

Modernizing the Regulatory Machinery

Jurisdiction:

Building Economic Resilience and Capacity in the Delivery of Legal Services

- Examine the current and future capacity of Michigan's attorney regulatory agencies to assess, advance, and enforce professional standards in light of the virtual marketplace for legal services.
- Make recommendations concerning legal preparation, law school admissions, education, standards, testing of candidates for admission to the bar, and successful entry to the practice of law in Michigan.
- Identify action needed to advance existing Michigan strategies and innovations
- Advance discussion and make recommendations on selected topics that have been raised nationally but not resolved in Michigan, such as:
 - expanding certification programs for specialty practice areas
 - licensing of foreign (non-U.S.) attorneys and specialty non-J.D. legal service delivery providers
 - (e.g., project management, paraprofessional services
 - alternative business structures for law firms
- Identify what existing SBM or other entities might be asked to address a particular topic or partner in examination of issues during the work of the Task Force or in the future.

Co-Chairs

Mary Beth Kelly, Detroit
Bodman PLC

Renee Newman Knake, East Lansing
MSU College of Law

21st Century Practice Task Force Members

Co-Chairs

Bruce A. Courtade
Julie I. Fershtman

Members

Mark A. Armitage
Marjory G. Basile
Scott G. Bassett
Jocelyn Michelle Benson
Lynn P. Chard
Kevin M. Cotter
Phyllis L. Crocker
Hon. Joseph J. Farah
Alan M. Gershel
Hon. Timothy G. Hicks
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard
Hines
Robert E. Hirshon
Barry L. Howard
Joan Howarth
Ronald D. Keefe
Mary Beth Kelly
Renee Newman Knake

Don LeDuc
Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr.
Michael J. Nichols
Francis R. Ortiz
Edward H. Pappas
Eric J. Pelton
James Robert Redford
Linda K. Rexer
Elizabeth A. Silverman
Mwanaisha Atieno Sims
Aaron P. Sohaski
Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens
Norman D. Tucker
Reginald M. Turner, Jr.
Victoria A. Vuletich
Dana M. Warnez
Mark D. West

The task force will release a public report in March of 2016. Meetings of the task force will be held in open session so that State Bar members and the public can follow its work and offer comment through the 21st Century Practice Task Force website.

Complete Task Force Information
www.michbar.org/generalinfo/futurelaw



February 2016

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN 21st CENTURY PRACTICE TASK FORCE



“NO ORGANIZATION OF LAWYERS CAN LONG SURVIVE WHICH HAS NOT FOR ITS PRIMARY OBJECT THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC.”

—ROBERTS P. HUDSON
FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
1936

“IF IT CAN BE KNOWN, IT WILL BE KNOWN. IF IT CAN BE FREE, IT WILL BE FREE. IF IT CAN BE RATED, IT WILL BE RATED. PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE ACTIVE PLAYERS IN NEW VERTICAL MARKETPLACES WILL WIN. THERE CAN BE NO VERTICAL MARKETPLACE WITHOUT COMMUNITY. THE DIGITAL MEDIA MODEL RULES.”

—RICH BARTON
CO-FOUNDER OF ZILLOW
2015

TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY PRACTICE

The practice of law is changing at an accelerating pace. The changes include the influence of technology, globalization, the blurring of traditional jurisdictional borders, new models for regulating legal services and educating legal professionals, public expectations about how to seek and obtain affordable legal services, and innovations that expand the ability to offer legal services in dramatically different ways.

How viable are lawyers' traditional practice models in the face of these changes? Do the changes make the public more vulnerable to unprofessional and unethical legal "services" or do they offer opportunities for high quality legal services to people now effectively denied access to justice? Or both? Are the current ethical rules and regulations effective and useful? How can the State Bar of Michigan help its members best serve and protect the public as the profession evolves?

President Thomas C. Rombach appointed the 21st Century Practice Task Force to answer these urgent questions.

Task Force Co-Chairs

Bruce A. Courtade
Past President, State Bar of Michigan
Rhoades McKee PC, Grand Rapids

Julie I. Fershtman
Past President, State Bar of Michigan
Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, Farmington Hills

TASK FORCE COMMITTEES

Affordability of Legal Services

Jurisdiction:

New Tools for Breaking through the

Access Barrier:

- Assess developments, and recommend innovations, in facilitating access to legal services for underserved communities, including resources for the self-represented, the use of interpreters, alternative and online dispute resolution, the availability of online court filing systems, and the use of specialty courts.
- Identify action needed to advance existing Michigan strategies and innovations
- Advance discussion on selected topics that have been raised nationally but not resolved in Michigan, such as
 - unbundling of legal services
 - right to counsel in civil cases
 - development of more small case resolution apps
- Identify existing SBM or other entities that might be asked to address a particular topic or partner in examination of issues during the work of the Task Force or in the future.

Co-Chairs

Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines, Ann Arbor
15th Judicial District Court

Linda K. Rexer, Lansing
Michigan State Bar Foundation

Building a 21st Century Practice

Jurisdiction:

Developing and Maintaining Professional
Excellence in a Dynamic Marketplace:

- Assess developments, and recommend innovations, in strategies to improve practice skills of newly admitted lawyers, with particular focus on the role of the organized bar in supporting those efforts.
- Assess developments, and recommend innovations, in strategies to maintain the practice skills of lawyers throughout a legal career in the face of more rapid changes in the legal marketplace and technology.
- Address the role of technology in developing and maintaining professional excellence: threats and opportunities.
- Advance discussion on selected topics that have been raised nationally but not resolved in Michigan, such as
 - formal mentorship programs
 - formal apprenticeship programs
 - lifelong learning tools and strategies as part of the professional obligation of continuing legal education
- Identify what existing SBM or other entities might be asked to address a particular topic or partner in examination of issues during the work of the Task Force or in the future.

Co-Chairs

Barry L. Howard, Bloomfield Hills
Lipson Neilson Cole Seltzer & Garin

Edward H. Pappas, Troy
Dickinson Wright PLLC