

**STATE BAR COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH,
& LEGAL PUBLICATIONS**

**Minutes of February 4, 2006 Meeting
Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing**

Present: Sue Adamczak, Ann Baker, Sharon Barnes, Barbara Bonge, Byron Cooper, Randy Davidson, Jane Edwards, Randy Foreman, Jim Hogan, Kimberly Koscielniak, Charles Toy and Lance Werner.

Absent: Jan Bissett, Georgia Clark, Barb Garavaglia, Barbara Goldman, Daniel Kopka, TeLisa Owens, Roger Peters, Marilyn Preston, Jennifer Selby, Ruth Stevens, Kathy Vance and Dianne Zyskowski.

Chair Randy Davidson called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

The Committee members present approved the minutes of the November 5, 2005 meeting.

Chair's Report:

Randy gave an update on HB 5132. On November 18, 2005, the State Bar Board of Commissioners voted to oppose the bill in principle, based on the prior opposition to similar HB 5390. HB 5132 is still pending consideration in the Michigan House of Representatives Committee on Government Operations.

Randy provided copies of the following published Michigan Bar Journal articles by Committee members: *Finding Environmental Law on the Web*, by Barbara Bonge (November 2005); *The Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement: Sources of Information*, by Barb Garavaglia (December 2005); and *Researching Online Sources for Michigan Legislative History*, by Sue Adamczak (January 2006).

Randy provided a copy of the revised Michigan Bar Journal theme issue schedule (see New Business for updated assignments).

Old Business:

Web Page Project

Sharon Barnes reported that State Bar General Counsel Janet Welch reviewed the complaint letter previously sent to Nancy Brown, concerning the name "Michigan Online Legal Self-Help Center." Investigation disclosed that the letter writer had been convicted in Texas of unauthorized practice of law. Accordingly, Nancy changed the name of our page back from "Michigan Online Legal Help Center" to "Michigan Online Legal Self-Help Center."

Randy provided copies of TeLisa Owens' quarterly report on broken links. Those present discussed separating the link for information on modular homes from the link for information on manufactured homes, because of the difference in administrative regulation. Members also discussed developing a way for site visitors to complete a survey or make comments without inviting spam E-mail. Randy Foreman will investigate available software.

Randy provided an updated report from the State Bar on web hits for our web page. The report disclosed the following new statistics:

Page	10/25/05 to 1/26/06	
	Views	Unique Visits
Help Center Home	2,641	2,266
Wills, Estate Planning, Probate	593	453
Family Law	737	620
Probate and Estate Planning	342	307
Elder Law	338	266
Michigan Law Websites	367	318
Landlord-Tenant Law	567	434
Finding a Lawyer	479	421
Finding a Law Library	153	130
Consumer Protection Law	148	122

There appears to be no statistically significant change in visits from the previous quarterly report.

Committee Position on HB 4686

Those present discussed HB 4686. Link to bill:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(jcrvqz45nfd0145ftkuaj45\)/mileg.aspx?page=BillStatus&objectname=2005-HB-4686](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(jcrvqz45nfd0145ftkuaj45)/mileg.aspx?page=BillStatus&objectname=2005-HB-4686)

Committee member comments included the observation that this bill appears to be aimed at producing revenue for the State by providing proprietary protection for State agency records and restricting reproduction of indexes. Agencies need a way to cover the cost of maintaining records rather than depending on State general funding. On the other hand, the public has an interest in the inexpensive availability of public records through privately run web sites. Members decided that they wanted more information about the reasons for introducing this bill. Randy will contact Representative Meyer before our next meeting.

Revised Michigan Bar Journal assignment schedule:

Based on the revised theme issue schedule, and with the consent of those present, Randy made revised assignments for June 2006 (Jane Edwards); July 2006 (TeLisa Owens in place of Lance Werner); August 2006 (Jim Hogan in place of Jenny Selby); September 2006 (Randy Foreman in place of Jim Hogan); and November 2006 (Lance Werner in place of TeLisa Owens). Lance Werner was willing to do articles for both November 2006 and December 2006. The revised assignment schedule is as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Author</u>
May 2006	Justice Initiatives	March 15, 2006	Randy Davidson
June 2006	Public Service Practice	April 15, 2006	Jane Edwards
July 2006	View from the Bench	May 15, 2006	TeLisa Owens
August 2006	Disability Law	June 15, 2006	Jim Hogan
September 2006	Professionalism & Ethics	July 15, 2006	Randy Foreman
October 2006	Consumer Law	August 15, 2006	Sue Adamczak
November 2006	Administrative Law	September 15, 2006	Lance Werner
December 2006	Tax Law	October 15, 2006	Lance Werner

Round table on news and emerging issues:

Kim Koscielniak expressed interest in writing a Michigan Bar Journal article on researching Michigan building codes.

Sue Adamczak reported that the State Law Library will be moving in 2007 to the Michigan Library and Historical Center, which will increase public access to the collection. Committee members commented on the excellent staff response to recent research requests. Sue also informed members of the appointment of Nancy Robertson as the new State Librarian.

Link to press release: http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18835_18896-129996--M_2005_11,00.html

Ann Baker reported on new public acts that provide for expedited corporation record searches, revised filing fees, and provide for online filing of annual reports. Links to bills:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/pdf/2005-PA-0212.pdf>

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/pdf/2005-PA-0217.pdf>

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/pdf/2005-PA-0218.pdf>

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/pdf/2005-PA-0219.pdf>

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/pdf/2005-PA-0220.pdf>

Barb Bonge reminded members that Michigan Court of Appeals and Supreme Court docket entries are available online, as well as opinions and orders. There is a free E-mail service.

Link to press release: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/emailorders.pdf>.

Randy Foreman informed us that ABA accreditation is still pending for the Thomas M. Cooley Law School branch campuses.

Jane Edwards reported that the MSU College of Law is using WestPack.

Randy Davidson reported that SADO is using West BriefTools.

Link: <http://west.thomson.com/store/product.asp?product%5Fid=BRIEFTOOLS>

Byron Cooper informed us that University of Detroit Mercy is continuing fundraising for renovating the Law School building.

Adjournment:

Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 6, 2006 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon at the State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m., and we thanked our host, Randy Foreman.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Davidson, Chair