

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

**Minutes of May 12, 2007 Meeting
Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, Grand Rapids**

Present: Ann Baker, Sharon Barnes, Barbara Bonge, Randy Davidson, Randy Foreman, Marjorie Gell, and Ruth Stevens.

Absent: Sue Adamczak, Jan Bissett, Georgia Clark, Byron Cooper, Jane Edwards, Barb Garavaglia, Barbara Goldman, Jim Hogan, Daniel Kopka, TeLisa Owens, Roger Peters, Marilyn Preston, Jennifer Schafer, Janice Selberg, Jennifer Selby, Charles Toy, Kathy Vance, and Lance Werner.

Chair Randy Davidson called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

The Committee members present approved the minutes of the February 3, 2007 meeting.

Chair's Report:

Randy announced the resignation of advisor Dianne Zyskowski, who has retired and moved to Maine. On behalf of the Committee, Randy thanked Dianne for her hard work over the years, and wished her well.

Randy provided copies of the following recently published Michigan Bar Journal articles by Committee members: *Useful Resources for Federal Court Practice*, by Randy Foreman (February 2007); and *Contract Law Resources*, by Daniel Kopka (May 2007).

Randy also provided copies of the Committee's 2006-2007 annual report. The Committee's service to the Bar and the public included providing timely research resource articles for each topical issue of the Michigan Bar Journal, and continuing to improve our web page project, the Michigan Online Legal Self-Help Center (Link: <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/selfhelp.cfm>).

Randy attended the State Bar Public Policy Summit on March 7, 2007, and provided an excerpt of a presentation on media training for Bar leaders.

Old Business:

Web Page Project

Randy provided an updated report from the State Bar on web hits for our web page. There were no responses to the online survey at the time of the report. The report disclosed the following new statistics from February 2, 2007 to May 8, 2007:

Page	Views
Help Center Home	4,415
Wills, Estate Planning, Probate	1,593
Family Law	1,621
Elder Law	933
Michigan Law Websites	888
Landlord-Tenant Law	1,161
Finding a Lawyer	789
Finding a Law Library	463
Consumer Protection Law	755
Criminal Law	819

Ruth Stevens and Sharon Barnes agreed to check on obtaining a Spanish translation of our web page through either the Ingham County Circuit Court or Cooley Law School.

Ann Baker presented W3C's web content accessibility guidelines (Link: <http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT>).

Sharon Barnes will provide a copy of the guidelines to Sandi Barger and Nancy Brown for review.

Randy reported that Barb Garavaglia is still working on a proposed debt relief page for presentation at our next meeting.

Committee members discussed offering an immigration law page. Ruth Stevens and Randy Foreman volunteered to work on a draft for our next meeting.

New Business:

Guidelines for informing library patrons about the need for legal counsel:

At the meeting, Sharon Barnes distributed 2,000 copies of the SBM pamphlet entitled "A Practical Guide to Hiring a Lawyer." On behalf of the Committee, Randy thanked Sharon Barnes and SBM for arranging donation of the copies, to be provided to law library patrons as a public service of the Bar in helping to ensure access to justice. [Note: updated link to the legal aid site on page 6 of the booklet: <http://www.milawhelp.org>]. Committee members also reviewed a pamphlet (in English and Spanish) prepared by the Indiana University School of Law.

Sharon proposed designing a legal resources bookmark for distribution to law library patrons. Barb Bonge volunteered to work on a design.

Round table on news and emerging issues:

Barb Bonge announced that the Michigan Court of Appeals would furlough employees for eight days and had canceled its delay reduction project, in response to the State's budget crisis (Link to Detroit News article: <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007705120375>; Link to Supreme Court Administrative Order: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Resources/Administrative/AO2007-2.pdf>).

Randy Foreman informed us that Cooley Law School (Link: <http://www.cooley.edu/index.htm>) expects 1,000 incoming students this fall. Seventy-five percent of Cooley students taking the February 2007 bar exam passed.

Ruth Stevens recently trained public librarians on Westlaw use.

Sharon Barnes reported that the e-Journal has now summarized over 32,000 opinions (Link: <http://www.michbar.org/e-journal/archive.html>).

Ann Baker informed us that the Attorney General is reviewing State websites to prevent identity theft. On the opposite side of the spectrum, the U.S. Senate is working on legislation that would require States to collect more information on corporations. Prior and current year corporation annual reports are now available online from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth Corporation Division (Link: http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/sr_corp.asp). The Corporation Division will be enforcing late fees for annual reports.

Marjorie Gell announced that Lexis has expanded its coverage to include the Michigan Tax Lawyer and will pay royalties to the SBM Taxation Section (Link: <http://www.michbar.org/tax/>). Marjorie also serves as Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Tax Association (Link: <http://www.michiganwomentax.org>) which is working on a tax guide to be offered free of charge to libraries.

Adjournment:

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 11, 2007 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Randy Foreman will host.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m., and we thanked our host, Marjorie Gell.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Davidson, Chair