

Standing Committee On Justice Initiatives

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

INTRODUCTION

State Bar of Michigan President Scott S. Brinkmeyer appointed a Standing Committee on Justice Initiatives (SCJI or Committee) with the following mission:

Current Jurisdictional Statement: Shall promote the effective delivery of high quality legal services to all Michigan citizens, and to assure that barriers are reduced so that the justice system is the strongest possible, equal and fair in its application to all.

Justice Initiative's projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a. The project must fall within the scope of the Strategic Plan and support the mission of the State Bar of Michigan
- b. The project must be achievable.
- c. The project must fall within budget.
- d. The project must not be unreasonably divisive.
- e. The project must be Keller permissible.

The members of the Committee are:

CO-CHAIRS

Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens
Richard D. McLellan

Albert T. Quick

Linda K. Rexer
Lisa M. Stadig Elliott
Terri L. Stangl

MEMBERS

Teresa Caine Bingman
Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh
Nancy J. Diehl
Robert Fair Gillett
Daniel F. Hopp
Charlotte H. Johnson
James R. Neuhard

Hon. Paul S. Teranes
Representative Steven H. Tobocman
Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder

SBM LIAISON

Candace A. Crowley
Lisa Allen Kost

The Committee adopted a work plan, which was as follows:

1. Analyze the current missions and programs of each of the constituent entities;
2. Adopt a recommendation to the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners through the Commissioner Committee on Justice Initiatives on structure, mission and process for the SCJI;
3. Analyze the resource needs for the SCJI under the new structure;
4. Submit a proposal to the Board of Commissioners for program, staff and monetary supports for the 2004-5 bar year;
5. Develop and execute an Implementation Plan for the SCJI.

What follows is the report of the Standing Committee regarding the recommendation to the BOC Justice Initiative Committee on structure, mission and process.

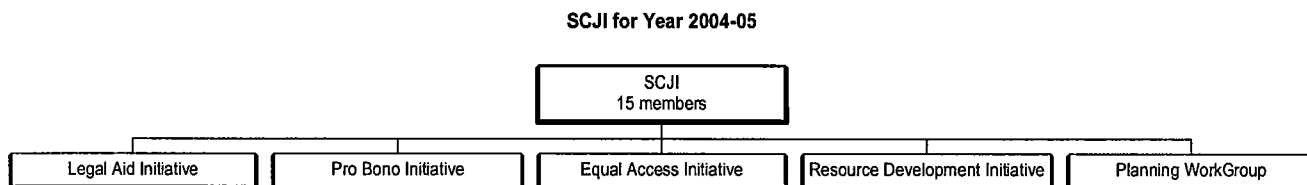
STRUCTURAL PROPOSAL

The SCJI will be a traditional standing committee made up of 15 members. It will have sub-units known as “Initiatives” which will focus on particular areas and/or issues with no limit on the number of persons serving on the initiative groups. In addition to its current jurisdictional statement the SCJI shall actively participate in the planning process for delivery of civil and criminal legal services to the poor. The Committee membership shall include at least one member from each of the “Initiatives” and one person from the Michigan State Planning Body. The chair or co-chairs will be members of the Board of Commissioners. The members of the Committee and the Initiatives will serve staggered terms of three years with the initial appointments being for one, two or three years at the SBM president’s designation.

Initially the SCJI will be organized with four major areas – legal aid, pro bono, resource development and special populations. They will be known as:

- Legal Aid Initiative (formerly Legal Aid Standing Committee)
- Pro Bono Initiative (formerly Pro Bono Involvement Standing Committee)
- Resource Development Initiative (formerly Access to Justice Development Fund)
- Equal Access Initiative (formerly Special Populations Work Group)

Additionally, the SCJI will have a planning work group in year one which will forge a three to five year SBM Justice Initiatives master plan for submission to the Board of Commissioners. This plan will be prepared in collaboration with the Initiatives members and others both within the SBM and the broader community. This plan will examine, among other things, the extent to which the work of entities such as the State Planning Body and other bar entities should be incorporated into the SCJI, and how the structure, mission and work of the SCJI should evolve to maximize the positive impact on the quality of justice within the state.



MISSION AND JURISDICTION

In year one, the Initiatives will have the following missions and jurisdictions:

Legal Aid Initiative:

It shall represent the interest of persons who are unable to afford counsel in civil matters and the legal aid programs servicing such persons.

The Legal Aid Initiative will also act as the policy review arm of the Committee, reviewing or recommending Court rules and statutes. These recommendations will be submitted for full Committee review in accordance with the SBM by-laws. If an issue requires attention before the regularly scheduled Committee meeting, the Initiative will request an electronic meeting of the committee. The details of the electronic meeting process shall be developed as a part of the Implementation and Transitional process.

Pro Bono Initiative

The Pro Bono Involvement Committee is responsible for encouraging and coordinating the delivery of pro bono legal services.

Resource Development Initiative:

The goal of the Access to Justice Development Campaign is to raise funds to improve access to justice for low-income people with civil legal needs in Michigan.

Equal Access Initiative:

This initiative's mission statement is in the developmental stage. However, in summary, this initiative's work is the development of policies and programs to underserved population groups as well as groups who present with special needs or who face barriers to access.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITIONAL PROCESS

Commissioner Review

The Committee's recommendation regarding structure and mission shall be submitted to the appropriate commissioner entities by April 15, 2004. Upon approval by the Board, a meeting will be held among the stakeholders to announce the new structure, mission, and implementation and transitional process.

Committee and Initiative Membership

The Standing Committee on Legal Aid, the Pro Bono Involvement Committee, the Access to Justice Campaign, and the Special Population WorkGroup will be asked to submit recommendations to the State Bar of Michigan President Elect on the membership of the SCJI and the four Initiatives by May 30, 2004. The President Elect will make both appointments to the SCJI and the Initiatives. Committee and Initiative membership will be for staggered three-year terms.

2004-2005 Program, Staff Support and Budget Requests

The Standing Committee on Legal Aid, the Pro Bono Involvement Committee, the Access to Justice Campaign, and the Special Population WorkGroup will be asked to submit proposals for their 2004-2005 activities by May 30, 2004. These proposals should address:

1. Which strategic plan goals the programs and activities address;
2. What staff support is needed to accomplish the program;
3. What monetary resources are needed to execute the program;
4. Whether there are any identified sources for these funds other than the SBM;
5. Any collaborators both inside and outside of the SBM.

These proposals will be evaluated by the SCJI, which will make a recommendation to the Commissioner Committee on Justice Initiatives and any other necessary Commissioner committees as a part of the SBM budget process before July 2004.

SCJI Goals and Objectives for 2004-005

During the 2004-5 fiscal year the Committee shall execute those programs and projects approved by the Board of Commissioners. It shall respond to those policy issues within its jurisdiction throughout the program year. The Committee will adopt an electronic response protocol for emergent policy issues no later than the first meeting of the 2004-5 bar year. Additionally, the Committee shall undertake an aggressive planning process designed to result in the submission of a master plan by May 2005.

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