

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2010-2011 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:** Awards

**Jurisdiction:** Recommend attorney recipients qualified to receive awards made in the name of the State Bar of Michigan.

Recommend recipients of the annual Liberty Bell Award made to non-attorneys.

Recommend the establishment of new awards or discontinuation of existing awards.

**Chair(s) and Committee Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Francine Cullari	8341 Office Park Dr Ste C Grand Blanc, MI 48439-2077	(810) 695-7400	<a href="mailto:cullarilaw@sbcglobal.net">cullarilaw@sbcglobal.net</a>
Co-Chair	Julie I. Fershtman	Zausmer Kaufman August Caldwell & Tayler PC 31700 Middlebelt Rd Ste 150 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2301	(248) 851-4111	Fershtman@aol.com
Staff Liaison	Nancy Brown Naseem Stecker			
Commissioner Liaison	Julie Fershtman			

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Jennifer S. Bentley, member	Thomas W. Cranmer, member
Kathryn M. Day, member	Peter J. DeRose, member
Nancy J. Diehl, member	Elias J. Escobedo, Jr., member
Nino E. Green, member	Lee Hornberger, member
Kathleen A. Lang, member	Daniel P. O'Neil, member
April E.H. Sawhill, member	George T. Stremers, member
Janet K. Welch, advisor	

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Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Teleconference	Jan. 20, 2011	
Teleconference	March 17, 2011	
Teleconference	May 12, 2011	

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

- December, second week      Staff contacts co-chairpersons to schedule meetings and mailing dates.  
Staff updates Awards Brochure.
- Staff sends future meeting dates via e-mail to Committee
- January, first week      Staff posts updated Awards Brochure online
- Staff prepares and issues press release to legal newspapers and SBM Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, State Bar Foundation, local and affinity bars, prosecutor and defender associations, law school deans, courts, large law firms, SBM Section and Committee chairpersons etc.
- Staff prepares announcement for Michigan Bar Journal, e-Journal, and SBM newsletter
- Staff emails Committee documents one week before first teleconference.
- January 20, 2011      First teleconference meeting takes place
- February–April, first week      Staff prepares EXCEL matrix for nominees as applications are received.

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March, second week	Operating co-chairperson and staff discuss nominations (number and diversity—age, race, gender, geography, etc.), to determine if additional solicitation is needed. Deadline reminders sent to media and legal community.
Early April	Deadline for nominations for SBM awards
April, first week	Staff acknowledges receipt of nominations by mail, e-mail or phone call to nominator  Staff conducts background checks on nominees before names are submitted for consideration
April, second week	Staff compiles booklet in April (news articles and recommendations referenced in EXCEL matrix will be available for members at May meeting)
May, first week	Deadline for nominations for Liberty Bell Award  Staff acknowledges receipt of nominations by mail, e-mail or phone call to nominator
May, first week	Staff sends Zoomerang survey to committee members to narrow down list of nominees.  Staff sends announcement of final meeting via e-mail.
May, second week	Meeting in Lansing to select recommendations to SBM Board  Staff drafts memorandum from co-chairpersons to SBM Board with recommendations
June	After SBM Board meeting, staff prepares letter from State Bar Executive Director to nominees who were chosen, and letters to nominators of non-winners with mention of carryover of nomination for a second year
Summer	Staff prepares publicity for the awards recipients
September, first week	Staff sends press release, prepares coverage/cover photographs for Michigan Bar Journal, e-Journal, and other electronic and social media.  Staff orders Awards, writes scripts and speeches for the Annual Meeting Awards ceremony.
September, last week	Operating co-chairperson prepares e-mail from co-chairpersons to Committee thanking members for their participation.

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*Note: The Awards Committee has one co-chairperson ex-officio as the President-elect of the SBM Board of Commissioners. The second co-chairperson is the operating co-chairperson appointed by the President of the SBM Board.*

**Committee Activities:**

The committee works on a yearly cycle, so once the process is wrapped up at the annual meeting it must begin again for the next year. The committee continually works to ensure the awards process is fair and removed from political lobbying.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

Committee members help to beat the bushes every year to get nominations submitted in time. This year was an outstanding one in terms of nominations received. An important goal of this committee is to also make sure that the quality of the recipients is always outstanding.

**Other Information:** The Committee worked with the SBM Annual Meeting Committee through Julie Fershtman and Naseem Stecker to streamline the Awards presentations at the Annual Meeting.

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