

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES COURTS**

Committee Name: United States Courts Committee

Jurisdictional Statement: The Committee shall concern itself with the administration, organization and operation of the United States Courts for the purpose of securing the effective administration of judges. Two members shall be judges designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and one member shall be a judge designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

Membership notes: Pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Commissioners, the membership of the committee may exceed 15.

Officers and Membership:

Chair/ViceChair: Thaddeus E. Morgan / Hon. David Lawson

Board of Commissioner Liaison: Michael Riordan

Bar Staff Liaisons: Clifford T. Flood and Anne Smith

Members:

Hon. Ellen Carmody

Mark McInerney

Pamela Enslin

Francis Ortiz

Hon. Paul Gadola

Andrew Portinga

Hon. David Lawson

Michael Puerner

John Ferrolì

John Smietanka

Harold Gurewitz

Christopher Tracy

Michelle Harrell

David Weaver (Clerk, ED)

Irene Hathaway

Ronald C. Weston (Clerk, WD)

Jason Klingensmith

2008-2009 Meeting Schedule (date and location):

October 22, 2008- Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

January 21, 2009 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

March 18, 2009 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

May 20, 2009 – Doubletree, Detroit

October 21, 2009 (tentative) – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

Committee Activities:

1. Continuous exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding operational and administrative functions and procedures in each District that might be of interest to or benefit the other District.
2. Continuous exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding Bench-Bar Conferences in each District and opportunities for cooperation and cross-districting between the two districts with regard to future Bench-Bar Conferences.

3. Systematically reviewed proposed federal rule amendments and submitted comments on the proposed amendments regarding FRE 804(b)(3), Fed.R.Civ.P 26(a) and (b) and to Fed.R.Civ.P.56 to the Federal Rules Advisory Committee.
4. John Allen addressed the committee regarding a report that he helped author as a member of the ABA Special Task Force on Attorney-Client Privileges and that was presented at the ABA Mid Year Meeting in Boston.
5. Formation of a task force to investigate and explore options for the representation of *pro se* non-prisoner civil litigants who survive summary judgment.
6. The annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Western District (alternates yearly with the Eastern District) is scheduled for May 20, 2009, at Doubletree Hotel, in Detroit. It provides an opportunity for the judges to meet the committee members and discuss common issues.

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

The State Bar provided the Roberts P. Hudson room at the State Bar of Michigan for meetings, equipped with telephone conferencing equipment so members unable to attend in person could attend by teleconference. Dinner was provided at each meeting and Bar Staff Liaisons Clifford T. Flood and Anne Smith attended meetings, assisted in preparing and circulating meeting agendas and minutes for each meeting, took minutes of each meeting, and provided other administrative support, as needed. In addition, the State Bar of Michigan provided the resources called for in Article VI, Section 7 of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws. The State Bar of Michigan was responsible for the expenses for the Annual Bench Bar dinner.

Future Goals and Activities:

1. The Committee wishes to continue with the process for systematically reviewing and commenting on amendments to the Federal Rules and submitting draft amendments, when appropriate.
 2. The Committee intends to focus on a statewide Bench/Bar Conference in 2010 by coordinating the activities of the FBA chapters in an effort to assure that the conference remains meaningful and attractive to the judges and practitioners. The Committee intends to form a task force or sub-committee to facilitate this goal.
1. The Committee wishes to appoint a committee co-chair at the first meeting each year following the State Bar's Annual Meeting in order to promote consistency and continuity in the Committee from year to year.
 2. The Committee's future plans include inviting the Federal Bar Presidents of the Western and Eastern Districts to future meetings and including both Western and Eastern District judges at the 2010 Bench Bar Conference.

Chair Contact Information:

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