

STATE BAR of MICHIGAN

2005-2006 Annual Report Special Committee on Legal Education and Professional Standards

Committee Name: Special Committee on Legal Education and Professional Standards.

Jurisdictional Statement:

Shall make recommendations concerning legal preparation, law school admissions, education, standards and testing of candidates for admission to the bar, upon request of the Board of Commissioners

Officers and Membership:

Co-Chairs: William J. Ard and Francine Cullari

Members: Brian C. Casterline, Byron Cooper, John M. Gear, John Michael Hyden, Deborah Winfrey Keene, Allen L. Lanstra, Jr., Constantine N. Revelos, David A. Santacroce, James A. Sonne, Ricardo M. Villarosa.

Associate Members: none

2005-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location): November 30, 2005 and March 22, 2006 at the State Bar of Michigan.

Committee Activities:

In November, the Committee reviewed the ABA Law School survey instrument, indicating how the results might be used by Michigan schools and the Committee. The Committee discussed the relationships among grievances, professionalism, bar admission requirements, and substance and gambling abuse, and initiatives SBM might consider in better connecting the areas. Members also solicited writing contributions for Michigan Bar Journal Crossing the Bar column, and agreed to offer a theme issue to the journal on Legal Education

In March the Committee met with the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program and the Practice Management Resource Center staffs to discuss how those programs are (or plan to be) related to the work of the Committee. John Berry, SBM Executive Director reviewed the results of the ABA survey, and shared his experiences on the efficacy of various methods to influence professional and ethical behavior. The Committee intends to use the results of the ABA Survey of Law Schools to interface with the law schools in Michigan. Co-Chairperson Francine Cullari will attend the Dean's Meeting on May 22nd and will discuss issues related to the Committee with the Deans at that time. Committee members and Larry Dubin, Ethics Professor at U of D Mercy Law School contributed "Crossing the Bar" columns and the Committee was informed that the Michigan Bar Journal welcomes a theme issue from the Committee for January 2008.

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6 - Reports: *"no later than May 1 of each year, the chair of each committee and subentity of the Bar, with the assistance of the staff liaison, shall report to the Executive Director on a form provided by the State Bar on the activities and accomplishments of the committee or subentity"*.

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

Future Goals and Activities:

Develop a relationship stronger relationship with the law schools to further advance the mission of the Committee.

Submitted by:

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Francine Cullari

with assistance from Catherine O'Connell, Assistant Professional Standards Counsel

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:

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Please return your report to:

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