

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

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications

Jurisdictional Statement:

Evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and report its findings in confidence to the authority requesting its assistance.

The chief staff attorney of the Attorney Grievance Commission serves as reporter for this committee. The appointed members are limited to three two-year terms. Chairs of the committee may serve more than three two-year terms. This committee may have more than 15 members.

Officers and Membership:

Kathleen L. Bogas, Co-Chair

*Robert B. Webster, Co-Chair

*Daniel T. Stepek, Interim Co-Chair

Members:

Mary Christine Bonnema

Leanne Barnes Deuman

Eugenie B. Eardley

Kiffi Y. Ford

J. Michael Fordney

*Susan E. Gillooly

Nino E. Green

Diane Hutcherson

William W. Jack, Jr.

Michael K. Lee

Michael S. Leib

Christine Mason Soneral

*Lambro Niforos

Lawrence Patrick Nolan

Harold D. Pope, III

Michael J. Riordan

Joelynn T. Stokes

Norman D. Tucker

Renee T. Vander Hagen

Kenneth T. Watkins

Linda M. Watson

Richard E. Zuckerman

Attorney Grievance Commission:

Ruthann Stevens, Reporter

Commissioner Liaison:

Hon. William B. Murphy

Staff Liaisons:

Dawn M. Evans, Patricia M. Peyton

* Regular Members Terms Expiring 9/30/08

2007-08 Meeting Schedule:

State Bar of Michigan,
 Michael Franck Building, Lansing, Michigan
 October 9, 2007
 December 12, 2007
 May 13, 2008
 June 10, 2008
 July 8, 2008
 August 12, 2008
 September 9, 2008

Meeting Dates Canceled (Interviews Not
 Requested by the Governor's Office)
 November 14, 2007
 January 8, 2008
 February 12, 2008
 March 11, 2008
 April 8, 2008
 April 22, 2008

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

In support of the Committee, the State Bar of Michigan provides a meeting room at the Michael Franck Building as well as lunch for the Committee. A staff liaison is assigned to coordinate the interview schedule with the Governor's Office, submit a report to the Governor indicating the Committee's ratings for each candidate and handle the administrative work.

Committee Activities:

As requested by the Governor, the Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews, evaluates and rates candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies. Interview preparation, Committee discussion and final ratings are confidential, and reported directly to the Governor.

Prior to the interview, the application is assigned to one Committee member who contacts lawyers in the community to obtain background information regarding the candidate. The Reporter, a representative of the Attorney Grievance Commission, prepares and presents background information obtained from local judges and grievances filed against the candidate, to the Committee. All interview sources are kept confidential.

A representative from the Governor's Office and the State Bar Staff Liaison are also present during the interview. The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month as needed.

The Committee met on six occasions from May 2007 to April 2008 to interview 69 candidates for the following vacancies:

Interview Date	Court	No. of Interviews	Vacancy	Appointed
5/8/2007	12th District	12	Hon. Charles J. Falahee, Jr.	Michael J. Klaeren
6/12/2007	9 th Circuit	7	Hon. Philip D. Schaefer	Alexander C. Lipsey
	29 th Circuit	7	Hon. Jeffrey L. Martlew	Michelle M. Rick
7/10/2007	68 th District	4	Hon. Michael D. McAra	Tracy L. Collier-Nix
	42 nd Circuit	4	Hon. Paul J. Clulo	Michael J. Beale
8/14/2007	Ct of App 3 rd Dist	11	Hon. Janet T. Neff	Elizabeth L. Gleicher
10/9/2007	36 th District	5	Hon. Jeanette O'Banner-Owens	Lynise Bryant-Weekes
	2 nd Circuit	5	Hon. Paul Maloney	John E. Dewane
12/11/2007	73B District	5	Hon. Karl E. Krause	David B. Herrington
	4 th Circuit	9	Hon. Edward J. Grant	Susan E. Beebe

Goals and Activities:

During this fiscal year, the Governor's Office was provided with a judicial candidate application form that may be completed by filling in blanks with a word processing program.

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:

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