

9/29/06 - Minutes of September 20, 2006 Meeting @ MSBA Headquarters

1. Agreed to try to limit the duration of these meetings to ~ one hour
2. Approved Minutes for 7/26/06 Meeting
3. Acknowledged Happenings Since Last Meeting:
 - Ned Himmelrich has agreed to chair our Publications Subcommittee
 - First draft of a static website completed by MSBA staff
 - MSBA staff working on website's "searchable database" and "IPC member registration"
 - Handouts presented of the Chair's written responses to questions presented by Janet Eveleth for upcoming issue of Bar Bulletin
 - Update on planning for IP Luncheons & 3/07 Bar Bulletin Articles
4. Agreed to postpone discussion of the attached proposed text for the Comm.'s homepage – Comm. members continue to be asked to email their feedback on this proposed text to the Chair - larry@guffeylaw.com
5. General Discussion of "Why it is important for the MSBA to have a Section devoted to IP?" Some of the answers given were (both in the meeting and the conversations after the meeting):
 - (a) to improve upon the level of MSBA-related services and resources now being provided to MSBA IP attorneys,
 - (b) to aid MSBA non-IP attorneys to better address their client matters which have IP-related issues (as a result of non-IP attorneys' increased knowledge of IP law gained by the Section's improved educational/information-sharing efforts),
 - (c) to raise the organizational status of IP attorneys within the MSBA to the same Sectional status that they have within almost all of the other State Bar Associations in the U.S. (note: I've yet to find another state bar association that doesn't have an IP section; however, I haven't check them all –if you know of one that doesn't have an IP section, please let me know – thanks, Larry – larry@guffeylaw.com),
 - (d) to provide MSBA IP attorneys with more visibility so as to aid them in recapturing some of the perceived significant amount of IP work now being referred to out-of-state IP attorneys,
 - (e) to reflect the perceived growth in the volume of IP law being practiced in MD, and
 - (f) in response to the growing number of requests by MSBA attorneys for such a Section – these numbers being such as to suggest that the headcount requirements for the creation of a Section can now be met.
6. Committee Organizational Changes Approved:
 - (i) The work of the Comm. will be carried out in its Subcommittees on an ongoing basis; the monthly Comm. meetings will be largely reserved for reports by Subcommittee

Chairs on their progress and synergistic, strategic planning discussions directed at advancing the Comm.'s mission and its Subcommittee activities,

(ii) Subcommittee Chairs are hereby asked to clarify their Subcommittee's goals/purposes and to establish its measurable (timing & result) activities/objectives – these should be put in writing and be ready for posting on the Subcommittee's planned webpage ASAP,

(iii) Comm. members are hereby asked to, before our next meeting on October 18th, select one or more Subcommittees on which he/she wishes to work in order to honor his/her service commitment to this Comm.,

(iv) As a way to help fill Subcommittee rosters, Subcommittee Chairs are hereby encouraged to invite select Comm. members of their choosing to join their Subcommittees so as to assist them in accomplishing their Subcommittee's goals and conducting its activities.

7. Agreed that the Comm.'s immediate priority activities will be:

(a) get website up and running, especially its "join the IPC" page so that we can use this page to register those new members of our Comm. who will be joining, in part, so as to add their names to the list of the MSBA attorneys wanting an IP Section and acknowledging their willingness to support such a section by joining it and paying the prescribed annual dues,

(b) complete arrangements for the Comm.'s first IP luncheon to hopefully be held ~ 11/20, and

(c) address and resolve the concerns of those perceived to be opposing/ "expressing doubts as to the wisdom of .." the formation of a MSBA IP Section so as to try to have as near unanimous support as possible when we formally make our proposal to the Board of Governors for the creation of a MSBA IP Section.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2006 – 6:00 pm dinner meeting at Chiapparelli's, 237 South High Street, Baltimore, MD

Subcommittees - Chairs:

Program – Donna Thomas, Astrachan Gunst & Thomas

Communications – Mike Oliver, Bowie & Jensen

Publication – Ned Himmelrich, Gordon Feinblatt

Membership – Kathryn Goldman, Goldman & Minton

DRAFT – 9/19/06

**Introduction to the MSBA’s Special
Intellectual Property Committee (IPC)**

**(Note: It’s proposed that this be posted on the IPC’s home page on the
MSBA’s website)**

The State of Maryland has seen a remarkable increase in the number of high technology entities that have established a presence in the State. For these entities, intellectual property (IP) rights typically constitute a major competitive asset. Meeting the needs of these entities, as well as others who use, protect, and create IP rights has become an ever-increasing need for members of the MSBA. Accordingly, the MSBA is currently in the process of establishing an IP Section as a means to enable MSBA attorneys to better serve the needs of their clients.

Towards this end, the MSBA in early 2006 established a Special Intellectual Property Committee (IPC) and appointed to it eighteen members. This IPC has the following respective service and organizational goals: (a) providing Maryland attorneys with the MSBA-deliverable support services and resources that they need to better meet the growing IP demands of their clients, and (b) establishing the framework for and, if subsequently approved by the MSBA’s Board of Governors, organizing MSBA IP attorneys into the MSBA’s new “IP Section” on or before September 1, 2007.

To accomplish its service goal, this IPC will during the 2006 – 2007 MSBA calendar year seek to:

- (a) foster collaborative discussions and interactions among IPC members (e.g., a series of “IP Luncheon” programs - possibly webinars, the timely distribution of non-duplicative IP news/content via periodic emails, RSS, or an e-newsletter) so as to aid them in increasing the quality of the IP services that they are capable of providing to their clients,
- (b) create on the MSBA website an IPC member database that would be searchable so as to provide a searcher with a means for identifying and locating those IPC members who have the specialized IP knowledge that the searcher needs in order to productively address an IP issue with which the searcher is confronted (e.g., find a patent attorney who has the required education and knowledge in a specific technical field (e.g., biotechnology) that would enable the attorney to efficiently draft a patent application for an invention in this field of technology),
- (c) assist MICPEL and others in providing continuing legal education on IP law issues,
- (d) provide a group of IP attorneys who will volunteer to speak to various civic, professional, or business organizations on assorted IP matters as a means of educating these organizations on such IP matters, and
- (e) serve as the MSBA’s liaison to other regional, national, and international IP law organizations.