

Business Law Section

Look for the section's monthly electronic newsletter or visit our website at <http://www.michbar.org/business> to learn about upcoming programs and events. The next council meeting will be held March 6 at the State Bar in Lansing. Mark your calendars for this year's Business Law Institute, which will be held March 13 and 14 in Dearborn. The section is looking for new members for its committees. Contact our section leadership, listed at <http://www.michbar.org/business/>, if you'd like to participate.

Consumer Law Section

At the November 2007 Consumer Law Section meeting, the council voted to commission a study by the National Consumer Law Center regarding the state of consumer law in Michigan. In a recent national study conducted by the center regarding the state of consumer law in the United States, Michigan ranked last for effective consumer law. MCPA fix: the section continues to work with the Campaign to Protect Michigan Consumers.

Information Technology Law Section

The Computer Law Section has been renamed the Information Technology Law Section. The new name better reflects the diversity of the practices of section members and the focus of the section. The section focuses on developments in the law of information technology, including intellectual property, software licensing, e-business, Internet, e-crime, international issues, and litigation and ADR issues. Member benefits include informative newsletters, educational programming, and networking events. For more information, contact Kimberly Paulson at paulson@millerkanfield.com.

Insurance and Indemnity Law Section

We held our organizational meeting on December 4 and elected the council and officers. We are off to a good start with nearly 200 members. The first of our quarterly publications, *The Journal*, debuts in January, and we are setting up our committees and list of speakers to provide information about insurance and indemnity law

topics to other sections and groups with an interest in these topics.

Labor and Employment Section

The Labor and Employment Law Section Mid-Winter Meeting will be held January 25–26 at the historic Detroit Athletic Club. The meeting begins at 3:30 p.m. on Friday with an NLRB meeting, followed by a reception, cocktail hour, and dinner. A (Habeas) Chorus Line will provide entertainment, and the Distinguished Service Award will be presented. Saturday programming includes an Update Rally, a Post-Garg Evidentiary Issues Panel, and a presentation on high-profile cases. To register, visit <http://www.michbar.org/labor/news.cfm>.

Law Practice Management Section

The Law Practice Management Section Council has been meeting since September under new Chairperson Gary Bauer. Additional officers are Rebecca Seslar, chair-elect; Austin Anderson, vice chair; Burt Bureson, secretary; and Vincent Romano, treasurer. New members appointed to the council are Kris Yockey, Nick D'Isa, James Schmeir, and Ernie Gifford. The section is currently discussing the feasibility of merging with the Legal Administrator Section and welcomes comments from the general membership.

Legal Assistants Section

The Legal Assistants Section's Annual Day of Education will be held on Friday, May 2. The seminar will be held in the Metro Detroit area, at a location to be announced. The primary emphasis will be on alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The council is currently exploring opportunities to partner with other State Bar sections for this and future educational events.

Negligence Law Section

The Negligence Law Section filed an amicus curiae brief in the Michigan Supreme Court in *Smith v Kbouri*, No. 132823, reviewing an award of attorney fees as a case evaluation sanction. *Smith* potentially involves how future trial courts will analyze attorney fee claims. The section joined the State Bar in opposing any change in

the current process that gives the trial court discretion to award reasonable hourly fees within parameters defined in *Wood v DAIFE*, 413 Mich 573 (1982).

Prisons and Corrections Section

The Prisons and Corrections Section met in November to begin the planning of a springtime summit on mental health issues and the criminal justice system. The council also adopted a public policy position recognizing the right of the Parole Board to grant medical paroles pursuant to MCL 791.235(10). The council has two vacancies; interested parties may notify the section chair. Representative Mark Meadows and Terry Jungle, director of the Michigan Sheriffs Association, addressed the council in December.

Real Property Law Section

"Chicago Style: Deep Dish Development" will be held March 6–8 at the Sofitel Water Tower Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. The section would like to thank Marie Racine of Racine & Associates and Gregory Gamalski of Giarmarco Mullins & Horton PC for planning this conference. Registration fees: first-time attendees, \$375; section members, \$425; non-section members, \$475. For more information, visit www.michbar.org/realproperty/ and click Winter Conference or call Arlene Rubinstein at (248) 644-7378.

Senior Lawyers Section

The Senior Lawyers Section's 2008 Annual Meeting at the Soaring Eagle in Mount Pleasant, Michigan is scheduled for August 22–24. The theme of the meeting is "The Second Stage—A New Beginning." The SLS Council is engaged in studying the ways and opportunities to broaden SLS programs to serve the needs of the many thousands of lawyers, age 60 and over, from the very active practitioners to the retirees.

Taxation Section

On February 26, the After Hours Tax Seminar topic will be "Hot Topics in Estate and Gift Tax—Tax-Saving Techniques for Real Clients." The seminar will be from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. ■