

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE**

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics

Jurisdictional Statement:

- Prepare written opinions on ethical conduct of judges at the request of the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Executive Director, or individual members of the judiciary inquiring about their own contemplated conduct.
- Recommend amendments to the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct and other standards of professional conduct, and review proposed amendments.
- The Michigan Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates and the Referees Association of Michigan shall each nominate one member for appointment to the committee.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: Hon. Elwood L. Brown, Port Huron

Members:

Hon. Theresa Doss, Detroit
Hon. Laura A. Frawley, Harrisville
Hon. Annette M. Jurkiewicz-Berry, Detroit
Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach, Wyandotte
Hon. Christopher S. Ninomiya, Iron Mountain
Magistrate James P. Pahl
Referee Lorie Nancy Savin, Pontiac

2010-2011 Meeting Schedule (date and location):

October 21, 2011, Lansing, Michigan
January 13, 2012, Lansing, Michigan
May 13, 2012, Lansing, Michigan
June 15, 2012, Lansing, Michigan

Committee Activities:

At each meeting, the committee discussed pending opinion requests. The committee approved the publication of an article authored by Member Lorie Savin, entitled, "Friend Requests and Beyond: Judicial Ethics in the Social Networking Sphere," which was published in the December 2011 issue of the Michigan Bar Journal and remains accessible through the Bar's website on the page for the Judicial Ethics Committee. The committee reviewed and commented to the Board of Commissioners upon ADM File No. 2005-11, proposed changes to the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct. The Committee's comments were adopted by the Board and formed the basis of comments made to the Supreme Court on behalf of the State Bar of Michigan.

Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:

The committee has been assisted in its work by staff liaisons Dawn Evans, Danon Goodrum-Garland, and Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn, as well as staff member Karen Spohn.

Future Goals and Activities:

The committee plans to continue responding to opinion requests and to address revisiting any opinions identified as in need of review due to subsequent developments that may have impacted the continued appropriateness of any conclusions drawn. To the extent that the Committee's input is sought by the Board of Commissioners, the Representative Assembly, or the Supreme Court on discrete issues or projects, the committee stands ready to respond with appropriate research and commentary.

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:

Hon. Elwood L. Brown
St. Clair County Probate Court
201 McMorran Blvd. Room 2200
Port Huron, MI 48060-4029
Phone: (810) 985-2010
Fax: (810) 985-2039
e-mail: ebrown@stclaircounty.org