

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
May 2008**

**Committee Name:** Standing Committee on the United States Courts

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

The Committee shall concern itself with the administration, organization and operation of the United States Courts for the purpose of securing the effective administration of judges. Two members shall be judges designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and one member shall be a judge designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

**Membership notes:**

Pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Commissioners, the membership of the committee may exceed 15.

**Officers and Membership:**

Irene Bruce Hathaway, Chair

**Members:**

Hon. Ellen Carmody	Thad Morgan
Charles Chamberlain	Robert Neaton
Pamela Enslin	Francis Ortiz
John Ferroli	Andrew Portinga
Hon. Paul Gadola	Michael Puerner
Jason Klingensmith	John Smietanka
Hon. David Lawson	Christopher Tracy
Sheldon Light	David Weaver
Mark McInerney	Ron Weston

**Board of Commissioner Liaison:**

Michael Riordan

**Staff Liaisons:**

Clifford T. Flood  
Anne Smith

**2007-08 Meeting Schedule:**

January 30, 2008 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing  
March 19, 2008 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing  
May 20, 2008 – Troppos Restaurant, Lansing  
October 15, 2008 – Michael Franck Bldg, Lansing

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

The State Bar provided the Roberts P. Hudson room at the State Bar of Michigan for meetings, equipped with telephone conferencing equipment so members unable to attend in person could attend by teleconference. Dinner was provided at each meeting and Bar Staff Liaisons Clifford T. Flood and Anne Smith attended meetings, assisted in preparing and circulating meeting agendas and minutes for each meeting, took minutes of each meeting,

and provided other administrative support, as needed. In addition, the State Bar of Michigan provided the resources called for in Article VI, Section 7 of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws. The State Bar of Michigan was responsible for the expenses for the Annual Bench Bar dinner.

**Committee Activities:**

1. Continuous exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding operational and administrative functions and procedures in each District that might be of interest or benefit the other District.
2. Continuous exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding Bench-Bar Conferences in each District and opportunities for cooperation and cross-districting between the two districts with regard to future Bench-Bar Conferences.
3. The annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Western District (alternates yearly with the Eastern District) is scheduled for May 20, 2008, at Troppo's Restaurant, in Lansing. It provides an opportunity for the judges to meet the committee members and discuss common issues.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

1. The Committee wishes to reinstitute a process for systematically reviewing and commenting on amendments to the Federal Rules and submitting draft amendments, when appropriate.
2. The Committee wishes to further develop and promote opportunities for cross-District bench-bar conferences.
3. The Committee wishes to appoint a committee co-chair at the first meeting each year following the State Bar's Annual Meeting in order to promote consistency and continuity from year to year.

**Chair Contact Information:**

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