

STATE BAR of MICHIGAN
2009-2010 Annual Report
Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications

Jurisdictional Statement:

Evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and report its findings in confidence to the authority requesting its assistance.

The chief staff attorney of the Attorney Grievance Commission serves as reporter for this committee. The appointed members are limited to three two-year terms. Chairs of the committee may serve more than three two-year terms. This committee may have more than 15 members.

Officers and Membership:

Kathleen L. Bogas, Co-Chair, Bingham Farms (2011)
Daniel T. Stepek, Co-Chair, Mt. Clemens (2010)
Robert B. Webster, Co-Chair, Troy (2010)

Members (term expiration):

Jose' T. Brown, Flint (2011)	Christine Mason Soneral, Novi (2011)
Janis M. Burgess, Menominee (2011)*	Lambro Niforos (2010)
Leanne Barnes Deuman, Sault Ste Marie (2011)	Gerald V. Padilla, Birmingham (2010)
Eugenie B. Eardley, Cannonsburg (2011)	Harold D. Pope, III, Southfield (2011)
Kiffi Y. Ford, Lansing (2011)	Frank H. Reynolds, Lansing (2011)
Julie A. Gibson, Southfield (2011)	Michael J. Riordan, Detroit (2011)
Susan A. Gillooly, Detroit (2011)	Gene Schnelz, Birmingham (2010)
Nino E. Green, Escanaba (2011)	Kenneth T. Watkins, Southfield (2011)
Pamela R. Harwood, Troy (2010)	Linda M. Watson, Birmingham (2011)
Diane Hutcherson, Detroit (2011)	Joseph M. Xuereb, Canton (2011)
William W. Jack, Jr., Grand Rapids (2011)	Richard E Zuckerman, Detroit (2010)

*Ms. Burgess resigned in January 2010 after receiving a judicial appointment.

Attorney Grievance Commission: Ruthann Stevens, Reporter

Commissioner Liaison: Hon. William B. Murphy

Staff Liaisons: Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn
Patricia M. Peyton

Advisor Members: none

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:

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2009-10 Meeting Schedule:

Meetings held at the State Bar of Michigan,
Michael Franck Building, Lansing, Michigan

December 8, 2009
April 13, 2010
May 11, 2010
June 8, 2010
July 13, 2010
August 10, 2010
September 14, 2010

Meeting Dates Canceled (Interviews Not
Requested by the Governor's Office)

October 13, 2009
November 10, 2009
January 12, 2010
February 9, 2010
March 9, 2010

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

In support of the Committee, the State Bar of Michigan provides a meeting room at the Michael Franck Building as well as lunch for the Committee. Staff liaisons are assigned to coordinate the interview schedule with the Governor's office, submit a report to the Governor indicating the Committee's ratings for each candidate and handle administrative work and other matters as necessary.

Committee Activities:

As requested by the Governor, the Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews, evaluates and rates candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies. Interview preparation, Committee discussion and final ratings are confidential, and reported directly to the Governor.

Prior to the interview, the application is assigned to one Committee member who contacts lawyers in the community to obtain background information regarding the candidate. The Reporter, a representative of the Attorney Grievance Commission, prepares and presents background information obtained from local judges and grievances filed against the candidate to the Committee. All interview sources are kept confidential.

A representative from the Governor's Office and the State Bar staff liaisons are also present during the interview. The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month as needed.

The Committee met on six occasions from May 2009 to April 2010 to interview 73 candidates for the following vacancies.

Interview Date	Court	Inter-views	Vacancy	Appointed
4/14/09	44 th Circuit	12	Hon Stanley J Latreille	Michael Hatty
6/9/09	36 th District	10	Hon Mark A. Randon	Noceeba Southern Gordon
	Arenac Co Probate	4	Hon Jack W. Sully	Richard E. Vollbach, Jr.
7/14/09	42-2 nd District	8	Hon Paul A. Cassidy	William H. Hackell, III
	17 th Circuit	7	Hon Steven M. Pestka	Paul J. Denenfeld
9/15/09	Ontonagon Probate	4	Hon Joseph D. Zeleznik	Janis M. Burgess
	Leelanau Probate	5	Hon Joseph E. Deegan	(Appointment Pending)
12/8/09	74 ^h District	8	Hon Craig Alston	Dawn Klida
	18 th District Probate	7	Hon LaVail Hull	Marco Menezes
4/13/10	Eaton Co Probate	8	Late Hon Michael Skinner	(Appointment Pending)