

## STATE BAR of MICHIGAN

### 2006-2007 Annual Report Special Committee on Legal Education and Professional Standards

***Committee Name:*** Special Committee on Legal Education and Professional Standards.

***Jurisdictional Statement:***

Shall make recommendations concerning legal preparation, law school admissions, education, standards and testing of candidates for admission to the bar, upon request of the Board of Commissioners

***Officers and Membership:***

*Chair:* Francine Cullari

*Members: Term Expires 2007:* William J. Ard, Brian C. Casterline, Byron Cooper, John Michael Hyden, Deborah Winfrey Keene, Allen L. Lanstra, Jr., Marianne Menna, Frank Ravitch, Constantine N. Revelos, David A. Santacroce, James A. Sonne, Ricardo M. Villarosa, Honorable William C. Whitbeck

*Associate Members:* none

***2006-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location):*** January 31, 2007 at the State Bar of Michigan.

***Committee Activities:***

In January, the Committee met and discussed future activities and direction. The Committee determined that it is necessary to find out what our members think, to survey them and use focus groups to learn more. The Committee discussed which groups should be surveyed or brought into focus groups. It was determined that surveys should go to new lawyers, law firms which are hiring new lawyers, and the judiciary.

The Committee believes that the Annual Meeting might be a good time to have focus groups and the Young Lawyers Section and Law Student Section would be good groups to target. A sub-committee was appointed to work on surveys and other methods of determining what our membership needs from the Committee.

Prior to conducting surveys or focus groups, the Chairperson will contact the Deans to determine if the schools conduct post-graduation surveys, and the topics covered.

An extensive discussion was held regarding appellate. Chief Judge Whitbeck of the Court of Appeals and Jeff Kirkey of ICLE, two Committee members, will further discuss an ICLE seminar on appellate practice.

The Committee is planning a future Bar Journal theme issue, and discussed *Crossing the Bar*, the LEPP periodic column in the *Michigan Bar Journal*. Dean Wu of Wayne State and Dean Miller of Cooley (Grand Rapids) have offered to write columns.

***Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:***  
Staff support, telephone conferencing

***Future Goals and Activities:***

Use surveys and focus groups to find out in what areas members feel the Committee can help.

***Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:***

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***Please return your report to:***

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