

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
UNITED STATES COURTS COMMITTEE  
2011-2012 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 16.

**Officers and Membership:**

Chair/Vice Chairs: Mark McInerney and John A. Ferroli  
Board of Commissioner Liaison: Michael J. Riordan  
Bar Staff Liaisons: Clifford T. Flood and Anne M. Smith

**Members:**

Hon. Ellen Carmody	Michelle Harrell
Hon. David M. Lawson	Mark McInerney
Hon. Thomas L. Ludington	John P. Nicolucci
Jordan S. Bolton	Paul F. Novak
Leonid Feller	Lynn H. Shecter
John A. Ferroli	Elizabeth A. Stafford
Harold Gurewitz	Tracey Cordes (Clerk, WD)
Kelley M. Haladyna	David Weaver (Clerk, ED)

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

Jennifer Uetz Hastings (Rep Assembly)  
Raymond S. Kent (FBA – Western Dist.)  
Matthew Schneider (FBA – Eastern Dist.)  
Thaddeus E. Morgan – Advisory Member

**2011-2012 Meeting Schedules (date and location):**

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 – State Bar of Michigan  
Wednesday, November 16, 2011 – State Bar of Michigan  
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 – State Bar of Michigan  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012 – State Bar of Michigan  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012 – Bench-Committee Dinner – ED – Caucus Club in Detroit

**Committee Activities:**

1. Reviewed proposed federal rule amendments, drafted a summary of rule amendments for publication in FBA newsletters and in the Michigan Bar Journal, and submitted draft comments regarding proposed revisions to Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 that were accepted by the SBM Board of Commissioners and forwarded to the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.
2. Reviewed proposed revisions of local rules of the Eastern and the Western Districts.
3. Promoted exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding operational and administrative functions and procedures, Bench-Bar Conferences of

each District, and opportunities for cooperation and cross-districting with regard to future Bench-Bar Conferences.

4. Assisted the ED Federal Bar Association in its efforts to publish a survival guide type publication for practitioners new to practicing in the federal courts.
5. Sponsored an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Eastern and Western Districts (alternates yearly between the two Districts), currently scheduled for May 16, 2012 at the Caucus Club, in Detroit. The dinner is intended to provide an opportunity for the judges and committee members to meet and discuss common issues.
6. Reviewed en banc decisions of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals (and if appropriate, published a summary of notable decisions in ED and WD FBA newsletters and in the Bar Journal).

**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 efforts to support the Eastern District FBA in completing its “survival guide” for practitioners new to federal court procedures and practices, and assist in coordinating a series of seminars co-sponsored by the ED and WD FBA Chapters.
5. The Committee will continue its support of a statewide Bench/Bar Conference by coordinating activities of the Eastern and Western Districts FBA chapters.
6. The Committee will continue to sponsor an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Eastern and Western Districts.
7. To promote continuity and consistency, the Committee will continue to elect a committee vice-chair each year and at the appropriate time, it will respectfully request the appointment of the vice-chair as the committee’s chair for the ensuing year.

**Chair Contact Information:**

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