

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
UNITED STATES COURTS COMMITTEE
2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

Committee Name: United States Courts Committee

Jurisdictional Statement: The Committee shall concern itself with the administration, organization and operation of the United States Courts for the purpose of securing the effective administration of judges. 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 15.

Officers and Membership:

Chair/Vice Chairs: Hon. David M. Lawson and D. Andrew Portinga

Board of Commissioner Liaison: Laura Anne Chappelle

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

Members:

Hon. Ellen Carmody

Mark McInerney

Hon. David M. Lawson

Thad E. Morgan

Hon. Stephen J. Murphy, III

Paul F. Novak

Pamela Chapman Enslin

Francis Ortiz

John A. Ferroli

D. Andrew Portinga

Harold Gurewitz

Michael Puerner

Michelle Harrell

John Smietanka

Irene Hathaway

Tracey Cordes (Clerk, WD)

Martin J. Hillard

David Weaver (Clerk, ED)

Jason Klingensmith

2009-2010 Meeting Schedules (date and location):

September 23, 2009 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

November 23, 2009 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

January 13, 2010 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

March 24, 2010 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

May 12, 2010 – Noto's, Grand Rapids

Committee Activities:

1. Published a summary of en banc decisions of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in FBA newsletters and the Michigan Bar Journal.
2. Systematically reviewed proposed federal rule amendments and drafted summary of rule amendments for publication in FBA newsletters and in the Michigan Bar Journal.
3. Promoted exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding operational and administrative functions and procedures.

4. Promoted exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding Bench-Bar Conferences in each District and opportunities for cooperation and cross-districting with regard to future Bench-Bar Conferences.
5. Supported educational opportunities for practitioners through endorsement or co-sponsorship with FBA Chapters of Rutter seminars. Also in process of preparing a survival guide for practitioners new to federal court procedures and practices.
6. Sponsored an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Western District (alternates yearly with the Eastern District), currently scheduled for May 12, 2010, at Noto's, in Grand Rapids, intended to provide an opportunity for the judges and committee members to meet and discuss common issues.

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

The State Bar provided the Roberts P. Hudson room at the State Bar of Michigan for meetings, equipped with telephone conferencing equipment so members unable to attend in person could attend by teleconference. Dinner was provided at each meeting and Bar Staff Liaisons Clifford T. Flood and Anne M. Smith attended meetings, assisted in preparing and circulating meeting agendas and minutes for each meeting, took minutes of each meeting, and provided other administrative support, as needed. In addition, the State Bar of Michigan provided the resources called for in Article VI, Section 7 of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws. The State Bar of Michigan was responsible for the expenses for the Annual Bench Bar dinner.

Future Goals and Activities:

1. The Committee will continue to systematically review and, when appropriate, comment on proposed amendments to the Federal Rules.
2. The Committee will continue to draft written summaries of 6th Circuit en banc opinions and for publication in appropriate FBA newsletters and the Michigan Bar Journal.
3. The Committee will continue its efforts to draft or support others in drafting a “survival guide” for practitioners new to federal court procedures and practices.
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. To promote continuity and consistency, the Committee will continue to elect a committee vice-chair each year and at the appropriate time, will respectfully request the appointment of the vice-chair as the committee’s chair.

Chair Contact Information:

Hon. David M. Lawson
US District Court Eastern District of Michigan
231 W Lafayette Blvd Rm 802
Theodore Levin US Courthouse
Detroit, MI 48226-2707
Telephone: (313) 234-2660; Fax: (313) 234-2669
Email: david_lawson@mied.uscourts.gov