



**RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Article VI of the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, the Board of Commissioners adopts the following as the committees and appointed subentities of the State Bar of Michigan for fiscal year 2009-2010:**

## **STATE BAR STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES 2009-2010**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **AMERICAN INDIAN LAW**

##### **Jurisdiction:**

- Review issues of American Indian law, focusing on the relationship between tribal courts, state courts, and federal courts, and on the promotion of positive relationships between the lawyers of Michigan and the American Indian Community.

##### **Notes:**

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- Includes a representative from the Michigan Supreme Court.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

##### **Jurisdiction:**

- Provide assistance in the development and planning of the State Bar's Annual Meeting, whose purpose, as defined by Rule 10 of the Supreme Court rules, is to hold a business meeting for the governance of the State Bar allowing a place for the Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, sections and committees to meet.
- Provide opportunities for members to socialize and to network with vendors while gaining professional learning experience, and for, sections to provide programming to members.

##### **Notes:**

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

#### **AWARDS**

##### **Jurisdiction:**

- Recommend attorney recipients qualified to receive awards made in the name of the State Bar of Michigan.
- Recommend recipients of the annual Liberty Bell Award made to non-attorneys.
- Recommend the establishment of new awards or discontinuation of existing awards.

#### **BAR LEADERSHIP LIAISON ADVISORY**

##### **Jurisdiction:**

- Provide assistance developing an annual leadership training seminar for affinity bars and section chairs.

##### **Notes:**

- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

## CHARACTER & FITNESS

### Jurisdiction:

- Investigate the character and fitness of candidates for admission to the State Bar, pursuant to Rule 15, Section 1, of the Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members. See Supreme Court Rule 15.

## CIVIL PROCEDURE & COURTS

### Jurisdiction:

- Review proposed court rules and statutes related to civil practice in the courts and make recommendations concerning improvements in the administration, organization, and operation of Michigan state courts.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

## CLIENT PROTECTION FUND

### Jurisdiction:

- Make recommendations concerning the Client Protection Fund, including the investigation of claims, the distribution of payments authorized by the Board of Commissioners, and the institution and prosecution of all subrogation actions seeking to recoup monies paid from the Fund.

## CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE & PRACTICE

### Jurisdiction:

- Review proposed court rules and statutes related to criminal procedure and practice in state courts and make recommendations concerning improvements in the operation of criminal law and procedure to promote the fair, speedy and efficient administration of criminal justice, including the establishment and operation of systems for the representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Jurisdiction:

- Make recommendations concerning increasing attorney awareness of the problem of domestic violence.
- Advise on the encouragement of training of attorneys and judges on legal remedies and community resources concerning domestic violence.
- Help develop and distribute legal resources concerning domestic violence and victims' access to the legal process.
- Assist in the coordination of programs and activities concerning domestic violence in Michigan.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

## JUDICIAL ETHICS

### Jurisdiction:

- Prepare written opinions on ethical conduct of judges at the request of the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Executive Director, or individual members of the State Bar inquiring about their own contemplated conduct.
- Recommend amendments to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct, and other standards of professional conduct, and review proposed amendments.

### Notes:

- The Michigan Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, and the Referees Association of Michigan shall each nominate one member for appointment to the committee.

## JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS

### Jurisdiction:

- Evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and report its findings in confidence to the authority requesting its assistance.
- The chief staff attorney of the Attorney Grievance Commission serves as reporter for this committee.
- The appointed members are limited to three two-year terms. Chairs of the committee may serve more than three two-year terms. This committee may have more than 15 members.

## JURY INSTRUCTIONS, STANDARD CRIMINAL

### Jurisdiction:

- Draft proposed standard criminal jury instructions for publication by the Institute for Continuing Education.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

## JUSTICE INITIATIVES

### Jurisdiction:

- Develop and recommend proposals for the effective delivery of high quality legal services in Michigan, equal and fair to all. This committee consists of several initiatives whose activities include
  - Analyzing and making recommendations for positions on proposed legislation, court rules, and other policies relevant to the committee's jurisdiction.
  - Developing policies and programs to benefit underserved populations, including juveniles and those with special needs.
  - Encouraging and coordinating free or discounted civil legal services.
  - Working to increase resources for civil legal aid programs.
  - Examining collateral civil consequences of criminal convictions and issues of adequate representation in the criminal justice system.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

## LAW & THE MEDIA

### Jurisdiction:

- Develop, recommend, and support programs that promote a positive relationship between the law and the media.
- Study and identify sources of friction between the courts, lawyers, and the electronic and print press, and recommend solutions.

