

State Bar of Michigan | 2016-2017 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 sub entity 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 sub entity.

Lawyers & Judges Assistance

Jurisdiction: · Recommend and support programs that provide assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to substance use disorder 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

P74174 Emily Conway
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Member

Term Ending: 2017

P74174 Emily Conway, Lansing
P12978 Lawrence Dubin, Detroit
P35546 Kenneth F. Silver, Bloomfield Hills
P69133 Larissa Ann Overley Zubac, Lansing

Term Ending: 2018

P63068 Douglas W. Eyre, Auburn Hills
P26320 Jacqueline George, Saint Clair Shores
P62781 Kevin Lynn Laidler, Lake Orion

Term Ending: 2019

P76300 Carrie Ann Barnes, Grand Blanc
P30043 Marc T. Dedenbach, Grayling
P61493 Francis X. Hathaway, East Lansing
P37717 Erwin F. Meiers, III, Flint
P40890 Amy Neville, Detroit
P75766 Robert Keith Ochodnicki, Lansing
P55768 Sean M. Siebigteroth, Grand Blanc

Advisor

P30660 Kenneth M. Gonko, Chesterfield

Law Student Liaison

Linda Girard, Lincoln

State Bar Liaison

P71317 Tish Vincent, Lansing

State Bar Liaison Assistant

Kristy Blackmer, Lansing

Jennifer Clark, Lansing
Molly Ranns, Lansing

Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

**Please keep meeting descriptions brief.*

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Meeting Type Committee Meeting	11/3/16	State Bar of Michigan
Description In-Person Committee Meeting, introduced new members and the new chair of the committee. 11 members and 4 LJAP staff participated.		
Meeting Type Committee Meeting	2/2/17	Teleconference
Description Meeting held via teleconference. 11 members and 3 LJAP staff participated.		
Meeting Type Committee Meeting	5/4/17	State Bar of Michigan
Description		
Meeting Type Committee Meeting	8/3/17	State Bar of Michigan
Description		
Meeting Type		
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Meeting Type		
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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, reserving a room, 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 Clinical/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.

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Committee Activities:

- * Host second Lawyer Wellness Foundation Fun Run this time with a professional organizer.
- * Consider hosting other special events to raise money for the Lawyer Wellness Foundation.
- * 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.
- * Continue to attempt to have a law school student member from each Michigan law school on the Lawyers & Judges Assistance Committee.
- * Continue outreach to Michigan law schools to educate about Stress Management and Wellness for law students, our future attorneys.
 - Work on developing a collection of law school courses for the Professional Responsibility course on Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness.
 - Finalize the establishment of 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.
 - 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.

*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.

Future Goals and Activities:

The Lawyers & Judges Assistance Committee through the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program under Goal 1 of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan contributes to the resources provided by SBM to help new lawyers be practice ready, professionally and personally by managing stress in a healthy manner. Our educational outreach helps new lawyers recognize that help is available to them if they find themselves overwhelmed by a behavioral medicine condition. In this effort LJAP supports each new member's ability to develop professional competence.

Through its monitoring agreements and coordination of efforts with the Attorney Grievance Commission and Attorney Discipline Board LJAP contributes to the regulatory goal described in Goal 3 of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. The availability of contractual probation offers attorneys a diversion program that allows them to keep their discipline private if they successfully complete a monitoring agreement with LJAP.

It is the goal of LJAC to educate Michigan attorneys about the availability of specialized help through programming at LJAP.

Other Information:

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Approved by	Approved	Name
Chair	3/27/17	Emily Conway
Co-chair		
Staff Liaison	3/23/17	Tish Vincent
Other		

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