

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
UNITED STATES COURTS COMMITTEE  
2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee Name:** United States Courts Committee

**Jurisdictional Statement:** “The Committee shall make recommendations concerning the administration, organization and operation of the United States Courts for the purpose of securing the effective administration of justice. Two members shall be judges designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and one member shall be a judge designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.”

**Membership notes:** Pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Commissioners, the membership of the committee may exceed 17.

**Officers and Membership:**

Chair/Vice Chair: Kelley M. Haladyna and Jan Meir Geht

Board of Commissioner Liaison: N/A

Bar Staff Liaisons: Clifford T. Flood and Anne M. Smith

**Members:**

Kelley M. Haladyna

Mark W. McInerney

Hon. David M. Lawson (ED)

Thaddeus E. Morgan

Hon. Phillip J. Green (WD)

John P. Nicolucci

Hon. Terrence Berg (ED)

Paul F. Novak

Jan Meir Geht

Michael W. Puerner

Gregory V. Murray

Lynn H. Shecter

John A. Ferroli

Tracey Cordes (Clerk WD)

Matthew Heron

David Weaver (Clerk, ED)

Joel J. Kirkpatrick

**Advisors/Advisory Members (Appointed Annually):**

Jennifer L. McManus (FBA – Western Dist.)

Gregory V. Murray (FBA – Eastern Dist.)

John A. Ferroli – Advisory Member

Matthew W. Heron – Advisory Member

Sterlin Mesadieu – Advisory Member

**2014-2015 Meeting Schedules (date and location):**

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 – State Bar of Michigan

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – State Bar of Michigan

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 – State Bar of Michigan

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – State Bar of Michigan

Thursday, May 28, 2015 – Bench-Committee Dinner – Lansing

**Committee Activities:**

1. Reviewed proposed federal rule amendments and proposed revisions of local rules of the Eastern and the Western Districts and submitted comments to the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, and drafted and submitted to the Committee on Rules and Practices and Procedures proposed amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(a) and 12(d).
2. Promoted the exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding operational and administrative functions and procedures and opportunities for cooperation and cross-districting with regard to future Bench-Bar Conferences.
3. Sponsored an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates of the Eastern and Western

Districts (alternates yearly between the two Districts), currently scheduled for May 28, 2015 in Lansing. The dinner is intended to provide an opportunity for the judges and committee members to meet and discuss common issues.

4. Offered assistance to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals relative to the Circuit's Judicial Conference held in Detroit in Spring, 2015, including suggesting and assisting in lining up SBM President Rombach to present remarks at the conference.
5. Continue to work with the Eastern and Western District Federal Bar Associations and the Eastern and Western District Courts in the preparation and dissemination of a "Survival Guide" for new practitioners in the federal courts.
6. Drafted an article that was published in the MJB regarding federal rules amendments that were effective as of December 1, 2014. Also, currently in the process of drafting an article for publication regarding the three 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit cases most recently decided at the US Supreme Court.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:** Besides providing the resources called for in Article VI, Section 7 of the State Bar Bylaws, the State Bar provided meeting space, equipped with telephone conferencing capabilities, and State Bar Liaisons Clifford T. Flood and Anne M. Smith provided administrative support, including attending each meeting and assisted in preparing and circulating meeting agendas and minutes. Further, the State Bar incurred the expenses for the Annual Bench Bar dinner.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

1. The Committee will continue to review and, when appropriate, comment on proposed amendments to the Federal Rules and to local rules.
2. The Committee will continue to educate members of the Bar through articles or other means of significant rule changes.
3. The Committee will continue to review 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit en banc opinions and when appropriate, publish a summary in FBA newsletters and the Michigan Bar Journal.
4. The Committee will continue its support of a statewide Bench/Bar Conference by coordinating activities of the Eastern and Western Districts FBA chapters.
5. The Committee will continue to sponsor an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Eastern and Western Districts.
6. The Committee will continue to elect a committee vice-chair each year and at the appropriate time, respectfully request the appointment of the vice-chair as the committee's chair for the ensuing year.

**Chair Contact Information:**

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