

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2010-2011 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: American Indian Law Committee

Jurisdiction: Review issues of American Indian law, focusing on the relationship between tribal courts, state courts, and federal courts, and on the promotion of positive relationships between the lawyers of Michigan and the American Indian Community.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair Vice-Chair	Bill Brooks Hon. Angela Sherigan	359 River St # 206 PO Box 607 Manistee, MI 49660-0607	(231) 723-1101	Wjbrooks1@gmail.com nwlacouncil@aol.com
Staff Liaison	Gregory Conyers	306 Townsend Lansing MI 48933	(517) 346-6358	gconyers@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Edward L. Haroutunian	30700 Telegraph Road, Suite 3475 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4571	(248) 594-9071	elh@hlhpc.com

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Dawn S. Duncan, Wilson Ezekiel J. N. Fletcher, Lansing Sheila Hackett Gaskell, Royal Oak John A. Jarema, Charlevoix RA Shaun Matthew Johnson, Lansing James M. Kinney, Hastings Denise A McNulty, Grosse Pointe Park Joseph P. O'Leary, Lanse Kathryn L. Tierney, Brimley	Hon. Timothy P. Connors, Ann Arbor William S. Gregory, Mount Pleasant R. John Wernet, Jr., Lansing Hon. Jenny Lee Kronk, Harbor Springs John J. Lemire, Dearborn Heights Carlos H. Alvarado-Jorquera, Ludington James A. Keedy, Traverse City Hon. Michael D. Petoskey, Traverse City Aaron C. Schlehuber, Sault Sainte Marie John Garett Zevalking, Grand Rapids

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Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
AIL mtg.	Friday, March 11th - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Friday, April 15th - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Saturday, June 11 th - 1:00 p.m.	Mackinac Island
AIL mtg.	Friday, August 12th - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Friday, October 14th - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Friday, December 9th - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call

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

- Assistance in getting conference call for meeting set up.
- Liaison to resources at ICLE.
- Guidance on State Bar requirements for Committee activities.
- Assistance in scheduling/facilities for Committee meeting at Annual Upper Michigan Legal Institute.

Committee Activities: The Committee focused on the following topics:

SCAO Rules Update: Update on approval/implementation of ICWA Court forms previously published at: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/courtforms/publish.htm#family>.

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Support for the following Judicial Crossroads Task Force AJT Committee Recommendations

1. "Institutionalize ongoing partnerships between Michigan Supreme Court, its administrative office, the tribal courts, the Michigan Indian Judicial Association, lawyers and other stakeholders" pp. 9-10.
 2. "Establish programs to foster awareness, acceptance and compliance by state courts with current tribal law." Pg. 10.
 3. "Support the enactment of federal ICWA concepts into Michigan law."
- National Tribal Law Library
 - County Agreements
 - Supreme Court Sub-committee activities: Drafting State Indian Child Welfare Act
 - Efforts to improve relations between Tribal Courts and Local Bar
 - Review of Tribal Website information compiled by the Bay Mills Indian Community.
 - ICWA Training for State Court personnel.

Future Goals and Activities:

- Continue efforts to monitor implementation of revisions to Michigan Court Rules designed to implement responsibilities under the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Continue to develop relationships with other Committees/Sections within the Bar to raise the profile/familiarity with Indian Law and the role/jurisdiction of Indian tribes and Tribal Courts in the State.
- Continue to monitor work to prepare draft legislation "Michigan Family Preservation Act" to determine if Committee should request authorization/support from Bar for advocacy position relative to that draft.

Other Information: