

PUBLIC CORPORATION LAW SECTION  
2002-2003 ANNUAL REPORT

This is a report summarizing the activities of the Public Corporation Law Section during the association year commencing September 2002.

The Section annual meeting occurred September 27 at the State Bar annual meeting in Grand Rapids. Councilmembers and Section officers were elected to their respective terms. The Section Council organizational meeting followed, at which goals were established and Council meeting schedule determined for the coming year.

The location of the Council meetings in various metropolitan areas was scheduled to allow maximum member attendance. Meetings by conference call were also held to facilitate participation.

A strategic planning committee of younger lawyers was formed to recommend enhancement of future seminar events, including subject matter and social activities.

The Chair and several Council members attended the American Bar Association, State and Local Government Section seminar in Detroit in October. Law topics surrounding the redevelopment of urban land, with a focus on casino gambling use, and ethics, were presented.

The Council was pleased to have John M. Berry, Executive Director of the State Bar, and Lynn Chard and Mary Hinniker of ICLE, at a meeting to discuss their respective program offerings and relationships with Bar Sections. The State Bar strategic plan includes goals to help lawyers at their desks, to define their practices, to work more directly with Sections and their members, and to employ technology. ICLE offered various levels of participation in Section seminars and publications for consideration.

The 2003 PCLS winter seminar on February 7 at the Dearborn Ritz Carlton was a highlight of the year. The morning session included implementation of the Metro Act, Tax Forfeiture Act, Freedom of Information Act, and Open Meetings Act updates. A sexual harassment case study in the municipal employment context, from investigation through litigation, and its impact on employment policies, was treated in depth by an experienced panel in the afternoon session.

A Section member list serv was established for the benefit of all Section members.

The Public Corporation Law *Quarterly* was published periodically with scholarly articles, case evaluations, and announcements useful to our membership.

The summer educational conference again is co-sponsored by the Section and the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, on June 27 and 28. Law topics include an update on Michigan legislation impacting local government, METRO Act implementation, municipal employment issues, US Supreme Court decisions in the public sector, enhanced council meetings and ethics considerations.

A fall seminar is in the planning stages to be co-sponsored by the Section and the Real Property Law Section as an ICLE program. The subject is how to approach local governments in land use issues.

The Section annual meeting and election of officers coincide with the summer conference this year. Greater attendance and participation of Section members is anticipated by this departure from having the session at the time of the State Bar annual meeting.

The Section is pleased to have Lambro Niforos, Assistant Corporate Counsel, Wayne County, as its Commissioner Liaison. Ms. Niforos attended Council meetings and represented Section interests before the Board of Commissioners.

It has been my privilege to have served with our colleagues on the Section Council during the past year. Council members are broadly representative of Section interests and invite Section member inquiries and suggestions that may enhance our future activities, and will contribute to the vitality and value of the Public Corporation Law Section.

Dan Matson, Chair