

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT – IT LAW SECTION**

Bar Year: 2008-2009

Section Name: Information Technology Law Section (name changed from “Computer Law Section” in 2007-2008)

Mission Statement:

The purposes of the Section are to review, comment upon, and apprise members of the State Bar of Michigan and others of developments in the law relating to information technology, including:

- (a) the protection of intellectual and other proprietary rights;
- (b) sale, leasing, distribution, provision, and use of, hardware, software, services, and technology, including computer and data processing equipment, computer software and services, games and gaming, information processing, programming, and computer networks;
- (c) electronic commerce;
- (d) electronic implementation of governmental and other non-commercial functions;
- (e) the Internet and other networks; and
- (f) associated contract and tort liabilities, and related civil and criminal legal consequences.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Christopher J. Falkowski P57019	Falkowski PLLC P.O. Box 650 Novi, MI 48376-0650	(248) 893-4505	chris@falkowskipllc.com
Chair-Elect	Jeremy D. Bisdorf P57725	Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC 27777 Franklin Rd, Suite 2500 Southfield, MI 48034	(248) 351-3000	jbisdorf@jaffelaw.com
Secretary	Mark G. Malven P67203	Dykema Gossett PLLC 39577 Woodward Ave, Suite 300 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304	(248) 203-0700	mmalven@dykema.com
Treasurer	Charles A. Bieneman P66755	Rader Fishman & Grauer PLLC 39533 Woodward Ave, Suite 140 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304	(248) 594-0648	cab@raderfishman.com

Member	Term Expires	Member	Term Expires
Christopher J. Falkowski	2009	Matthew M. Jakubowski	2010
William J. Lamping, Jr.	2009	John L. Tatum	2010
Vincent I. Polley	2009	Charles A. Bieneman	2011
Frederick E. Schuchman, III	2009	Jeremy D. Bisdorf	2011
Jerome M. Schwartz	2009	Samuel J. Freerick	2011
David R. Syrowik	2009	Brian A. Hall	2011
Anthony Targan	2009	Mark G. Malven	2011
Donald M. Crawford	2010	Ronald S. Nixon	2011
Karl H. Hochkammer	2010	Mary Ann Wehr	2011

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Council Meeting Schedule:

Meeting Type	Date	Location
2008 Annual Meeting	09/17/2008	Hyatt Regency (Dearborn)
Council/Section Meeting	11/20/2008	Buca di Beppo (Birmingham)
Council/Section Meeting	02/25/2009	Ave Maria Law School (Ann Arbor)
Council/Section Meeting	04/29/2009	Brooks Kushman PC (Southfield)
Council/Section Meeting	TBD	TBD
2009 Annual Meeting	09/17/2009	Hyatt Regency (Dearborn)

General Budget Information: The Section continues to operate with a surplus. The Section continues to sponsor events such as the ICLE seminar that could require the Section to access the surplus. The Section is also considering offering free membership to law students and/or new lawyers.

Events and/or Seminars:

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
ICLE Seminar titled “Information Technology Law: What Every Lawyer Should Know”	10/29/2008	St. John’s (Plymouth)
“Practicing IT Law” Presentation by Chris Falkowski	02/25/2009	Ave Maria Law School (Ann Arbor)
Spring Networking Event	05/20/2009	Greektown Casino (Detroit)
Annual Meeting Presentation (topics and speakers TBD)	09/17/2009	Hyatt Regency (Dearborn)

Legislative issues: The Section did not take a position on any legislative issues in 2008-2009.

Recommendations for next Council: Recommendations for the next Council are as follows:

- (a) continue to sustain the increased publication schedules for the two newsletters;
- (b) continue to hold an annual IT law seminar with ICLE, even if the tough economic times result in the event losing money;
- (c) continue to hold the Annual Meeting for Section as part of the Annual Meeting for the State Bar of Michigan;
- (d) continue outreach efforts to law students, but do so within the framework of traditional Section activities (i.e. law student participation is not particularly reliable, so it is not worth it in most instances for the Section to bend over backwards and tailor specific events for law students);
- (e) continue to include substantive presentations at Council meetings whenever possible;
- (f) improve relationships with Sections that hold successful events, such as for example the Business Law Section;
- (g) find new ways to solicit feedback from Section members, and to encourage members to submit writings for Section publications; and

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(h) facilitate recruitment/job search activities for employers and employees with respect to job postings, particularly with respect to job postings involving the practice of IT law.

Section Publications: In addition to the publication of the longstanding *Michigan IT Lawyer* newsletter (formerly the *Michigan Computer Lawyer*), the Section began publishing a new *e-newsletter*. Both newsletters are slated to be published on a bi-monthly basis, so the Section averages a publication each month. Hopefully this increased frequency of publication can be sustained into the future.