

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
UNITED STATES COURTS COMMITTEE
2010-2011 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 15.

Officers and Membership:

Chair/Vice Chairs: D. Andrew Portinga and Mark McInerney

Board of Commissioner Liaison: Robert J. Buchanan

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

Members:

Hon. Ellen Carmody

Jason Klingensmith

Hon. David M. Lawson

Mark McInerney

Hon. Thomas L. Ludington

Thad E. Morgan

Jordan S. Bolton

Paul F. Novak

Leonid Feller

D. Andrew Portinga

John A. Ferroli

Lynn H. Shecter

Harold Gurewitz

John Smietanka

Kelley M. Haladyna

Tracey Cordes (Clerk, WD)

Michelle Harrell

David Weaver (Clerk, ED)

Irene Hathaway

Advisors/Advisory Members:

Pamela Chapman Enslen (Rep Assembly)

Raymond S. Kent (FBA – Western Dist.)

Laurie J. Michelson (FBA – Eastern Dist.)

Francis R. Ortiz – Advisory Member

Michael W. Puerner – Advisory Member

2009-2010 Meeting Schedules (date and location):

Thursday, September 30, 2010 – Miller Johnson, Grand Rapids

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 – State Bar of Michigan

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 – State Bar of Michigan

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 – State Bar of Michigan

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 – Bench-Committee Dinner – Eastern District (location TBD)

Committee Activities:

1. Systematically reviewed proposed federal rule amendments and drafted summary of rule amendments for publication in FBA newsletters and in the Michigan Bar Journal.
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 FBA 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 with the Eastern District), currently scheduled for May 18, 2011 (location TBD), 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 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 systematically review and, when appropriate, comment on proposed amendments to the Federal Rules and to local rules.
2. The Committee will continue to review 6th Circuit en banc opinions and when appropriate, publish a summary in FBA newsletters and the Michigan Bar Journal.
3. 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 Local Bar Associations and FBA Chapters for such practitioners.
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. The Committee will continue to sponsor an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Eastern and Western Districts
6. 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:

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