## LAW RELATED EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

### Jurisdiction:

- Make recommendations concerning programs advancing lay understanding of law and the legal profession, with particular emphasis on community programs.
- Develop a phased implementation process for the Spring 2009 Plan developed at the Law Related Education Summit, identifying measures of success for the plan and evaluating outcomes and communicating progress annually.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- This committee may include Michigan Lawyers Auxiliary, educators and other non-State Bar members.

## LAW SCHOOL DEANS

### Jurisdiction:

- Confer on issues and subjects that affect the law schools of Michigan and the practicing lawyers of Michigan.
- Make recommendations concerning legal preparation, law school admissions, education, standards, and testing of candidates for admission to the bar.

### Notes:

- This committee consists of the deans of the law schools in Michigan, officers of the State Bar, and the chair of the Representative Assembly. This committee may include non-State Bar members.

## LAWYERS & JUDGES ASSISTANCE

### Jurisdiction:

- Recommend and support programs that provide assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to addiction and stress.
- Review and make recommendations concerning proposed statutes and court rules affecting assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to addiction and stress.

### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

## LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH, & LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

### Jurisdiction:

- Assist in improving the legal resources at libraries, legal publications, and methods of conducting legal research.

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

### Jurisdiction:

- Evaluate and make recommendations concerning the selection, retention, development and marketing of State Bar services and products.
- Make recommendations concerning programs and services to meet the needs and interests of lawyers in the Upper Peninsula.

### Notes:

- The membership of this committee shall include at least one member from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

#### PAST PRESIDENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

##### Jurisdiction:

- Provide counsel and recommendations on all matters concerning the State Bar, at the request of the Board of Commissioners.

##### Notes:

- The membership of the committee consists of all past presidents of the State Bar of Michigan.

#### PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

##### Jurisdiction:

- Prepare written opinions on professional ethical conduct at the request of the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Executive Director, or individual members of the State Bar inquiring about their own contemplated conduct.
- Recommend amendments to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct, and other standards of professional conduct, and review proposed amendments.

##### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

#### PUBLICATIONS & WEBSITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### Jurisdiction:

- Provide editorial guidance concerning the Michigan Bar Journal, the State Bar of Michigan website, and other regular State Bar publications for the general membership or public.

##### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members. Members of this committee may serve continuously for more than two successive three-year terms.

#### TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

##### Jurisdiction:

- Assist the State Bar in evaluating, promoting, and implementing new technologies in law practices, courts, and bar associations, to provide greater service to lawyers and the public.

#### UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

##### Jurisdiction:

- Provide guidance concerning matters involving the alleged unauthorized practice of the law, including the filing and prosecution of actions seeking to enjoin the unauthorized practice.
- Propose and support measures to educate the public and the legal profession about unauthorized practice of law issues.

##### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

#### UNITED STATES COURTS

##### Jurisdiction:

- Make recommendations concerning the administration, organization and operation of the United States Courts for the purpose of securing the effective administration of justice. Two members are judges designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and one member is a judge designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

##### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

## UPPER MICHIGAN LEGAL INSTITUTE ADVISORY

### Jurisdiction:

- Provide assistance developing an annual legal education seminar especially targeted to the practice needs of northern Michigan practitioners.

### Notes:

- The State Bar commissioner elected from District A shall chair this committee.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND SUBENTITIES**

### CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION RECORDING TASK FORCE

#### Jurisdiction:

- Make recommendations concerning legislative, court rule and funding changes that advance the use of audio and video electronic recording of custodial interrogations, and provide support for the adoption and implementation of changes approved by the Representative Assembly or Board of Commissioners.

#### Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

### LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

#### Jurisdiction:

- Review and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners concerning the State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service rules and procedures.

#### Notes:

- This committee has 7 members.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

### MASTER LAWYERS SECTION PLANNING GROUP

#### Jurisdiction:

- The Master Lawyers Section Planning Group shall:
  - Assist with transition to a Master Lawyers Section as a new entity with a structure similar to the Young Lawyers Section, including automatic free section membership for all members who reach a threshold age, or years of practice, and optional paid membership for those with lower age and years of practice, and a budget for the programs and activities of the Master Lawyers Section provided in part by the State Bar of Michigan.
  - Explore and recommend the jurisdiction of the Master Lawyers Section, including the key focus areas of its work for the next two years.
  - Draft bylaws for the new section.

#### Notes:

- This committee may include emeritus and non-State Bar member members.

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The President of the State Bar, at his discretion, may appoint non-voting advisors, including individuals who are not members of the State Bar, to any committee on which such advisors, in his judgment, would be beneficial.