Friday afternoon and went into Saturday morning, and included topics such as contract zoning, ballot issues, CATV franchises, road end issues, FOIA in the electronic age, use of city property and recent United Supreme Court decisions, all of which were relevant to the practicing municipal attorney. There was ample time for group and family activities and for networking among the lawyers and speakers. This year's Summer Seminar should be a good one, as well. It will be held at the Grand Hotel beginning June 23, 2006. Topics will include telecommunications and franchising law, bankruptcy in the public sector, public employment issues, legislation affecting home rule, recent United State Supreme Court decisions, preparing for catastrophic health and other emergencies and, election management and legal rights at the polls.

This past year, the Public Corporation Law Section co-sponsored two seminars with the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Last September, the Section was a co-sponsor of the ICLE Land Use Seminar held in Troy, Michigan. Members of the Section were speakers and the conference covered a variety of land use topics. This spring the Section also co-sponsored the Winter Seminar with ICLE in Troy, Michigan. Topics included the establishment clause and religious free speech, employment issues, FOIA and Open Meetings Act issues, qualified immunity defense and eminent domain.

Under the guidance of Clyde Robinson and Don Schmidt, the Council did an online survey of our members seeking their input on topics for and the preferred location of the Summer

Seminar. The members' views were interesting and their feedback will be used in planning and programming future summer seminars.

We also implemented an announcement list serve for our members. This is intended to complement the group list serve used for discussion of relevant and timely topics of interest. Our goal is to reach more members electronically, if possible. This hopefully will enable us to communicate with members more efficiently and in a more cost effective manner.

We continued publication of the Public Corporation Law Quarterly, which is edited by Dan Dalton. The Quarterly generally includes a feature article and updates on recent cases, Attorney General Opinions and legislation of interest to the public sector lawyer. The Quarterly is widely viewed as a high quality work product, and under Dan's tutelage, it continues to be a great resource for the Section's members.