

2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH, AND LEGAL
PUBLICATIONS
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications.

Jurisdictional Statement: Shall assist members of the Bar and the public in improving the legal resources at libraries, legal publications, and methods of conducting legal research.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: Randy E. Davidson

Members: 15

Advisors: 7

2004-05 Meeting Schedule (date and location):

June 5, 2004, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing

August 14, 2004, ICLE, Ann Arbor

November 13, 2004, State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building, Lansing

February 19, 2005, University of Michigan Law Library, Ann Arbor

Committee Activities:

Committee members wrote a number of *Michigan Bar Journal* articles to help practitioners with research: *A Guide to U.S. Intellectual Property Searching Online*, by Jennifer L. Selby (August 2004); *Tips for Researching Current State Legislation*, by Jan Bissett (September 2004); *Legal Resources on Character and Fitness*, by Jim Hogan (October 2004); *Using MeL for Tax Research*, by Jan Bissett (November 2004); *Selected Michigan Probate Law Research Resources*, by Barb Garavaglia (December 2004); *Labor Law Resources*, by Dan Kopka (January 2005); *Thinking About Going Solo? Do Your Research First*, by Jane Edwards (February 2005); *Resources on Computer Law*, by TeLisa Owens (May 2005); and *Researching the First Amendment*, by Lance M. Werner (June 2005).

Committee members also finished work on our Michigan Online Legal Self-Help Center web page project, designed to help Michigan citizens find legal resources and work better with their attorneys. The web page is now online at:

<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/selfhelp.cfm>

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

The State Bar provided meeting space and lunch for our November 13, 2004 committee meeting and reimbursed committee members for lunch expense for our other meetings. Sharon Barnes, Amy Ellsworth, Elizabeth Lyon, Susan McMann, Joyce Nordeen, Linda Novak, and Janet Welch have been extremely helpful in arranging meeting space and refreshments; keeping us informed of public policy developments; updating the Committee roster; getting our web page project online; and assisting with editing and publication of Committee member articles in the *Michigan Bar Journal*.

Future Goals and Activities:

At a minimum, Committee members plan to continue providing quality articles for publication in each theme issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*, relating to electronic legal research for the featured theme. We also plan to promote and update our Michigan Online Legal Self-Help Center web page; and monitor legislation and technology relating to the availability of legal resources to members of the Bar and the public.

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information: For further information, contact Committee chair Randy E. Davidson, Assistant Defender, State Appellate Defender Office, 3300 Penobscot Building, Detroit, MI 48226, telephone 313-256-9833, E-mail to: randy@sado.org.