

Affordable Legal Services Committee

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Jurisdiction: Support the State Bar of Michigan’s access to justice and member services goals by:

- Reviewing, developing, and recommend innovative practices to provide low-cost legal services and evaluate efforts to expand access to affordable legal services for persons of modest means, including low bono services; non-profit law firms and sliding scale civil legal services; online dispute resolution and alternative dispute resolution services; lean process analysis, both at law practice and court administrative levels; alternative fee agreements; and fixed fee packages.
- Identifying possible collaborations to support the committee’s jurisdiction
- Identifying the need for any workgroups to support the jurisdiction of the committee
- Conferring and coordinating regularly at least annually with the Justice Initiatives, Unauthorized Practice of Law, Access to Justice Policy, and Online Legal Resources and Referral Center committees
- Identifying possible collaborations to support the committee’s jurisdiction
- Reviewing and evaluating metrics measuring

Note: This committee may have more than 15 members.

Time Frame	Strategic Plan Goal/Strategy	Description of Activity
5/19-9/19	1.3/2.1	Limited scope representation – promote ICLE on demand webinar and use list of attendees and other methods to recruit lsr attorneys for lawyer referral service; continue to provide in-person lsr education programs to judges, lawyers, court staff; work with PMRC to create lsr podcast; Help to develop new forms (engagement letter, end of representation letter, checklist, objection to withdrawal of appearance); sponsor change to MCR 5.117 regarding limited scope in probate matters; (eventually adopted by MSct) create marketing materials for lawyers and informational brochures for the public; promote use of Connect for lsr practitioners; coordinate work with JIC and UPL Committee
	1.3/2.1	Modest means –confirm and finalize expanded case types
	1.3/2.1	ODR – learn about Mi-Resolve through in-person SCAO presentation
10/19-5/20	1.3/2.1	• Limited scope – in partnership with Justice Initiatives Committee, hear from national experts to identify possible areas of limited scope practice in which pro bono lawyers can be used; explore possible pilot projects; continue education in limited scope through presentations at ICLE Family Law Institute, Cooley Law School, 26th Circuit Bar Association, Michigan Judicial Institute, Marquette Bar, sections, more; Arrange for Bar Journal profile of limited scope practitioner(s); Continue promotion of Connect through scripted messages
	1.3/2.1	Modest means – expand and open more flexible fee model; work with LRS to update website with expanded case types

	1.3/2.1	Online dispute resolution – inventory Michigan courts offering online settlement; learn about possible barriers/access challenges for self-represented litigants
	1.3/2.1	Study sliding scale and non-profit law firm models; explore pro bono development of “non-profit law firm in a box”
	1.3/2.1	Explore LEAN/design thinking supports for practitioners; incorporate focus on tech competence; provide Lean input to PMRC Business Continuity webinar
Current Projects	1.3/2.1	Limited scope pro bono pilot project
	1.3/2.1	Lean Process and tech competence
	1.3/2.1	Affordable Bar Journal article for ATJ theme issue
	1.3/2.1	Non-profit law firm in a box
	1.3/2.1	Possible ODR/ADR expansion
Future Goals	1.3/2.1	Identify LSR pro bono opportunities including possible expanded use of ADR/ODR in post-COVID justice system
	1.3/2.1	Author Bar Journal article
	1.3/2.1	Identify and develop Lean/design thinking tools for practitioners so they can engage in profitable lsr and modest means practices
	1.3/2.1	Market modest means, limited scope, non-profit/sliding scale practices in partnership with affinity bars
	1.3/2.1	Understand changing structures and leadership in access to justice and affordable/futures legal services; consider profound changes and access opportunities brought about by quarantine and redesigned legal processes; seek opportunities to partner with relevant structures and identify tools to help lawyers provide affordable legal services for the public.

Recommended Committee Changes: See future goal 5: “Understand changing structures and leadership in access to justice and affordable/futures legal services; consider profound changes and access opportunities brought about by quarantine and redesigned legal processes; seek opportunities to partner with relevant structures and identify tools to help lawyers provide affordable legal services for the public.”

Additional Comments: None.