

**STATE BAR COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH,
& LEGAL PUBLICATIONS**

**Minutes of February 3, 2007 Meeting
State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building, Lansing**

Present: Sue Adamczak, Ann Baker (teleconference), Sharon Barnes, Jan Bissett (teleconference), Barbara Bonge, Randy Davidson, Jane Edwards, Randy Foreman, Barb Garavaglia, Marjorie Gell (teleconference), Daniel Kopka, TeLisa Owens, Jennifer Schafer (teleconference), Janice Selberg, Ruth Stevens (teleconference), Charles Toy, and Lance Werner.

Absent: Georgia Clark, Byron Cooper, Barbara Goldman, Jim Hogan, Roger Peters, Marilyn Preston, Jennifer Selby, Kathy Vance, and Dianne Zyskowski.

Chair Randy Davidson called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. and introduced as guests two prospective members: Dragomir Cosanici, Head of Reference, Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis (link to bio: <http://www.iulaw.indy.indiana.edu/People/profile.cfm?id=211>); and Veronica Valentine McNally, Associate Director of Trial Advocacy Programs at MSU College of Law.

The Committee members present approved the minutes of the November 11, 2006 meeting.

Chair's Report:

Randy provided copies of the updated Michigan Bar Journal theme issue schedule and assignments. The topics for March and May 2007 were transposed from the original topic list, as well as those for October and December 2007. Randy thanked Barb Garavaglia for submitting on short notice the March 2007 article on Presidential Papers, following the death of President Ford.

Randy also provided copies of the following recently published Michigan Bar Journal articles by Committee members: *Electronic Resources for Research in Administrative Law*, by Lance M. Werner and Nicholas Bozen (November 2006); *Electronic Tax Resources for Charitable Nonprofits*, by Lance Werner (December 2006); and *Mirror Image: Selected Legal Industry Sources*, by Jan Bissett and Margi Heinen (January 2007).

Randy reviewed a new report on Best Practices in Court-Based Programs for the Self-Represented, distributed by the Self-Represented Litigation Network and developed under a grant from the State Justice Institute (link to download full report: http://www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/KIS_ProSeBestPracticesSRLN.pdf).

Old Business:

Web Page Project

Randy provided an updated report from the State Bar on web hits for our web page. The report disclosed the following new statistics from November 2, 2006 to February 1, 2007. There was only one response to the online survey at the time of the report.

Help Center Home	4,328
Wills, Estate Planning, Probate	1,406
Family Law	1,258
Elder Law	811
Michigan Law Websites	794
Landlord-Tenant Law	1,239
Finding a Lawyer	925
Finding a Law Library	469
Consumer Protection Law	728
Criminal Law	733

Committee members reviewed the standards for self-help websites set forth on page 4 of the Best Practices report mentioned above. Our site appears to comply with most of the standards, except for multiple language support and possibly national accessibility. Sue Adamczak will investigate whether we could obtain a Spanish translation of our pages; and Ann Baker will check on accessibility standards.

Ruth Stevens and TeLisa Owens presented a report on behalf of the Web Page Promotion Subcommittee. The top recommendations include: (1) more visibility on the SBM home page; (2) presentations at Michigan Library Association and Rural Library Association annual meetings; (3) focus group testing; and (4) links to MeL. Sharon Barnes will investigate making our link more visible on the SBM home page, and a possible tie-in with Access to Justice. Lance Werner will provide contact information for the MLA, RLA, and MeL. Sue Adamczak will investigate focus group testing.

New Business:

Guidelines for informing library patrons about the need for legal counsel:

Randy distributed copies of the SBM pamphlet entitled "A Practical Guide to Hiring a Lawyer." Sharon Barnes reported that SBM charges \$125.00 plus shipping for 1,000 copies. She will investigate whether SBM will waive the cost of 2,000 copies for Committee use (\$250.00) or if Randy needs to present a motion to the Board of Commissioners for approval of expenses. Dragomir Cosanici informed members that the Indiana University School of Law Library has a similar pamphlet, and he will send a copy to Randy.

Round table on news and emerging issues:

Randy Davidson informed Committee members of the death of SADO Chief Deputy Director Norris J. Thomas, Jr.

Jane Edwards reported that the MSU College of Law has a new interim dean, Cliff Thompson (link to bio: http://www.law.msu.edu/faculty_staff/profile.php?prof=544).

Dragomir Consanici indicated that the IU School of Law has a new dean, Gary Roberts (link to press release: http://www.iupui.edu/news/releases/070119_law_school_dean.htm). There is also a job posting for a dual-degree reference librarian.

Barb Bonge reported on improvements to the Michigan Appellate Digest, available through the Michigan Court of Appeals website (link: <http://courtofappeals.mijud.net/Digest/DigestLaunchPage.jsp>).

Dan Kopka informed us that ICLE now has 42 books available online, and has recently released the Michigan Medicare Planning Handbook (link to online catalog: http://www.icle.org/store/catalog_book.cfm).

Barb Garavaglia reported on implementing budget cuts at the University of Michigan Law Library.

TeLisa Owens mentioned SBM's opposition to a State tax on legal services.

Jan Bissett recommended that SBM archive Committee member articles on the Committee's web page as well as the MBJ page.

Ruth Stevens informed us that Chad Brown is the new reference librarian at Cooley's Oakland campus.

Ann Baker indicated that the Corporations Division now has online filing of annual reports (link: http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-35299_35413-136481--,00.html), and is working on a new imaging system for storing records.

Adjournment:

Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon at the offices of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, in Grand Rapids. Marjorie Gell will host.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m., and we thanked our host, Sharon Barnes.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Davidson, Chair