

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN 2012-2013 Annual Report

Committee Name: Judicial Qualifications Committee

Jurisdictional Statement:

Evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and report 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.

Co-Chairs (term expiration):

Kathleen L. Bogas (2013)
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Robert B. Webster (2014)
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Reporter:

Ruthann Stevens,
Senior Associate Counsel
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Acknowledgment of Service:

The Committee would like to express its sincere gratitude to Bob Webster, who resigned during this Bar year, for his many years of service to the State Bar and for his dedication to the Judicial Qualifications Committee, as a member since 1992, and, most recently, as Co-Chair. His presence and perspective will be missed.

Committee Members (term expiration):

Alan Ackerman, Bloomfield Hills (2013)*
Darcie R. Brault, Southfield (2013)
José T. Brown, Flint (2013)
Leanne Barnes Deuman, Sault Ste Marie (2013)
Eugenie B. Eardley, Cannonsburg (2013)
David H. Fink, Bloomfield Hills (2013)
Kiffi Y. Ford, Lansing (2013)
Susan E. Gillooly, Detroit (2013)
Elizabeth P. Hardy, Birmingham (2013)
Pamela R. Harwood, Troy (2014)
Diane Hutcherson, Detroit (2013)
William W. Jack, Jr., Grand Rapids (2013)
Michael S. Leib, Southfield (2014)

Christine Mason Soneral, Novi (2013)
Lambro Niforos, Grosse Pointe Woods (2013)
Hal G. Ostrow, Grand Rapids (2014)
Gerald V. Padilla, Birmingham (2014)
Norman H. Pylman, Grand Rapids (2014)
Frank Harrison Reynolds, Lansing (2013)
Gene Schnelz, Birmingham (2014)
Kurt Schnelz, Birmingham (2014)
Daniel M. Share, Detroit (2013)
Leonard A. White, Saint Joseph (2014)
Betty R. Widgeon, Ann Arbor (2013)
Rock A. Wood, Grand Rapids (2014)

*Resigned

Committee Meetings held during the 2012 – 2013 Bar year:

February 12, 2013
February 26, 2013
March 12, 2013
April 9, 2013

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

In support of the work of this Committee, the State Bar of Michigan provides a meeting room in the Michael Franck Building as well as lunch for the Committee members. The State Bar staff liaisons coordinate the interview schedule, report the Committee's ratings for each candidate directly to the Governor's Office, and handle administrative tasks and other matters as necessary.

Committee Activities:

As requested by the Governor, the Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews and rates candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies. A representative from the Governor's Office, the Reporter, and the State Bar staff liaisons also attend the meetings. The work of the Committee members, the Reporter, and the State Bar staff liaisons (which includes preparation for the interviews, candidate interviews, and the ratings reported by the State Bar directly to the Governor's Office) is confidential.

Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and/or as requested. From May 2012 through April 2013, the Committee met nine times and interviewed 84 candidates for judicial vacancies.