

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE INITIATIVES  
May 2008**

**Committee Name:** Committee on Justice Initiatives (CJI)

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The Committee on Justice Initiatives (CJI) was created in 2003 as an SBM standing committee to coordinate the activities of the former Access to Justice Task Force, Access to Justice Campaign, and Open Justice Commission. Its jurisdictional statement provides that it “shall promote the effective delivery of high quality legal services to all Michigan citizens, and to assure that barriers are reduced so that the justice system is the strongest possible, equal and fair in its application to all.” CJI does its work through its five initiatives: Criminal Issues, Equal Access, Justice Policy, Pro Bono, and Resource Development. The lattermost is being restructured by the SBM Internal Cabinet. Prospective initiative members are invited by the Committee Co-chairs.

**Officers and Membership:**

Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, Co-Chair

Terri L. Stangl, Co-Chair

**Members:**

Teresa Caine Bingman

Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh

Tracey W. Brame

Lorray S. C. Brown

Thomas F. Cavalier

Evanne L. Dietz

Frank D. Eaman

Robert F. Gillett

Alyce M. Haas

Daniel F. Hopp

James R. Neuhard

Edward H. Pappas

Linda K. Rexer

Hon. Angela Kay Sherigan

Hon. Paul S. Teranes

Laurin’ C. Roberts Thomas

Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder

**Commissioner Liaison:**

Edward Pappas

**Staff Liaison:**

Greg Conyers

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule:**

A joint meeting of CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 29, 2007. Additional CJI meetings occurred on January 8, 2008 (Lansing), April 8, 2008 (Lansing), with meetings scheduled for June 3, 2008 and September 4, 2008. The CJI and initiative chairs meet in person for planning and evaluation meetings periodically throughout the year. The individual initiatives have their own meeting schedules for the bar year. In addition, initiative project workgroups meet in person and via conference call in between initiative gatherings.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:**

Staff and operating budget

**Committee Activities:**

- Oversee and provide guidance to the individual initiatives regarding policies, programs and projects
- Review and vote on whether to recommend that the BOC or Representative Assembly support various legislative and policy issues related to the Committee's jurisdiction.
- Oversee the annual Justice Initiatives Planning and Evaluation (P&E) process, in which staff, Committee Co-chairs and Initiative Chairs:
  - √ issue Requests for Partnership Proposals (RFPPs) to CJI and initiative stakeholders
  - √ evaluate the RFPP submissions and makes recommendations to the CJI as to which what types of partnership should be pursued and what proposals should be included in the CJI work plan for the next bar year.
  - √ evaluate and prioritizes the JI division's work for the upcoming year as well as the projects and programs being undertaken by the existing initiatives, and
  - √ recommend budget and SBM staff requirements for the proposed work plan that are included in a report to the Board of Commissioners for consideration as part of its own planning and budget process
- Participate in national efforts to promote access to justice and equal access, by providing representatives to ABA Day in Washington DC and annual meetings of the Equal Justice Conference, including the national Access to Justice Chairs meeting, and the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Court
- Oversee the creation of a CJI Policy Manual to serve as a reference tool to CJI and Initiative members

**Future Goals and Activities:**

Several partnership proposals have been received and are being reviewed for the upcoming bar year. In addition, the initiative members have proposed new cross-initiative (EAI and CII) projects including the Cultural Awareness Project and a demographic research project. A number of projects are ongoing such as a training on legal issues affecting runaway youth, the disabilities e-newsletter, the distribution of community education brochures related to the laws affecting ex-offenders that were prepared by CII, and the jury curriculum project. Specific projects and programs are listed below with their related initiatives.

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**Committee Name:** Criminal Issues Initiative (CII)

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The Criminal Issues Initiative resulted from the work of the Criminal Issues Workgroup and became a formal initiative on October 30, 2006. The dual purposes of this initiative are to address issues of indigent criminal defense in Michigan and to educate the legal community on civil collateral consequences of criminal convictions.

**Officers and Membership:**

Frank D. Eaman, Chair

Martin "Marty" P. Krohner, Vice Chair

**Members:**

Miriam J. Aukerman

Brendon G. Basiga

Hon. Patrick C. Bowler

Caridad Pastor Cardinale

Hon. Alton T. Davis

Anthony "Tony" A. Dereziński

Stuart J. Dunning, III

Martin D. Glista

Laura M. Graham

Rodrick K. Green

David C. Koelsch

Linda Maloney

Hon. Mabel Mayfield

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James R. Neuhard

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Linda K. Rexer

Frank H. Reynolds

Hon. William G. Schma

Hon. Angela Kay Sherigan

Regina Daniels Thomas

Serah E. Wiedenhoefer

Kym L. Worthy

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule:**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 29, 2007. Additional CII meetings occurred on December 6, 2007 (Lansing), March 10, 2008 (Lansing), and another meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2008 in Lansing.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Initiative Work:**

Staff, operating budget, and grant from Michigan State Bar Foundation

**Initiative Activities:**

The following are projects and programs that have been undertaken or are ongoing.

