

STATE BAR of MICHIGAN

2005-2006 Annual Report Standing /Special Committee On *Lawyers & Judges Assistance*

Committee Name: Standing/Special Committee on Lawyers & Judges Assistance

Jurisdictional Statement: Shall concern itself with the formulation and administration of programs to render assistance to lawyers, judges and law students faced with personal and professional problems.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: 43757 LeRoy C. Gough, Brighton

2005-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location): The Committee begins meeting the first Thursday of every other Month beginning each October of the new Bar Year.

Committee Activities: Sub-Committees

- **Governmental Liaison** – To establish relationships with the Michigan Legislature, the Governor’s Office, the AG’s Office, and any other appropriate political entity, for the purpose of being able to lobby on behalf of LJAP objectives.
- **Staffing Sub-committee** – To work with the SBM in an advisory capacity to assist in expanding the size if the LJAP, and to assist in finding suitable candidates for any staff vacancies.
 - Through coordination with the Professional Standards Division & the Lawyers & Judges Assistance Program Staff, staffing levels at present are representative of national levels.
- **Finance/Funding Sub-committee** – To create and implement strategies for raising funds deemed necessary by the LJAP.
 - Through its work with the Michigan State Bar Foundation the LJAC Committee has instituted a “Lawyers Assistance Fund” overseen by the MSBF. Monies raised are earmarked for initiatives benefiting the legal profession as a whole here in Michigan
- **Judiciary Liaison** – To establish relationships with all branches of the judiciary and all bodies, which have judicial authority over attorneys for the purpose of being able to lobby on behalf of the LJAP objectives.
 - LJAP staff and committee volunteers are regularly in attendance at regularly occurring regional meeting of Michigan judges

- **Public Relations/Media/Education Sub-committee** – To create and coordinate outreach efforts to the legal community (attorneys and law students) via publications and speakers.
 - Through coordination with the Michigan Bar Journal beginning in October 2006 (Lawyers & Judges Assistance Awareness Month) Lawyers Assistance issues will be highlighted in four separate articles occurring the upcoming Bar-year of 06-07.
 - The Committee and staff have been speakers at numerous gatherings over the courts of the last year. Women’s Lawyers Association, Young Lawyers, Various bar Associations throughout Michigan etc.

Goals & Objectives for bar year 05-06:

1. Foster greater Confidence in the Committee
2. Expand Staff
3. Continue Law School Outreach
4. Fundraising / Lawyers assistance Fund-Overseen by MSBF
5. Turning Point – Two Issues per Bar year
6. Explore possibilities of providing “EAP” services to large law firms
7. Raise awareness of program. Dedicate one month during present Bar year 05-06 as lawyers Assistance Awareness month

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 6 - Reports: *“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 sub entity”.*

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

- ***Meeting space and refreshments for each of the six regularly scheduled meetings each Bar-year.***
- ***Resources to avail LJAC committee chair to accompany LJAP staff to annual ABA COLAP (Coalition of lawyers Assistance Program) meeting***

Future Goals and Activities:

- *Continue law school outreach efforts*
- *Expand speaking schedule*
- *Continue to refine relations with disciplinary system*
- *Begin to address issues of elderly attorneys*
- *Coordinate with other bar entities regarding services available*

Please return your report to:

*Susan McMann - smcmann@mail.michbar.org
Sections and Committees Coordinator
Phone: 517.346.6367
Fax: 517.372.1139*

*State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI. 48933*