

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Article VI §6, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

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.

Committee Name: Lawyers & Judges Assistance Committee

Jurisdiction:

- Recommend and support programs that provide assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to substance use disorders and stress.
- Review and make recommendations concerning proposed statutes and court rules affecting assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to substance use and stress.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chairs	Lawrence Dubin	University of Detroit Mercy School of Law 651 E. Jefferson Detroit, MI 48226	(313)-596-0200	ladonlaw@aol.com
	Kenneth Gonko	The Danielson Group PC 55921 Gratiot Ave Chesterfield, MI 48051-1221	(586) 749-6400	kgonko@dgrouppc.com
Staff Liaison	Tish Vincent	306 Townsend Lansing, MI 48933	(517)-346-6337	tvincent@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison / Representative Assembly Liaison	Richard Hillary, II	250 Monroe Ave NW Ste 800 PO Box 306 Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0306	(616) 831-1774	hillaryr@millerjohnson.com

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Hon. Daniel Hathaway	Amy Neville
Emily Conway	Sean Siebigteroth
Linda Miller Atkinson	Robert Keith Ochodnick
Joan Odorowski	Kenneth Silver
H. Lawrence Smith	Larissa Zubac
Carrie Ann Barnes	
Barbara Rohrer	
Erwin F. Meiers	

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Committee Meeting Schedule:

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
LJAC Meeting	October 16, 2014	SBM- Hudson Room
LJAC Meeting	December 5, 2014 – Cancelled due to weather and lack of members able to attend	n/a
LJAC Meeting	February 5, 2015	SBM – Hudson Room
LJAC Meeting	April 9, 2015	SBM – Hudson Room
Scheduled LJAC Meeting	June 11, 2015	SBM – Hudson Room
Scheduled LJAC Meeting	August 5, 2015	SBM – Hudson Room

Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:

The State Bar of Michigan provides the services of the Staff Liaison to report on LJAP’s activities and assist in leading the meeting, a room, a spider phone and sound system for the purpose of facilitating a conference call for those committee members who cannot attend in person, a meal, administrative services by the LJAP Administrative Assistant, email notification of scheduling of the meeting, emailing of agendas and minutes after the meeting. The State Bar of Michigan provides all administrative functions in support of the committee throughout the year.

Committee Activities:

- Increase outreach to Affinity Bars to educate on Wellness and Stress Management while putting a face on LJAP and decreasing resistance to reaching out for help.
- Increase outreach to the judiciary by contacting administrators and working with judges on the committee.
- Suggest topics for Wellness articles for The Michigan Bar Journal.
- Increase outreach to law students in the State of Michigan to raise awareness of wellness and stress management issues while providing a personal encounter with LJAP staff to decrease stigma and encourage communication of needs.
- Work on establishing a 501(c)(3) entity that can serve to house and administer a Treatment Fund for attorneys in need of services who do not have the financial means to pay for the services.
- Facilitate communication and integration of services between LJAP and the AGC.
- Work on establishing an Alcoholics Anonymous rapid response team by recovering committee members to individuals calling in distress.
- Work on soliciting student representatives from the state’s law schools.
- Work on developing a collection of law school courses for the Professional Responsibility course on Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness.

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Future Goals and Activities:

- Establish a Treatment Fund as a 501(c)(3) entity.
- Host a Fun Run at the SBM annual meeting to raise funds for the Treatment Fund.
- Host other special events to raise money for the Treatment Fund and to provide public information about the programs available.
- Include a law student representative from each Michigan law school.
- With input from the Executive Director of SBM consider communication with the AGC about the advisability of limiting the monitoring of impaired attorneys to the LJAP program.

Other Information: With the input from the Lawyers & Judges Committee the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program has provided presentations on stress management, dealing with depression and suicide, wellness, conducting evaluations of people in need, monitoring people on contractual probation, and assisting law students who are facing inquiries with Character & Fitness and placing them in monitoring contracts as needed.