



OCTOBER 8-9, 2026 | JW MARRIOTT, GRAND RAPIDS

37TH ANNUAL

Business Law Institute

Presented by
Business Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan

In Cooperation with
Institute of Continuing Legal Education

REGISTER TODAY
www.icle.org/business
877-229-4350

Networking Now Spans Two Days
Starts on Thursday evening this year.

The Place to Be for Business Lawyers

Join us at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids. It's the perfect place to network and get critical legislation and caselaw updates. Get practical insights into how AI creates real legal risk in business operations, how securities rules shape common transactions, and how to draft shareholder agreements that anticipate disputes, clarify control, and protect exit rights. Plus, hear from experienced Michigan business court judges Jamo and Ewell.

You will be able to:

- Identify where AI creates legal exposure—and reduce it
- Apply securities rules to common business transactions
- Draft shareholder/operating agreements to prevent disputes
- Navigate LARA filings and compliance with confidence
- Advise clients on key Michigan legislative and caselaw developments

CLE: 5.5 MCJE: 5.5 LEVEL: Basic/Intermediate/Advanced

Moderators

Patrick J. Haddad
Kerr Russell, *Detroit*

Sarah J. Williams
Bodman PLC, *Ann Arbor*

Laura E. Johnson
Butzel Long PC, *Troy*

Hon. Christopher P. Yates
Retired, Ven Johnson Law
PLC, *Kalamazoo*

Featured Speakers



Hon. James S. Jamo
30th Circuit Court, *Lansing*



Peter J. Kulick
Dickinson Wright PLLC, *Lansing*



Kurt Piwko
Plante Moran PLLC,
Clinton Township



Angela Emmerling Shapiro
Butzel Long PC, *Detroit*

Your Registration Includes Free Entry to These Great Networking Events!

Welcome Reception & Annual Section Dinner — Now on Thursday Evening

Come the night before for light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, followed by a strolling dinner. *Preregistration required.* Guests welcome (fee applies).

Networking Lunch — Friday

Includes the Annual Section Business Meeting and Schulman Award presentation (and section council meeting the last 45 minutes of lunch).

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Schedule

5:30pm-7:00pm | Thursday

Registration, Check-in, & Welcome Reception—Sponsored by Stout
(Preregistration Required)

7:00pm-8:30pm | Thursday

Annual Business Law Section Dinner—Sponsored by J.P. Morgan Escrow Services
(Preregistration Required)

8:00am | Friday

Continental Breakfast, Vendor Showcase, and Registration

9:00am | Friday

Welcome and Introduction from Section Chair

Hear updates from the chair of the Business Law Section.

Michael K. Molitor, Cooley Law School, *Lansing*

9:10am | Friday

Business Legislation Update

Stay up to date on Michigan business legislation. Confidently advise your clients with essential information.

James L. Carey, Carey Law Offices PC, *South Lyon*

9:45am | Friday

LARA Update

Get best practices for working with LARA's Corporations Division's MiBusiness Registry Portal as well as business identity theft prevention tips, the latest about the Corporate Transparency Act/FinCEN, and more.

Alexis Lupo, State of Michigan LARA Corporations Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau, *Lansing*

10:00am | Friday

AI in Business Operations: Where the Legal Risk Actually Lives

AI is already embedded in many business and legal operations—

transcribing meetings, generating summaries, drafting documents, analyzing data, and otherwise improving efficiencies. However, gains in efficiency may also create new liability, discoverable material, privacy exposure, and privilege risk. Get a practical framework for identifying where AI creates exposure in client operations and within your own practice, and how to safeguard against today's tools becoming tomorrow's problem.

Jonathan S. Berg, Bodman PLC, *Detroit*; Angela Emmerling Shapiro, Butzel Long PC, *Detroit*

10:45am | Friday

Networking Break

11:00am | Friday

Securities Law for Business Lawyers

Dive into the “nuts and bolts” of federal and Michigan securities regulations as they apply to business transactions. Using common examples, explore when and how securities laws govern the sale or change of control of a business, particularly in transactions structured as the sale of stock—as well as other transactions subject to securities laws. Learn core concepts underpinning relevant federal, Michigan, and state-level securities regulations, and key M&A issues. Get a foundational framework for spotting regulatory triggers, potential pitfalls, and navigating compliance in business settings.

