

## STATE BAR of MICHIGAN

### 2005-2006 Annual Report Standing Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications

**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:* 14

*Advisors:* 8

**2005-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

May 14, 2005 ICLE, Ann Arbor

August 13, 2005 SADO, Detroit

November 5, 2005 Clark J. Adams-Philip Pratt Oakland County Law Library, Pontiac

February 4, 2006 Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing

**Committee Activities:**

Committee members wrote a number of *Michigan Bar Journal* articles to help practitioners with research: *Access to Justice: Michigan Legal Help Websites*, by Randy Davidson (July 2005); *Employment Law Resources*, by Daniel Kopka (August 2005); *Contract Law Resources*, by Ruth Stevens (September 2005); *Beyond the Basics: Practical Information for Attorneys on the Internet*, by Dianne Zyskowski and Marilyn Preston (October 2005); *Finding Environmental Law on the Web*, by Barbara Bonge (November 2005); *The Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement: Sources of Information*, by Barb Garavaglia (December 2005); *Researching Online Sources for Michigan Legislative History*, by Sue Adamczak (January 2006); *Michigan Family Law Research Resources: Review and Update*, by Barb Garavaglia (February 2006); *Reference Sources – English Grammar & Usage, Plain Language*, by Jan Bissett (March 2006); *Web Resources on Justice Initiatives*, by Randy Davidson (May 2006); and *Running for Elective Office in Michigan: Sources to Get You Started*, by Jane Edwards (June 2006).

Committee members updated 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 online at:

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

The Committee also discussed and thereafter recommended that the Board of Commissioners oppose HB 5132 (2005), which would eliminate the requirement that State agencies deposit paper copies of public documents with the Library of Michigan when the documents are available on a web site. Committee members were concerned that the availability of online documents might not be consistent when Internet sources are updated or changed.

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

The State Bar reimbursed committee members for refreshments for our meetings. Sandra Barger, Sharon Barnes, Amy Ellsworth, Elizabeth Lyon, Susan McMann, Joyce Nordeen, Linda Novak, and Janet Welch have been extremely helpful in processing reimbursement for meeting refreshments; keeping us informed of public policy developments; updating the Committee roster; maintaining our web page project online (including tracking web hits); 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](mailto:randy@sado.org).