

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2012-2013 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, Mason  
Referee Lorie Nancy Savin, Pontiac

**2012-2013 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

October 19, 2012, Lansing, Michigan  
June 21, 2013, Lansing, Michigan

**Committee Activities:**

At each meeting, the committee discusses pending opinion requests. Since the last annual report, the committee has voted to repeal JI-23 and to approve two informal opinions – JI-137 (discussing the ethical implications when a judge serves as the host of a commercially-sponsored program, concluding that Canons (1), (2), (3), and (5) are implicated) and JI-138 (discussing a judge's ethical obligations when a lawyer who is an announced candidate for the judge's bench appears as an advocate before the judge). The committee voted to become a signatory to the Pledge to Achieve Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession in 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](mailto:ebrown@stclaircounty.org)