- Collateral Consequences Workgroup developed the following materials in 2007 and then obtained a grant for the cost of the distributing these materials. It is now working on a distribution plan.
  - √ Criminal Client Questionnaire
  - √ Immigration Brochure on Collateral Consequences
  - √ Employment Brochure on Collateral Consequences
  - √ Top Ten Reentry Resources Card
- November 2008 Issue of *Michigan Bar Journal* will be dedicated to CII issues with seven articles organized and written by CII members
- SBM 2007 Annual Meeting Program featuring Darryl Hunt, a wrongfully convicted exoneree and justice activist

- Demographics Project would address the increasing need for demographic data in the state of Michigan, such as data that reports that an estimated 1.6 million Michiganders have criminal convictions. Other useful demographic data would be immigration status, language barriers, and individuals with arrest records. There are computer programs that could layer such information by state, county and city. Native American tribe demographics should be included as well.
- Juvenile Justice Brochure and Runaway Training – a cross initiative project with the Equal Access Initiative (see EAI)

**Future Goals and Activities:**

- Create handbook for assigned counsel
- Develop a conference on civil collateral consequences
- Create and distribute a housing brochure on civil collateral consequences
- Distribute Immigration and Employment brochures on civil collateral consequences
- Create a workgroup to study the “91 Day Rule,” Administrative Order No. 2003-7
- Examine 2007-08 RFPP submissions that pertain to CII’s work and may be undertaken in the next bar year
- Cultural Awareness Project – a cross initiative project with the Equal Access Initiative (see EAI)

**Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:**

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**Committee Name:** Equal Access Initiative (EAI)

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The mission of the Equal Access Initiative (EAI) is to work within the State Bar of Michigan's Justice Initiatives structure to facilitate equal justice and to work to eliminate and minimize barriers in the administration of justice, as well as entry to and participation in the legal profession and the Bar.

**Officers and Membership:**

Evanne L. Dietz, Chair  
Erika L. Butler-Akinyemi, Vice-Chair

**Members:**

Bryan J. Anderson	Daniel F. Hopp
Tracey Weaver Brame	Dale A. Iverson
Hon. William J. Caprathe	Linda D. Johnson
Elmer Cerano	Mary K. Mansfield
Mark A. Cody	Mark D. McWilliams
Ann M. Cooper	Nelson P. Miller
J. Kay Felt	Vivek S. Sankaran
Hon. Lisa Gigliotti	Hon. Paul S. Teranes
Martha Gonzales-Cortez	Laurin' C. Roberts Thomas
Laura M. Graham	

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule:**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 29, 2007. Additional meetings occurred on November 29, 2007 (Lansing), December 20, 2007 (teleconference), February 26, 2008 (Lansing), and April 22, 2008 (Lansing). Additional meetings are set for June 17, 2008 and August 19, 2008, both in Lansing.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Initiative Work:**

Staff and operating budget

**Initiative Activities:**

The following are projects and programs that have been undertaken or are ongoing.

- The Jury Curriculum Project has presented a program to various high schools throughout Michigan regarding the importance of juries to the rule of law. Several additional programs are planned.
- Underrepresented Lawyers (URL) Project explores diversity in the profession. Resources are being gathered and reviewed by the workgroup and potential input is being sought from several law schools. The workgroup has proposed a topic for the 2008 SBM Annual Meeting. The presentation at annual meeting could then serve as a springboard for the larger scale project next bar year.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Diversity Project – The ADR Diversity Project Steering Committee includes members of EAI and is gathering information about the current state of ADR as it relates to diversity.
- Disabilities Project has the goal of determining how the recommendations from the 2001 disabilities report have been implemented, and their varying degrees of

- effectiveness. The subject matter from the 2001 report will also be expanded. In addition, this workgroup has proposed a topic for the 2008 SBM Annual Meeting.
- Disabilities eNewsletter has been published four times a year since November 2004. The next issue is due in the summer of 2008.
  - Runaway Training Project and Juvenile Justice Booklet - EAI and the SBM Public Outreach Committee, in collaboration with the Michigan Network for Youth and Families, have planned the third annual Runaway Training. The all day training program was developed because of the need to provide training and resources to providers of services to runaway and homeless youth. The focus of the training was to open communication between the providers and the legal community, answer questions, and debunk myths. Another component to this training is the Juvenile Justice Booklet, which is a free publication that explains the law as it relates to juveniles, their parents and counselors. Several members of CII have assisted with this project.
  - Bench Bar Holiday and Observances Guide is a booklet that contains the dates of religious and cultural holidays and observances of more than a dozen world religions, most through the year 2009. Current updates are underway to the year 2020. The guide is intended as a resource for judges and lawyers, not only in setting case schedules, but also in domestic relations cases when determining parenting time agreements or judgments.
  - EAI presented a 2007 Annual Meeting Program entitled “Successful Practice and Happy Family – Whose Balance Is It Anyway?” which was done in collaboration with WLAM.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

- Cultural Awareness Project – This project’s goal is to help attorneys and judges bridge the gap between the Michigan legal system and users from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. The project has components that relate to both EAI and CII. The project was started in 2001 and envisioned the creation of a "hard" report, but there is now a strong argument for making the material available electronically instead. Doing so has advantages like easy updates and the ability to publish sections of material at a time, rather than waiting until the entire project is complete. A wiki website might be considered.
- Second Law School Forum on Disabilities Issues – The first was done in October 2002 with the goal of bringing together representatives from Michigan’s six law schools and other interested parties to discuss the impact of physical or cognitive disabilities upon law students and the law school environment.
- Various 2007-08 RFPP submissions pertain to EAI’s work and may be undertaken in the next bar year.

**Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:**

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**Committee Name:** Justice Policy Initiative (JPI)

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The Justice Policy Initiative (JPI) is charged with monitoring proposed legislation and court rules for the benefit of CJI. Both the JPI and CJI consider whether proposed legislation concerns an issue on which the bar is permitted to take a policy position. JPI has been engaged in the ongoing activities surrounding tracking legislation and determining what SBM can address as it relates to access issues and other matters affecting the profession. Additional attention is being focused on opportunities to have other initiatives weigh in on public policy matters that are appropriate to review and bring to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

**Officers and Membership:**

Lorray S. C. Brown Chair  
Terri L. Stangl, Vice-Chair

**Members:**

Michael J. Blau	Gary W. Parker
Thomas F. Cavalier	Kenneth C. Penokie
Pamela R. Galloway	Melinda A. Pitman
Joan Glanton Howard	Thomas A. Stotz
David M. Huntley	Thomas K. Thornburg
Martin P. Krohner	Karen M. Tjapkes

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule:**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 29, 2007. Additional meetings occurred on December 6, 2007 (teleconference) and March 20, 2008 (teleconference). Additional meetings are scheduled for May 22, 2008 and July 31, 2008, both via teleconference.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Initiative Work:**

Staff and operating budget.

**Initiative Activities:**

The Justice Policy Initiative serves primarily as a policy review body. During the past bar year, it reviewed numerous legislative and court rule proposals and submitted recommended policy positions to CJI which, if approved, were communicated to the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly, as appropriate. It also referred certain issues to the appropriate CJI initiative for their review and recommendation.

JPI reviewed approximately 42 new public policy items between October 2007 and March 2008. At 3 subsequent Board of Commissioners meetings, 14 of those items were discussed. The JPI is scheduled to discuss additional items in preparation for the remaining 2008 Board meetings.

JPI also provides technical assistance on JPI-recommended positions that have been adopted by the State Bar of Michigan while these positions are being considered by the legislature or Supreme Court.

- In response to recommendations in the 2006 Annual Report of the Michigan Foster Care Review Board, the State Bar has joined a statewide task force. Elizabeth Lyon, SBM Director of Governmental Relations, will be working with a special committee reviewing

Lawyer-Guardian Ad Litem representation.

([http://courts.michigan.gov/scao//resources/publications/reports/fcrb/fcrb\\_ar06.pdf](http://courts.michigan.gov/scao//resources/publications/reports/fcrb/fcrb_ar06.pdf))

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreter rules and Regulations Committee: The Department of Labor and Economic Growth requested that the State Bar of Michigan designate a representative to the Department of Labor and Economic Growth Committee that was formed to promulgate the rules related to the new Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreter law, as specified in [Public Act 23 of 2007](#), section 8a. (Please also see [Public Act 24 of 2007](#).)

**Future Goals and Activities:**

Continuation of the current work

**Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:**

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**Committee Name:** Pro Bono Initiative (PBI)

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The Pro Bono Initiative is responsible for encouraging and coordinating the delivery of pro bono legal services. Its ongoing work has been focused on recognition of the pro bono work of attorneys and providing resources to improve access, planned trainings, and an update of the Pro Bono Reference Manual.

