

STATE BAR of MICHIGAN

2006-2007 Annual Report Standing/Special Committee On Lawyers & Judges Assistance

Committee Name: Standing/Special Committee on Lawyers & Judges Assistance

Jurisdictional Statement: Shall concern itself with the formulation and administration of programs to render assistance to lawyers, judges, and law students faced with personal and professional problems.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: LeRoy C. Gough, Brighton

Members:

William Brodhead, Farmington Hills	Teresa Killeen, Ann Arbor
Hon. John Christensen, Flint	Michael Marutiak, Lansing
Ronald Fabian, Jackson	Hon. Renee McDuffee, Detroit
John Fernandez, Detroit	Laurie Orlando, Harper Woods
Hon. Thomas Gilbert, Traverse City	Thomas Pointner, Jacksonville
Greg Gliha, Plymouth	Andrew Quinn, Lansing
Victoria Green, Bloomfield Hills	John Runcie, Lansing
Thomas Harp, Lansing	Donald Walter, East Lansing
Hon. Faye Harrison, Saginaw	Carol Weisensel, Ypsilanti
Carolyn Jereck, Bloomfield Hills	Nancy Werner, Stockbridge
Hon. Wallace Kent, Jr., Caro	

Associate Members:

Lindsay Buiting, Detroit	Hon. John Gilbreath, Lansing
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Board of Commissioners Liaison:

Elias Escobedo, Jr., Waterford

2006-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location): The Committee meets in Lansing on the first Thursday of every other month beginning each October.

Committee Activities:

The following subcommittees have been formulated to pursue objectives that support the work of the Committee and the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program (LJAP):

- **Monitoring Sub-committee** – Chaired by the Honorable Renee McDuffee, this subcommittee seeks to sustain and expand the volunteer network of persons beyond the membership of the Committee who will be trained and work as attorney monitors as well as

participate as volunteers in other activities intended to enhance knowledge and usage of the LJAP

- **Law School Sub-committee** – Chaired by Don Walter, this subcommittee works to enhance the rapport between Michigan’s law schools and LJAP, with the goal of expanding law students’ awareness of the program and its services through participation in orientation and other law school programs
- **Publications: Outreach Sub-committee** – Chaired by John Runcie, this subcommittee seeks to educate lawyers and judges about the impact addictive and other compulsive behaviors as well as mental health issues can have on the legal community, and how the services provided by LJAP can help lawyers, judges, and law students confront and address those challenges. Outreach is achieved through Bar publications as well as local and affinity bar association publications.
- **Speaker Bureau Outreach Sub-committee** – Chaired by the Honorable Wallace Kent, this subcommittee cultivates and maintains speakers, and coordinates speaking opportunities through local and affinity bar associations, Bar functions, and other conferences to publicize the work of LJAP and the Committee and to speak to related topics
- **State Outreach Sub-committee** – This subcommittee seeks to enhance membership on the Committee from other parts of the state than are presently well represented by encouraging members of the volunteer network from particularly western and northern Michigan to become more involved in the Committee’s work
- **Funding Sub-committee** – Chaired by Andy Quinn, this subcommittee seeks to investigate opportunities to raise funds in support of the Committee’s and LJAP’s work
- **Judiciary Sub-committee** – Chaired by the Honorable Tom Gilbert, this subcommittee seeks to enhance knowledge and usage of LJAP by the judiciary, through speaking at judicial conferences and training sessions

During this Bar year, the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program has maintained a staff of three clinicians, each of whom is involved in providing direct service to lawyers, judges, and law students either self-referred or third-party referred, and one administrative assistant. The Committee has received staff updates at each regularly scheduled meeting about the work of the program, and the various subcommittee projects – such as, publication of *The Turning Point* in February of 2007, mailouts to prospective volunteers for participation in upcoming attorney monitoring training, and planning for a May 2008 *Michigan Bar Journal* issue devoted to topics related to lawyers and judges assistance issues. In addition, two workshops have been held for staff members of the Attorney Grievance Commission and the Attorney Discipline Board, as well as a presentation for the Attorney Grievance Commission about the attorney monitoring program.

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6 - Reports: *“no later than May 1 of each year, the chair of each committee and subentity of the Bar, with the assistance of the staff liaison, shall report to the Executive Director on a form provided by the State Bar on the activities and accomplishments of the committee or sub entity”*.

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

- 4-person staff that supports the work of the Committee and the program
- Meeting space and refreshments for each of the six regularly scheduled meetings each Bar-year.
- Resources to avail LJAC committee chair to accompany LJAP staff to annual ABA COLAP (Coalition of lawyers Assistance Program) meeting

Future Goals and Activities:

- Expand law school outreach efforts
- Continue to improve communications and working relationships with disciplinary system to enhance attorney monitor program
- Identify and take advantage of speaking opportunities to educate the Bar about the program