

STATE BAR of MICHIGAN
2008-2009 Annual Report
Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications

Jurisdictional Statement:

Evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and report its findings in confidence to the authority requesting its assistance.

The chief staff attorney of the Attorney Grievance Commission serves as reporter for this committee. The appointed members are limited to three two-year terms. Chairs of the committee may serve more than three two-year terms. This committee may have more than 15 members.

Officers and Membership:

Kathleen L. Bogas, Co-Chair, Bingham Farms (2009)
Robert B. Webster, Co-Chair, Troy (2010)
Daniel T. Stepek, Interim Co-Chair, Mt. Clemens (2010)

Members (term expiration):

Mary Christine Bonnema, Grand Rapids (2009)	Christine Mason Soneral, Novi (2009)
Leanne Barnes Deuman, Sault Ste Marie (2009)	Lawrence Patrick Nolan, Eaton Rapids (2009)
Eugenie B. Eardley, Cannonsburg (2009)	Gerald V. Padilla, Birmingham (2010)
Kiffi Y. Ford, Lansing (2009)	Harold D. Pope, III, Southfield (2009)
J. Michael Fordney, Saginaw (2009)	Michael J. Riordan, Detroit (2009)
Nino E. Green, Escanaba (2009)	*Joelynn T. Stokes, Pleasant Ridge (2009)
Pamela R. Harwood, Troy (2010)	*Norman D. Tucker, Southfield (2009)
Diane Hutcherson, Detroit (2009)	Kenneth T. Watkins, Southfield (2009)
William W. Jack, Jr., Grand Rapids (2009)	Linda M. Watson, Birmingham (2009)
*Michael K. Lee, Southfield (2009)	Richard E Zuckerman, Detroit (2010)
Michael S. Leib, Southfield (2010)	

Attorney Grievance Commission: Ruthann Stevens, Reporter

Commissioner Liaison: Hon. William B. Murphy

Staff Liaisons: Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn
Patricia M. Peyton

Advisor Members: none

** Regular Members Terms Expiring 9/30/09*

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:

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2008-09 Meeting Schedule:

State Bar of Michigan,
Michael Franck Building, Lansing, Michigan

Meeting Dates Canceled (Interviews Not
Requested by the Governor's Office)

October 14, 2008
December 9, 2008
December 22, 2008 (Added Per Governor's Request)
January 13, 2009
February 10, 2009
March 10, 2009
April 14, 2009
June 9, 2009
July 14, 2009
August 11, 2009
September 8, 2009

November 12, 2008
May 12, 2009

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

In support of the Committee, the State Bar of Michigan provides a meeting room at the Michael Franck Building as well as lunch for the Committee. Two staff liaisons are assigned to coordinate the interview schedule with the Governor’s office, submit a report to the Governor indicating the Committee’s ratings for each candidate and handle the administrative work.

Committee Activities:

As requested by the Governor, the Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews, evaluates and rates candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies. Interview preparation, Committee discussion and final ratings are confidential, and reported directly to the Governor.

Prior to the interview, the application is assigned to one Committee member who contacts lawyers in the community to obtain background information regarding the candidate. The Reporter, a representative of the Attorney Grievance Commission, prepares and presents background information obtained from local judges and grievances filed against the candidate, to the Committee. All interview sources are kept confidential.

A representative from the Governor’s Office and the State Bar Staff Liaisons are also present during the interview. The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month as needed.

The Committee met on eight occasions from May 2008 to April 2009 to interview 123 candidates for the following vacancies.

Interview Date	Court	Inter-views	Vacancy	Appointed
6/10/08	10 th Circuit	10	Hon Lynda L Heathscott	Janet M Boes
	68 th District	6	Hon Ramona M Roberts	M. Cathy Dowd
10/14/08	37 th District	13	Hon Walter A Jakubowski, Jr	Matthew P. Sabaugh
	5 th District	2	Hon Lynda A Tolen	Sterling “Pete” Schrock
12/9/08	55 th District	4	Hon Rosemarie E Aquilina	Donald L Allen
	Court of Appeals 1 st District	11	Hon Helene N White	Cynthia D Stephens
12/22/08	Court of Appeals 3 rd District	11	Hon Michael R Smolenski	Douglas B Shapiro
	3 rd Circuit	8	Hon Diane M Hathaway	Eric W Cholack
	55 th District	3	(Hon Rosemarie E Aquilina)	(Donald L Allen)
1/13/09	5 th District Probate	4	Hon William W Carmody	Charles C Nebel
	Lenawee Co Probate	10	Hon Margaret M. S. Noe	Gregg P Iddings
2/10/09	57 th District	9	Hon Stephen E Sheridan	William A Baillargeon
	Houghton Co Probate	4	Hon Charles R Goodman	Fraser T Strome
3/10/09	Genesee Probate	16	Hon Robert E Weiss	F Kay Behm
4/14/09	44 th Circuit	12	Hon Stanley J Latreille	(Appointment Pending)