

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2005-2006 Annual Report
Standing Committee
on Ethics, Judicial and Professional

Jurisdictional Statement: Shall concern itself with expressing its written opinion concerning the propriety of professional and judicial conduct when requested to do so by the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Judicial Tenure Commission, State Court Administrator, Executive Director, any State Bar Committee, an adjudicative officer concerning an ethical matter arising before the adjudicator, a member of the judiciary or any member of the State Bar who inquires concerning his/her own contemplated conduct. The Committee may recommend amendments to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, the Code of Judicial Conduct and other standards of professional conduct as it deems proper for appropriate approval and adoption, and shall review all such amendments proposed by other State Bar entities before they are acted upon. The Michigan Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, and the Referees Association of Michigan shall each nominate one member for appointment to the committee.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: Robert L. Martin

Members:

Janet M. Brandon, Farmington Hills
Keefe A. Brooks, Bloomfield Hills
Hon. Elwood L. Brown, Port Huron
Elaine Fieldman, Detroit
Angus G. Goetz, Jr., Bloomfield Hills
Terrence G. Berg, Detroit
Howard B. Hill, Detroit
Hon. Carol A. Husum, Kalamazoo
Julia A. Perkins, Southfield
Terri L. Renshaw, Detroit
William B. Dunn, Detroit
Peter L. Gustafson, Grand Rapids
Kevin Kalczynski, Detroit
Brian L. Mackie, Ann Arbor
Steven M. Ribiat, Bloomfield Hills
Hon. Susan M. Moiseev, Southfield
Hon. James M. Batzer, Manistee
Jon T. Ferrier, Grand Rapids
Joseph L. Hardig, III, Bloomfield Hills

2005-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location):

October 7, 2005, Lansing, Michigan
April 29, 2006, Lansing, Michigan

Committee Activities:

During each committee meeting, the members discussed and debated draft opinions as well as frequent or problematic telephonic ethical inquiries. The Committee issued Opinion JI-132 on August 12, 2005. Opinion JI-133, which supersedes JI-132, was issued on April 28, 2006. In addition to work on opinions, the Committee has continued to monitor the pending rule changes to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct. Committee Chair, Robert L. Martin, attended the public hearing on the proposed rule changes before the Supreme Court on September 29, 2005. The Committee is also monitoring the work of the ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:

The Committee has been assisted in its work by staff liaisons Dawn Evans, Victoria Kremiski, and Catherine O'Connell as well as staff member Karen Spohn.

Future Goals and Activities:

Upon the ABA Commission's completion and the ABA's adoption of a revised Model Code of Judicial Conduct, the Committee will undertake studying that document as it compares with the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct to determine whether recommendations should be made to amend the Michigan Code. Upon Supreme Court adoption and implementation of changes to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, the Committee will go forward with any requests that have been held in abeyance pending adoption of rule changes.

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:

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