

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2011-2012 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Article VI §6, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

No later than May 1 of each year, the chair of each committee and subentity of the Bar, with the assistance of the staff liaison, shall report to the Executive Director on a form provided by the State Bar on the activities and accomplishments of the committee or subentity.

Committee Name: American Indian Law Committee

Jurisdiction: Review issues of American Indian law, focusing on the relationship between tribal courts, state courts, and federal courts, and on the promotion of positive relationships between the lawyers of Michigan and the American Indian Community.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Hon. Angela Sherigan	Wojnecka & Sherigan PC 56804 Mound Rd Shelby Township, MI 48316	(586) 822-4220	nwlacouncil@aol.com
Staff Liaison	Gregory Conyers	306 Townsend Lansing MI 48933	(517) 346-6358	gconyers@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Richard L. Cunningham, Detroit	Michigan Dept of Attorney General 3030 W Grand Blvd Ste 10-354 Detroit, MI 48202	(313) 456-0204	CunninghamR3@michigan.gov

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
William J. Brooks, Manistee Hon. Timothy P. Connors, Ann Arbor William S. Gregory, Mount Pleasant John A. Jarema, Charlevoix RA R. John Wernet, Jr., Sault Sainte M Jenny Lee Kronk, Harbor Springs John J. Lemire, Dearborn Heights	Chad P. DePetro, Brimley Cameron Ann Fraser, Traverse City Kimberly G. McGrath, Manistee Melissa L. Pope, Rochester Hills Holly K. Thompson, Cedar James M. Kinney, Hasting Maribeth Dickerson Preston, Mason Richard L. Cunningham, Detroit

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Committee Meeting Schedule:

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
AIL mtg.	Friday, February 3, 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Friday, March 2 - 10:00a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Friday, April 6, – 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Friday, May 6, - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call
AIL mtg.	Saturday, June 9 - 10:00 a.m.	Conference call

Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:

- Assistance in getting conference call for meeting set up.
- Liaison to resources at ICLE.
- Guidance on State Bar requirements for Committee activities.
- Assistance in scheduling/facilities for Committee meeting at Annual Upper Michigan Legal Institute.

Committee Activities: The Committee focused on the following topics:

SCAO Rules Update: Update on approval/implementation of ICWA Court forms previously published at: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/courtforms/publish.htm#family>.

Support for the following Judicial Crossroads Task Force AJT Committee Recommendations

1. “Institutionalize ongoing partnerships between Michigan Supreme Court, its administrative office, the tribal courts, the Michigan Indian Judicial Association, lawyers and other stakeholders” pp. 9-10.
2. “Establish programs to foster awareness, acceptance and compliance by state courts with current tribal law.” Pg. 10.
3. “Support the enactment of federal ICWA concepts into Michigan law.”

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- National Tribal Law Library
- Bar Exam questions on Federal Indian Law
- County Agreements
- Support for the draft legislation regarding State Indian Child Welfare Act
- Discretionary Transfer Rule
- Efforts to improve relations between Tribal Courts and Local Bar
- Review of Tribal Website information compiled by the Bay Mills Indian Community. .

Future Goals and Activities:

- Continue efforts to monitor implementation of revisions to Michigan Court Rules designed to implement responsibilities under the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Continue to develop relationships with other Committees/Sections within the Bar to raise the profile/familiarity with Indian Law and the role/jurisdiction of Indian tribes and Tribal Courts in the State.

Other Information: