

**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: Eyewitness Identification Task Force

Jurisdiction: Make recommendations concerning legislative, court rule, and funding changes that improve eyewitness identification procedures to reduce false arrests and wrongful convictions.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chairs	Nancy J. Diehl (P29176)	1300 E. Lafayette St.; Ste 1206; Detroit, MI 48207-2921	313.354.6399	diehlnancy@sbcglobal.net
	Valerie R. Newman (P47291)	645 Griswold St.; Ste 3300 Detroit, MI 48226-4215	313.256.9833	valerie@sado.org
Staff Liaison	Elizabeth Lyon	306 Townsend St	517.346.6325	elyon@mail.michbar.org
	Janeice Morrow	Lansing, MI 48933- 2012	517.346.6396	jmorrow@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	None			

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
P34715 Daryl M. Carson	P43481 Michael L. Steinberg
P28492 Hon. David A. Hoort	P46935 Stephen M. Taratuta
P44682 Hon. John H. Hulsing	P23539 Michael D. Thomas
P23335 Hon. Peter J. Wadel	David Eddy
P34170 Donald L. Johnson	David L. Harvey
P44156 Raymond S. Kent	Greg Parolini
P58537 Bridget M. McCormack	Robert Stevenson
P45353 David A. Moran	
P50986 David C. Roby	
P49666 Gretchen A. Schlaff	

Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Task Force Meeting	2/1/2012	State Bar
Task Force Meeting	3/14/2012	State Bar
Task Force Meeting	5/3/2012	State Bar
Task Force Meeting	6/20/2012	State Bar

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

Elizabeth Lyon and Janeice Morrow provide administrative support to the task force, inclusive of securing meeting rooms, providing necessary equipment and refreshments, and preparation of meeting minutes. Additional services, such as creating surveys and compiling results, are provided if requested. An annual budget is allotted to meet these needs and all expenditures are approved by the staff liaison in advance.

Committee Activities:

This is a newly-formed task force that met for the first time in February, 2012 and is composed of a diverse group of members, including law enforcement personnel, attorneys (defense and prosecution), and judges. The task force has hit the ground running and is working diligently to have a better understanding of all aspects and perspectives of the eyewitness identification process so as to determine how to best achieve their goals. After the first meeting, surveys were created and circulated to law enforcement agencies on line-up protocols used within their respective jurisdictions throughout Michigan. The members have been very proactive in securing speakers and arranging electronic line-up demonstrations, so as to provide its members with a variety of learning opportunities on the topic. The members are reaching outside of Michigan to learn what protocols are being used in other states in an attempt to determine what methods have been effective in lowering the rate of misidentification, and what methods have not.

Future Goals and Activities:

The initial goal set by the task force is to improve the administration of justice in Michigan with regard to eyewitness identification and determine what possible recommendations might be made to reduce the incidents of misidentification resulting in false arrest and the imprisonment of innocent people. The co-chairs have secured two experts in the area of eyewitness identification for an upcoming meeting with the assistance of the senior policy advocate for state affairs at the Innocence Project in New York to speak to the group at the June meeting. After adequate education and evaluation on the subject, the task force hopes to determine what changes might be recommended that will make the most positive impact on improving the eyewitness identification process in Michigan and provide safeguards against misidentification.

Other Information:

The task force has had very good attendance at their first few meetings. Members are eager to bring in guests to provide education and understanding on various aspects of the process and protocols of eyewitness identification. The task force is budget conscious and has secured the speakers thus far on a gratis basis.