



# STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

## Member Comment

### Member Name:

Bradley Vauter

### Issue:

Tax on legal services

### Date comment submitted:

February 9, 2007

### Member Position:

It saddens me that an old analysis, with no connection to the current proposal or economic situation in the state, is trotted out as the bar's "position" on the matter. I would hope for more and find it particularly appalling that the bar trots this minimal tax as an intrusion.

On 10,000 dollars worth of work, at 2 per cent, the client would bear an extra 200 dollars in cost, for a will of, say, 365 dollars, the extra costs involved for the tax would be 7.30 cents. I don't believe that would be a real barrier to having the work done.

If the State Bar of Michigan is really concerned about the misery index and cost of services and the like, they could consider looking at attorney fees which are often in the 100 to 300 dollar an hour range, and sometimes more; they could beef up the access to justice program; and they could look at the larger picture of our sometimes underfunded courts and indigent defense systems with much more zeal and muscle than is currently displayed.

It seems like a shameful decision on the bar's part to trot out the position--based on a general study from a few years back--and immediately opposing a tax, without tailoring the opposition to specific proposals or having discussions and votes on the particulars.

If Michigan, like much of the US, is evolving to be a mixed economy where services, and not just manufacturing or sales of goods plays an increasing role services are a big part of the economy--why should the services sector not also pay a part of the cost of government?

Let's rethink this.

### State Bar of Michigan Position:

The State Bar of Michigan opposes the adoption of legislation that burdens the public's access to justice, including the adoption of a tax on legal services.