

## **Annual Report of Business Law Section 2003/2004**

A review of the section's strategic plan has been conducted and revisions are being prepared for discussion at the September 2004 Council meeting. Special attention is being given to section development and increasing the involvement of younger lawyers. The Young Lawyers Section is being invited to send a liaison to the Business Law Section Council.

The Business Law Section cosponsored Business Boot Camp II with ICLE. The program of nine 2-hour sessions was held in Grand Rapids and Metro Detroit covering a variety of fundamental business topics.

The Business Law Section Scholarship Award of \$2500 is open to a law student at an ABA accredited law school in Michigan. The purpose of the award is to promote involvement with and knowledge about the Section with law students, and promote law student interest in business related topics. Students submitted expository articles on a business law topic. Applicants were from University of Michigan, TM Cooley, Ave Maria, and U of D Mercy. The Business Law Section Scholarship Award was presented to Alexis Blick from Ave Maria Law School for her paper "*Culpa in Contraheno: Free Market Capitalist be aware.*" The paper will be published in the *Michigan Business Law Journal*.

The Corporate Law Committee has begun the process of considering another round of amendments to the Business Corporation Act and has had discussions regarding efforts to further streamline corporation filings and information dissemination. A subcommittee of the Nonprofit Corporations Committee is preparing revisions of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act for presentation to the full committee in late summer 2004.

The Unincorporated Enterprises Committee co-sponsored with ICLE the 2004 Business Entity and LLC Update. This year's session focused on current topics related to LLCs and partnerships. The 2005 Business Entity Update will be January 20, 2005 in Grand Rapids and February 3, 2005 in Troy. The committee was also responsible for the session in Business Boot Camp II on limited liability companies and operating agreements.

The Business Court Ad Hoc Committee has been working with lawyers and judges to encourage the establishment of a business court in Michigan. Commercial Litigation Committee is exploring sponsoring a program in the fall of 2004 focusing on how technology is changing the relationship between in-house counsel and outside litigation counsel and a program in the spring of 2005 focusing on arbitration and how well arbitration truly works..

The Mid-Year Meeting and Business Institute was held May 21-22 at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant. The keynote speaker was ABA President Dennis Archer. Program topics included ethical challenges in representing the organizational

client, crisis management techniques that work, litigators guide to drafting contracts, succession planning, and drafting effective ADR plus a panel of top in-house lawyers.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Ann Baker  
Chairperson 2003-2004  
Business Law Section