

**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:** Publications and Website Advisory Committee

**Jurisdiction:** Provide editorial guidance concerning the *Michigan Bar Journal*, the State Bar of Michigan website, and other regular State Bar publications for the general membership or public. The committee may form subcommittees to carry out its responsibilities of the committee, all of which shall be chaired by the chair of the committee. Members of the committee may serve continuously for more than two successive three-year terms.

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

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Frederick M. Baker Jr.	Michigan Supreme Court 925 W Ottawa St PO Box 30052 Lansing, MI 48909	(517) 373-0260	bakerf@courts.mi.gov
Staff Liaisons	Nancy Brown Linda Novak	State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building 306 Townsend St. Lansing, MI 48933-2012	(517) 346-6350 (517) 618-6771	nbrown@mail.michbar.org lnovak@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	David A. Perkins	3rd Judicial Circuit Court 1025 E Forest Ave Detroit, MI 48207	(313) 833-2910	dthreex@msn.com

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Sarah C. Alden, Manistee	Joseph Kimble, Lansing
William J. Ard, Williamston	Richard C. Kraus, Lansing
Elizabeth A. Baergen, Saint Clair Shores	Nicholas C. Krieger, Detroit
Sarah Neville Cahill, Detroit	Gerard Mantese, Troy
David M. Cohen, Detroit	Marc D. Melamed, Bloomfield Hills
Stephen D. Conley, Jackson	Nelson P. Miller, Grand Rapids
Stephen C. Cooper, White Lake	John R. Runyan Jr., Detroit
Patrick J. Crowley, Okemos	Stephan A. Savickas, Grand Rapids
Francine Cullari, Grand Blanc	Lawrence R. Shoffner, Detroit
Brian C. Draper, Lansing	John L. Tatum, Bloomfield Hills
William J. Fleener Jr., Lansing	Christopher R. Trudeau, Lansing
Jason T. Hanselman, Lansing	Linda M. Watson, Birmingham
John O. Juroszek, Lansing	Elmer E. White, Ann Arbor

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**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Website subcommittee meeting	3/7/11	Conference call
Short-story subcommittee meeting	2/15/11	Conference call
Theme issue subcommittee meeting	2/15/11	Conference call
General meeting	2/8/11	Conference call
General meeting	10/28/10	Conference call
General meeting	5/5/10	Conference call
Ad hoc meeting	3/10/10	Conference call
General meeting	1/27/10	Lansing

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

Teleconference facilities and wonderful SBM staff

**Committee Activities:**

The 2010-2011 Bar year has seen the Publications and Website Advisory Committee, in the person of our Vice Chair John Tatum and his acolytes on the Website subcommittee, strive for continued improvement of the State Bar's website, especially the enhancement of the member directory page content and searchability (e.g., the addition of bookmark functions and prompts, and expansion of the directory entries to include additional biographical and other information, including photos, practice areas, organization memberships, and the like), and improved navigation and linkage among and between the ever increasing categories of information on the website. Over 70 percent of the website's hits are in the directory function, so we are responding to our members by improving the function they use the most. We also now provide a virtual court feature that allows members to monitor the Supreme Court's publicly broadcast proceedings, and we continue to examine ways to improve the sound quality and navigation capabilities of this new service. The website has become an increasingly powerful tool for members who take the time to learn to use it, and we strive to keep members informed of improvements as they are accomplished, to encourage and induce them to take the time to use it in their bar and practice activities.

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We continue to look for economies wherever they can be achieved and are looking closely at the print directory issue to determine what features to retain and what can be provided best online, rather than in the print edition, but so far the directory remains much as it has been, a familiar compendium of useful information that the majority of our members keep close at hand. Until we can do another member survey, it will probably continue in its present form, but change is the only constant on this committee, so stay tuned for developments on this front.

Our theme issues have included some that we believe were particularly useful to our members, including thorough updates on Michigan administrative law and energy law, and we have scheduled for October of this year an examination of pro bono initiatives. Water law, information technology, and domestic violence themes also are scheduled for the balance of this year. At the same time, we have increased the number of general-interest issues in response to the desire many members have expressed for more issues that are not focused on a single area of practice. This change also has allowed us to provide a larger and more accessible forum to the many members who submit unsolicited articles “over the transom,” and amaze us constantly with their willingness to share their expertise on subjects, such as wage and hour litigation, e-discovery, winning jury argument techniques, and international commerce, that do not lend themselves readily to the traditional section-sponsored theme issue format. Throughout the year we also have included, and will continue to provide, features that celebrate the diamond anniversary of this organization of lawyers.

This year marks our third short-story contest, and, with the judging well underway I can report that the 43 entries in this year’s competition include some excellent candidates. We have received so many really good stories in these competitions that we have begun looking at the possibility of publishing a collection of the winners and the honorable mentions, so that possibility remains for future development.

On the revenue front, we are currently negotiating with another prospective licensee for the right to offer the *Journal* to a national audience. If this proves successful, we will have in place five licensing arrangements that generate a sturdy income stream that helps defray the expense of the many print and electronic publications the committee now oversees, including the *Journal*, the e-Journal, the State Bar website, the blogsite, the vast majority of section newsletters, and the SBM NewsLink feature.

We are always looking for new ways to serve, and to expand and improve the existing ways in which we already serve, our members. This is a hard-working committee, and I will miss it, but, as I said, change is a constant, and it is time for someone else to take over the leadership of this committee. When I announced my decision not to seek reappointment, I thought I had served as chair for 25 years, but staff came back and reported that I have been chair only for 24, and would have to remain for at least another year. I laughed, but I demurred: I replied that it has been 28 years since I began my work on this committee in 1983, as a member under then chair George Roumell, and, though I may have served only 24 years as chair, it has lately come to seem like 25. This is a big job, and it is getting bigger every year.

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I daresay no one will ever again be so foolish – or so lucky – as to spend 24 years in this post. I am now a grandfather, so my thoughts turn to not missing as much of my grandchildren's childhoods as I missed of my own children's. So I invoke a point of personal privilege to take this opportunity to say what a blessing it has been for me to serve with the dozens of wonderful people who have contributed over the past quarter century to the work of this committee. It has been a source of joy and satisfaction to work with them and come to know and regard them as friends. I am grateful to have had this experience, and convinced that those who have labored with me, out of the limelight, to provide service to our members, month in and month out, include some of the Bar's finest people. They are too numerous to name, but I must mention specifically the late Sheldon Hochman (who passed away only this past year), Nancy Brown, and our longest serving editor other than those two, Linda Novak, who, with all of the staff with whom it has been my pleasure to serve over these many years, have become like family to me. To you all on the committee, to the staff, past and present, and to the members of the committee and the Bar who trouble themselves to read this obscure report, I say thank you, I love you, and farewell.

Frederick Baker Jr.  
Chairperson  
Publications and Website Advisory Committee

**Future Goals and Activities:** See above

**Other Information:** See above