

State Bar of Michigan  
Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications

Meeting Minutes  
Michael Franck Building, Lansing, MI

November 21, 2015

**Present:** Bartlett, K. Brown (chair), McClure, Novak, Painter, Weiss

**By Phone:** Ballast, Bissett, Breitmeyer, Coir, Davidson, Garavaglia, Ingram, Mancini, Selberg, Simmons, Stevens, Thomas (minutes), Ward, Werner

**Excused:** G. Brown, Goldman, Zimny

Committee Chair, Kincaid Brown, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

**Agenda Items**

1. Committee Business

a. Minutes of the June 6, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

b. The Chair discussed the need for a new chair for 2016-17.

c. The Chair invited volunteers for future Michigan Bar Journal column. (An updated schedule is attached.)

d. The Chair asked for volunteers to update the Committee's web pages:

- Legal Forms, Research, Resources, & Publications: Ward
- Michigan Online Legal Resource Center Pages:

Finding a Lawyer/Finding a Law Library/Researching MI Law websites:

Bissett

Consumer Protection Law: Breitmeyer

Criminal Law: Davidson

Debt Relief: Ballast

Elder Law: Painter

Employment Law: Stevens

Family Law: McClure

Identity Theft: Simmons

Immigration Law: Thomas

Landlord/Tenant Law: Mancini

Wills & Probate: Coir.

e. The Chair announced that a new document portal for the Committee is available on SBM Connect. This site replaces Sharepoint which had been used for the past few years. The Chair has loaded information and documents pertaining to this meeting on the site. To log in, go to the SBM website and choose this Committee as an option.

## 2. Free Government Information

Bernadette Bartlett shared information from a conference panel in which she recently participated. The purpose of the panel was to raise awareness of copyright restrictions on state and local government publications.

Specifically, Bartlett called attention to the fact that most federal government information was copyright-free, whereas it is still necessary for researchers to obtain permission to use a significant amount of state and local government information in their publications. Bartlett mentioned that Michigan is among the most restrictive states in this regard.

Much state and local government information published in 2015 would not enter the public domain until 2111. She added the clarification that even though a state or local government publication expressly states that it may be freely distributed, that does not place those publications in the public domain.

Bartlett referred the Committee to two websites for more information on this issue:

*Free State Government Information (FSGI)*

[www.stategov.freegovinfo.info](http://www.stategov.freegovinfo.info)

*Free Government Information (FGI)*

[www.freegovinfo.org](http://www.freegovinfo.org)

Carl Malamud's website, *Public Resource.Org, Inc.*

<https://publicresource.org>

The Committee discussed possible action steps to promote free use of government publications for research purposes:

- Advocate long-term legislative solutions
- Promote the use of "creative-commons" licenses in state governments
- Encourage states to review their copyright policies and promote greater flexibility for users

Discussion ensued re how Michigan enforces its copyright on state publications. Bartlett stated that she has done webinars and presentations on this topic and offered to make them available to the Committee.

### 3. Library Access to ICLE e-Books

The Committee discussed an earlier draft of a letter inviting ICLE to a discussion of its current policy regarding library access to ICLE e-Books and other online resources. The draft had been created following the June 2015 Committee meeting and then placed on the November 2015 meeting for a fuller discussion.

The Committee discussed concerns with the June 2015 draft and considered amendments (attached). Members present voted to approve a motion to amend the June 2015 draft letter. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair offered to forward the letter to members and sent the amended letter to ICLE Executive Director Lynn Chard in short order.

### 4. UELMA Update

Marlene Coir reported that no bills have been introduced in the Michigan legislature to propose UELMA in the past 18 months that she has been tracking legislation. She recommended that Committee members refer to the AALL website for examples of correspondence for promoting UELMA legislation to Michigan legislators. Coir also offered to draft an alternative letter for Committee members to adapt and personalize for this purpose. She will send the letter to the Chair to post on SBM Connect.

### 5. Member Reports

Virginia Thomas announced that the Wayne State University Libraries has named a new Associate Dean: Tim Gritten, Assistant Director of Libraries, User and Research Services at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Gritten will assume his new position in late February. Thomas also noted that Wayne Law is scheduled for its 7-year site evaluation in April 2016.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be a virtual meeting in late January or February. He will send out a Doodle poll to assess availability in advance of scheduling the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia C. Thomas  
Advisory Member