

2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH, & LEGAL
PUBLICATIONS
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, & Legal Publications.

Jurisdiction: 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

Associate Members: 2

2003-04 Meeting Schedule (date and location):

May 3, 2003, State Appellate Defender Office, Detroit

August 2, 2003, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing

November 15, 2003, ICLE, Ann Arbor

February 21, 2004, State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building, Lansing

Committee Activities:

- Committee members wrote a number of *Michigan Bar Journal* articles to help practitioners with research: October 2003 – *Digests, Headnotes and Annotations: The Most Useful Research Tools* by Randy Foreman; November 2003 – *Salary and Wage Information on the Internet* by Kathy Vance; December 2003 – *Researching Property Law on the Internet* by Byron Cooper; January 2004 - *Major Resources for the New Family Law Attorney* by Barbara Garavaglia; February 2004 - *Online Sources for District Court Information* by Jane M. Edwards; March 2004 – *Alternative Careers for JDs* by Lance M. Werner; May 2004 – *Litigation Searching* by Kimberly Koscielniak; June 2004 – *Internet Research in Negligence Law* by Barbara H. Goldman; and July 2004 – *Native American Legal Resources on the Web* by Lance M. Werner and Jane M. Edwards.
- Committee members are finishing work on 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 Committee also reviewed pending legislation and voted to oppose HB 5390, which would limit the deposit in the State Library of public documents that are also available on the Internet. The Committee was concerned that archiving of electronic documents has not developed to the point that we can be confident documents will be preserved and retrieved. The SBM Board of Commissioners also subsequently voted to oppose the bill in principle.

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

The State Bar provided meeting space and lunch for our February 21, 2004 committee meeting and reimbursed committee members for lunch expense for our other meetings. Sharon Barnes, Susan McMann, Janet Welch, Elizabeth Lyon, and Amy Ellsworth have been extremely helpful in arranging meeting space and refreshments; communicating the Committee's position on legislation and other reports; keeping us informed of public policy developments; and assisting with editing and publication of Committee member articles in the 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 Bar Journal, relating to electronic legal research for the featured theme. We also plan to promote 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.