



Dear Health Care Law Section Member:

Thank you for being a member of the Health Care Law Section ("Section"). Our Section has had a very busy 2004-2005 year. Below is a summary of the activities of the Council, Substantive Law Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, and the HIPAA and Stark Task Forces.

Educational Programs Update

The Section has kept up its efforts to provide up-to-date educational programs for its members. Facilitated by Margaret Marchak and Monica Wilkinson, the Substantive Law Committees have initiated a new set of expectations and coordinating meetings. For the benefit of our members, they have organized an educational program or teleconference at least once every month.

Annual Meetings

In conjunction with the other educational programs sponsored by the Section this year, the Section sponsored two annual updates: (1) the 11th Annual Institute of Continuing Legal Education ("ICLE") Health Care Law Update in March; and (2) the Annual Legislative Update in February.

Not the Usual Annual Meeting: Quality Pays

Be sure to register for the Health Care Law Section full-day annual meeting on September 29, 2005. The meeting will be Thursday of the week after the State Bar annual meeting in Lansing. What's so special about September 29? It's an opportunity for Section members to continue their education; learn about new legal issues in pay for performance; learn about new trends in data collection, comparison and compensation and the impact on providers and payers. You will hear from speakers and obtain education re: pay for performance, patient safety and quality, Is it Gainsharing?; lunch discussions; networking; the annual election and business meeting; a Greenfield Village tour; and Dinner at Eagle Tavern and entertainment by A Habeas Chorus.

Stark Task Force

The Section, from time to time, takes on special initiatives to respond to new laws. This year, Section members quickly organized a Stark Task Force which submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") on the Stark II, Phase II Interim Final Regulations ("Phase II Regulations"). The Stark Task Force also asked the State of Michigan Department of Community Health to review Michigan's version of the Stark law in light of the Phase II Regulations issued by CMS.

HIPAA Task Force

The Section's HIPAA Task Force was originally organized as a special initiative to address the HIPAA Privacy Rules. The HIPAA Task Force remains active today, and

under the leadership of co-chairs Andrea Hool and Liz Callahan, the task force continues to monitor HIPAA rules and to produce and post forms and guidance on the Section's website. Through the HIPAA Task Force's efforts, the Section is able to provide invaluable tools to members as the law and industry practices evolve in this area.

Website Development

For those of you who visit the Section's Website (www.michbar.org/health) often, you know that the Website is kept up-to-date to provide current information to members on Section sponsored events, publications, and other related information. Many thanks to Eric Wexler and the Section's Website Task Force for their diligent efforts in making the Website a great member resource. As another added feature to the Website, the Council has approved a website affiliation with the American Health Lawyers Association ("AHLA") to link the Section's websites with AHLA's website as a means for members of both organizations to share information. Please check out the Section's Website for the minutes of Council meetings and other important Section information.

Section List Serve

The Section list-serve continues to serve as an opportunity for the Section's members to discuss and share information on Michigan-specific health law issues. Congratulations to Richard Bouma for recruiting 100 new members to the Section's list-serve discussions.

Logo and Marketing

Many many thanks to Robert Iwrey for initial logo for our section that you saw at ICLE in March. The Section has completed work with marketing consultants and has a great NEW "refined" update to the logo. The consultants also have provided us with templates that we will be using for our website, teleconferences, newsletters and announcements.

Law Student Receptions

David Rogers and Jennifer Kildea Dewane organized and continue their efforts to reach out to students at Section sponsored law student receptions at various Michigan law schools.

Special Thanks

We are grateful to Donna Craig, as Treasurer of the Council, who keeps us within budget and manages our monthly financial reports and expenses. We would also like to thank Lisa Panah, as Secretary of the Council, for the meticulous minutes she keeps of Council meetings, and generally keeping the Council organized.