

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
May 2008**

**Committee Name:** Standing Committee on Bar Leadership Liaison

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

Provide assistance developing an annual leadership training seminar for affinity bars, section and committee chairs, and affiliated members.

**Officers and Membership:**

Linda D. Johnson, Co-Chair

Daniel M. Levy, Co-Chair

**Members:**

Carl E. Chioini

Kimberly Coleman (Non-Bar Member)

Elizabeth Moehle Johnson

Jeffrey F. Klein

Michael W. Krellwitz

Thomas G. Plunkett

Thomas C. Rombach

Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens

Dawn A. Van Hoek

**Advisors:**

None

**Commissioner Liaison:**

Gregory L. Ulrich

**Staff Liaison:**

Kari Brandel

Nancy Brown

Candace A. Crowley

There are currently five members whose terms are due to expire in 2008. They are: Carl E. Chioni, Linda D. Johnson, Michael W. Krellwitz, Thomas G. Plunkett and Dawn A. Van Hoek.

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule:**

October 21, 2007 – Conference Call

November 27, 2007 – Conference Call

December 13, 2007 – Conference Call

February 27, 2008 – Conference Call

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

The State Bar Staff offer invaluable services to this Committee. Among other things, the staff provides 1) assistance with identifying and obtaining speakers and sites; 2) administrative support; 3) registration of participants (offsite and onsite); 4) preparation, transportation and distribution of all forum materials and handouts; 5) securing prizes for annual attendees raffle; 6) preparation, dissemination, and summarization of surveys from program participants.

**Committee Activities:**

This committee was formed is to develop and annually produce a program providing developing Bar Leaders with meaningful leadership tips & techniques and development training. The Annual Forum is also intended to provide upcoming leadership with the opportunity to network and get to know both the State Bar personnel they will be working with, but also other Bar leaders whose experience they can learn from and upon whom they can call for assistance.

The Bar Leadership Forum is by invitation only. Recently the guest list grew from Executive Directors of local Bar Associations to include Chairs of Sections and Committees. More recently emphasis was placed on involving Chairs-elect so as to maximize the benefits provided by the program. Early on, it was evident the forum must CONSISTENTLY contain valuable substance, important content, a desirable location, and beneficial networking opportunities to remain successful. In order to ensure the success of this program, the Committee has historically been comprised of members, located throughout Michigan, who represent different facets of leadership. The committee is currently comprised of eleven members.

This committee was also formed to review and formulate recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on requests from lawyers' associations for State Bar recognition as local or special purpose bar associations. The committee no longer serves that function as a result of action taken by the Board of Commissioners in 2007.

The 2008 Bar Leadership Forum is to take place June 12-13 and will feature First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern, a nationally noted speaker, author and radio host focusing on leadership development and related issues.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

The future goal of this Bar Leadership Liaison Committee is to continue its presentation of quality leadership forums. Through these forums, the committee hopes: 1) to enhance the quality of leadership within the legal community at large and in particular within the State Bar and its related entities, 2) to engage and encourage potential future State Bar leaders through their section or local bar association activities and thereby ensure a continuity of exceptional State Bar leaders, and 3) to remain effective in its role as "liaison" and further enhance the relationship between all qualified associations of lawyers and the State Bar of Michigan.

It should be noted that committee member participation in this year's program is to be considerably lower than in past years. While some sections and local bar associations cover the expenses of their attendees, reimbursement is no longer provided to members of the Bar Leadership Committee unless they are performing a specific working role at the Forum. It is vital that the committee members are present during the program, not only to facilitate the program, but to absorb the essence of its content, see what does and does not work effectively, and begin the process of planning the next year's program. Simply stated, you can't add value as a committee member if you don't understand the intricacies of the programs. Additionally, committee members are selected by the State Bar's President because of the benefit their participation in the forum and associated networking will provide to other attendees. Needless to say, this benefit is lost if they cannot afford to attend at their own expense as is now required of all appointees.

In order to remain effective, the attendance of committee members at the Forum should be strongly encouraged and properly supported, so that the Committee (and individual committee members) can: 1) be effective in its role as liaison to outside lawyers associations, 2) continue to provide unique leadership opportunities geared especially for lawyers, and 3) do so on a consistent basis from year to year in a manner that allows attendees to build upon prior experiences and maintains the high expectation level critical to ensuring annual participation by the maximum number of invited entities.

**Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:**

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