

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SECTION'S
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004/2005

2004/2005 Officers:

The officers for the 2004/2005 year took office at the September 2004 State Bar Annual Meeting. The 2004/2005 officers are as follows:

Chair – Joan P. Vestrand, Farmington Hills

Chair Elect – Vincent Romano, Grosse Pointe Park

Vice Chair – Michael J. Fraleigh, Lansing

Secretary – Gary Bauer, Lansing

Treasurer – Ernest Gifford, Birmingham

Law Student Representative – Mark P. Poolis, Cleveland, OH

2004/2005 Council Members:

Term Expires 2005:

Daniel Bliss, Troy

John Decker, Saginaw

Edward Goodrich, Grand Rapids

Linda Parker, Lansing

Joseph Shulman, Southfield

Term Expires 2006:

Gary Gardner, Dearborn

Henry Gornbein, Bloomfield Hills

Konnie Kustron, Milford

Joellyn Stokes, Pleasant Ridge

Term Expires 2007:

Joan Bullock, Orlando, FLA

Beverly Helm, Wheaton, IL

Craig Neckers, Grand Rapids

Rebecca Seslar, Detroit

Cindy Rhodes Victor, Utica

Immediate Past Chair:

Barry Brickner, Farmington Hills

Ex Officios:

Austin Anderson, Saline

Benson Barr, Southfield
Linda Bernard, Detroit
L. Ray Bishop, Ann Arbor
John Buchanan, Grand Rapids
Daniel Cline, Midland
Reginald Dozier, Detroit
Mark Filipp, Troy
Milton Firestone, East Lansing
Howard Gourwitz, Southfield
Wesley Hackett, Jr., Saranac
Kenneth Lewis, Detroit
Mile J. Postema, Big Rapids
Thomas Winqvist, Grand Rapids

Commissioner Liaison:

Julie Fershtman, Farmington Hills

Section Membership:

There are currently approximately 1422 members of the section.

2004/2005 Section Activities:

ICLE 2nd Annual Solo/Small Firm Institute

We agreed to co-sponsor ICLE's 2nd Annual Solo/Small Firm Institute to be held in Dearborn in October 2005. Other co-sponsors include the State Bar of Michigan, the General Practice section of the State Bar and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Several of our council members will be speaking at the Institute and moderating the program. Special registration fee discounts to attend the event have been arranged for section members. In addition, the section will be offering other incentives/prizes for those who attend.

State Bar Law Practice Management Initiatives

We have met throughout the year with the State Bar of Michigan with respect to partnering with the bar on law practice management initiatives. Our section council supplied the bar with a 27 page list of law practice management resources and have offered to serve as mentors to state bar members in the area of law practice management.

Seminar on Maximizing Profitability in a Challenging Economy

The section co-sponsored a seminar on Maximizing Law Firm Profitability in a Challenging Economy which was held on separate dates in Detroit and Grand Rapids. The event was sponsored by the Anderson Boyer Group.

Nuts & Bolts of Successful Law Practice Management

The section council will be holding its popular seminar, "Nuts & Bolts of Successful Law Practice Management" at the State Bar Annual Meeting in September 2005. The council is also seeking to arrange to hold the seminar this fall in Traverse City.

Section Newsletter

The section continues to publish its quarterly newsletter to all section members. Many council members have contributed articles for the newsletter.

Revamp of Economic Survey

The council has spent a good amount of time this year looking over the Economic Survey with an eye toward revamping the survey into a more manageable and effective survey with three parts over a three year cycle. The council is working with the State Bar on this initiative.

2005 ABA Tech Show

The section was once again a Program Promoter for the ABA Tech Show about the event for inclusion in the section newsletter.

Leaders Advisory Council

Our Chair Elect, on behalf of the section, joined 14 other sections at the State Bar's first Leaders Advisory Council Meeting at the State Bar in Lansing.

State Bar Leadership Conference/Upper Michigan Legal Institute

The chair, the chair elect and vice chair of the section will be attending the State Bar's Annual Leadership Conference in June and the chair will be presenting on ethics at the Upper Michigan Legal Institute held in conjunction with the conference.

Section By-Laws

The section bylaws were amended over the 2004/2005 year to allow affiliate members to serve on the counsel and to permit past chairs who are still active on the counsel to vote on section business.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan P. Vestrand
2004/2005 Chair

June 1, 2005