

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE REGARDING RECOGNITION OF LOCAL AND SPECIAL  
PURPOSE BAR ASSOCIATIONS**

(Adopted by the SBM Board of Commissioners)

Revised July 2006

Recognition of local and special purpose bar associations, listings of local and special purpose bar associations in the Roster Edition of the Michigan Bar Journal, participation in the local bar president-elect conference sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan, and involvement in related State Bar activities shall be limited to associations which comply with the following conditions:

1. The primary purposes and activities of the association shall be to seek to aid in promoting improvements in the administration of justice and advancements in jurisprudence, to improve relations between the legal profession and the public, and to promote the interests of the local legal community.
2. A copy of the bylaws or charters of such associations shall be filed with the State Bar, and any change in said bylaws or charters should be filed within ten (10) days after its adoption.
3. It shall have a presidential year that ends between the dates of April 30 and June 30.
4. The name of the bar association shall not be misleading or deceptive.
5. Each local bar association shall hold at least one general meeting per year.
6. All local bar associations shall be divided as follows:
  - (a) General purpose local bar associations, and
  - (b) Special purpose bar association.
7. Membership in general purpose local bar associations may not be limited by requirements, other than geographical, the principal objective of which is unrelated to the purposes and activities set forth in (1) above.
8. Membership in special purpose associations may not be limited by requirements, other than geographical, the principal objective of which is unrelated to the purposes and activities set forth in (1) above, except as follows:
  - (a) Statements of emphasis on specific areas of practice of law are permissible.
  - (b) Associations may require affiliation through bylaw or other membership limitation to a parent association, which has been recognized as a special purpose association, or to a local bar association that has been recognized as a general purpose local bar association. (The affiliate special purpose associations shall be recognized only in conjunction with such a parent or local bar association. In all affairs pertaining to recognized bar associations and the State Bar of Michigan only the vote of the parent or local bar association shall be considered.)
  - (c) Associations may be limited to members holding or having held public office such as the judges' association, prosecutors' associations, etc. restricting membership to those persons having held or who now hold such offices.
  - (d) Associations may express interest in particular racial or ethnic heritage, but may not invidiously discriminate by excluding anyone seeking membership who shares that interest solely on grounds of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, handicap or sexual orientation.

It is the intent of these guidelines to include other bar associations in the work and activities of the State Bar of Michigan. Uncertainties in the application of these guidelines to the bylaws of a bar association should generally be resolved in favor of inclusion.