Maxwell N. Barnes, Miller Johnson, *Grand Rapids*; Patrick J. Haddad, Kerr Russell, *Detroit*; Shane B. Hansen, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, *Grand Rapids*; Andrea McGrew, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, *Grand Rapids*

12:00pm | Friday

Networking Lunch, Annual Meeting & Schulman Award Presentation, Council Meeting

2:00pm | Friday

Avoiding Pitfalls in Drafting Shareholder Agreements and Operating Agreements

Shareholder agreements and operating agreements can offer a road map for

establishing the rules of the road for operating, resolving disputes, and defining exit strategies in a closely held business. Drafting shareholder agreements and operating agreements entails a degree of anticipating the future and planning for unknowns. Discuss potential pitfalls, identify areas of concern, and develop solutions for drafting shareholder agreements and operating agreements.

Peter J. Kulick, Dickinson Wright PLLC, *Lansing*

2:45pm | Friday

Trending Tax Opportunities in M&A Transactions

Get a high-level overview of recent developments and recurring federal and state tax issues involving entity selection and M&A transactions, including developments from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the exclusion of gain under Section 1202, recent trends in tax/accounting provisions in deal documents, and other structuring-related tax topics. Gain insights that will help you bring more value to deals.

Cody Atisha, Kerr Russell, *Detroit*; Kurt Piwko, Plante Moran PLLC, *Clinton Township*

3:30pm | Friday

Networking Break

3:45pm | Friday

Business Caselaw Update

Don't miss this expert review of the year in Michigan business caselaw. Take away keen analysis of the developments and how they will impact your practice and business clients this year and beyond.

Conor M. Bowers, Butzel Long PC, *Troy*; Justin G. Klimko, Butzel Long PC, *Detroit*

4:30pm | Friday

Update from the Business Court Bench

Hear from business court judges from across the state. Take away practice tips to ensure your business dispute is resolved quickly.

Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr., 3rd Circuit Court, *Detroit*; Hon. James S. Jamo, 30th Circuit Court, *Lansing*; Hon. Christopher P. Yates, Retired, Ven Johnson Law PLC, *Kalamazoo*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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B. Institute Registration | Pick One

- \$395 General
- \$365 Section Member
- \$365 ICLE Partner
- \$195 New Lawyer (Not yet reached 4th anniversary date of MI Bar admission)
- Groups:** Every 4th Registration Is Free (all from same firm)¹

2026C11110

C. Materials Format for Institute Registrants | Pick One

- FREE** Electronic Materials
- \$45 Print Handbook and Electronic Materials²

D. Networking Events | Optional

Welcome Reception (10/08 - 5:30pm-7:00pm)

- FREE** for Registrants
- FREE** Additional Guest

Annual Business Law Section Dinner (10/08 - 7:00pm-8:30pm)

- FREE** for Registrants
- \$50 for Each Additional Guest

E. Can't Attend the Institute?

Non-Registrants—Purchase the Electronic Materials

- \$245 Non-ICLE Partners
- \$171.50 ICLE Partners

F. Payment Info

Institute Registration (Box B) \$ _____

**Institute Registrants: Add \$45 for
Print Handbook** (Optional, Box C) \$ _____

Networking Event (Box D) \$ _____

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Prices guaranteed until 10/8/26. Cannot combine discounts. ¹Please attach additional sheet listing registrants attending. All registrations must be submitted and paid for at the same time. ²Limit one print handbook purchase per registrant. Print handbooks are nonrefundable after the event cancellation date. **Complete Seminar Policies:** www.icle.org/info/seminarpolicies. **Cancellation Policy:** For a full refund, notify ICLE by 09/24/26. Registrants who cancel after that date will be charged a \$60 cancellation fee. No refunds will be issued after 10/01/26. **Walk-in Registrations:** Permitted on a space-available basis or if registrants fail to claim their seat in the first 15 minutes of the seminar. **Persons with Disabilities or Dietary Restrictions:** For special arrangements please contact ICLE no later than seven days before the seminar.

Accommodations: A discounted block of rooms has been reserved at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids. Visit www.icle.org/business/hotel or call 877-901-6632 and mention ICLE to reserve a room. Reservations must be made by 09/10/26. Registrants are responsible for their own hotel expenses.