**Officers and Membership:**

Robert Fair Gillett  
Margaret A. Costello, Vice-Chair

**Members:**

Kathleen L. Conklin  
Evanne L. Dietz  
Kirsten A. Enstice  
Mark P. Fancher  
Hon. Denise Page Hood  
Joan Glanton Howard  
Robert Ianni  
Kathleen D. Kasiorek  
Carol A. Martinelli  
Michael K. Pope

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 29, 2007. Additional meetings occurred on November 28, 2007 (teleconference), January 10, 2008 (teleconference), and March 13, 2007 (teleconference). Additional meetings are scheduled for May 15, 2008, July 10, 2008, and September 11, 2008, all via teleconference.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Initiative Work:**

Staff and operating budget

**Initiative Activities:**

The following are projects and programs that it has undertaken or are ongoing.

- Pro Bono Summit in partnership with other legal service organizations and stakeholders - PBI has been working in partnership with the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and others to do a statewide survey in preparation for a planned Pro Bono Summit in Detroit that is planned for September 2008.
- Pro Bono Survey - Honorable Victoria A. Roberts, United States District Judge, Eastern District and former SBM president, requested that the Bar survey Michigan lawyers' pro bono efforts. That survey was undertaken in August 1997, the results were tabulated, and then State Bar President Roberts wrote an article challenging attorneys to increase pro bono work. This year marks the ten-year anniversary of Judge Roberts' survey, and we are conducting a follow-up survey in 2008: "to measure successes, failures and to adjust our pro bono goals."
- Veterans Benefits Training - On Friday, February 22, 2008 over fifty attorneys from across the state of Michigan gathered at the State Bar building in Lansing for the first Pro Bono Veterans Training. The training was in collaboration with the

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Veterans Law Clinic, the SBM Pro Bono Initiative and the Michigan Legislature. In exchange for the training, each attorney agreed to take at least one pro bono veteran's benefit case. Every attorney that attended received a case.

- Pro Bono Reference Manual – a publication for local groups and individual attorneys interested in pro bono work, which also serves as a directory of legal service programs with examples of standards, programs, and materials that will permit readers to become familiar with the issues and connect with a local or statewide legal services program.
- Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program (MI-LAPP) - This program facilitates pro bono involvement by law firms by providing pro bono cases and projects that are comparable to those handled for paying clients. Examples include preparing and drafting Qualified Domestic Related Orders, and representation of nonprofit organizations in non-litigation matters (e.g., incorporation, employee benefits, labor negotiations, tax matters, etc.)
- John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award - The purpose of this award is to foster awareness of the need for involvement of the private bar in delivering legal services to the poor, by giving public recognition each year to a Michigan lawyer who has made a significant pro bono contribution to this effort. The award is established in the name of John W. Cummiskey of Grand Rapids, a leading advocate and activist in the cause of making legal services available to all, without regard to economic status.
- Circle of Excellence Award Pro Bono Circle of Excellence - The Circle of Excellence was developed to publicly recognize firms, corporations, and organizations that have provided pro bono service collectively through donations of pro bono time or financial contributions or both to bring every affiliated attorney into compliance with the Voluntary Standard for Pro Bono Participation. Each attorney has contributed at least 3 cases or 30 hours of legal representation to low-income individuals or organizations, or made a financial donation of at least \$300 to a non-profit program organized for the purpose of delivering civil legal services to low-income individuals.
- Immigrant Service Provider Reference Guide - A published reference guide and summary of programs providing immigration related services.
- Law School-Based Legal Services - A published reference guide and summary of programs available through Michigan's law schools. It is also available on the web.
- Menu of Pro Bono Contribution Opportunities - A listing of organizations that provide pro bono services by geographical region.

#### **Future Goals and Activities:**

Various 2007-08 RFPP submissions pertain to PBI's work and may be undertaken in the next bar year.

#### **Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:**

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**Committee Name:** Resource Development Initiative (RDI)

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The Resource Development Initiative (RDI) houses the Access to Justice (ATJ) Fund, a partnership among the State Bar of Michigan, the Michigan State Bar Foundation (MSBF), and Michigan's civil legal aid providers. An Internal Cabinet comprised of SBM leadership and staff, MSBF staff, and representatives of the legal services programs guides the Fund's campaigning and administration processes. Funds raised are administered by MSBF and are distributed to approved legal services programs that provide civil legal assistance to low-income persons. Since its inception, the Fund has raised over \$8.5 million in cash and pledges from approximately 6,000 contributing attorneys and law firms.

**Officers and Membership:**

Edward H. Pappas, Chair

**Future Goals and Activities:** This initiative, also referred to as the Access to Justice Campaign, is currently being restructured by the SBM Internal Cabinet.

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