

State Bar of Michigan
Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications

Meeting Minutes
Michael Franck Building, Lansing

November 16, 2013; Corrected January 25, 2014

Present: Sharon Barnes, Geraldine Brown, Kincaid Brown, Jan Bissett, Marlene Coir, Laura Mancini, Audra McClure, Janice Selberg, Virginia Thomas, Lance Werner

By Phone: Ann Baker, Kim Breitmeyer, Randy Davidson, Barbara Garavaglia, Barbara Goldman, Heather Simmons, Ruth Stevens

Excused: Bernadette Bartlett, Marilyn Preston, Tom Weiss

Committee Chair, Kincaid Brown, called the meeting to order at 10:11AM.

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed members of the 2013-2014 Committee in attendance (in person and by telephone). The members then introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

2. Committee Business

a. The Chair reviewed the full membership of the Committee. He confirmed that only a simple majority of regular Committee members is needed to constitute a quorum.

b. Minutes of the May 4, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

c. The Chair reviewed themes and assignments for Michigan Bar Journal columns from November 2013 through December 2014. Members present volunteered for the four remaining columns and all slots are now filled. An updated assignment list is provided as an addendum to these minutes.

d. The Chair noted that the Committee's web site is out of date in two important categories: 1) Meeting Minutes; and, 2) Articles on Best Resources. Meeting minutes were last posted to the web site in 2009; more recent minutes have been posted to the Committee portal which has restricted access. The Committee agreed to make more recent minutes available on the web site as well as on the

portal. The Committee also agreed that the Articles on Best Resources should be updated by including all research columns for a revolving 12-month period.

e. The Chair asked for feedback from the Committee re access to the Springshare portal. He offered to distribute instructions on how to access the portal.

f. The Chair distributed *Article VI – Committees and Appointed Subentities of the Bar of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws*, and highlighted two provisions pertinent to the business of the Committee:

- Committee meeting minutes shall be forwarded to the principal office of the State Bar within 20 days following the meeting; and,
- Any member of the Committee who is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without having been excuse by the Chair shall have been deemed to have resigned.

g. The Chair solicited the Committee's interest in exploring teleconferencing options other than conference calling, such as screen sharing. He offered to explore the possibility of using screen sharing during the next meeting.

h. The Chair led a discussion of the Michigan Online Legal Self-Help Center pages. The Committee compared the role of the Self-Help Center pages with that of the Michigan Legal Help web site. The Committee decided to update existing pages as follows.

Landing Page (J. Bissett)
Consumer Protection Law (K. Breitmeyer)
Criminal Law (R. Davidson)
Debt Relief (J. Selberg)
Elder Law (L. Mancini)
Family Law (A. McClure)
Identity Theft (H. Simmons)
Immigration Law (V. Thomas)
Landlord/Tenant Law (M. Coir)
Wills and Probate (K. Brown).

A closer examination of the two resources will be placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

3. Discussion Topic: UELMA Follow-Up.

Marlene Coir gave a presentation titled “Why Michigan Needs UELMA” which summarized key aspects of the uniform law and provided current information on its adoption in other states. The Committee identified cost issues and administrative infrastructure as two areas that require fuller information before the Committee might consider requesting a public policy position from the State Bar. Members of the Committee volunteered to review how other states have addressed the cost and infrastructure issues:

Minnesota (J. Selberg)
Illinois (V. Thomas)
Colorado (K. Brown)
New York (B. Garavaliga).

Marlene Coir will request additional fiscal impact information from AALL.

4. Questions re: *Locating the Law* by the Legal Reference Roundtable of Michigan.

Heather Simmons reported that Kim Koscielniak of the Library of Michigan is reviewing submissions and expects to conclude that process by the end of 2013. The publication will appear online before it is available in print. Heather noted that the *Public Librarians’ Toolkit* (2007) will link to *Locating the Law* once it is online.

5. Updates

a. SOS Task Force. Laura Mancini reported that the SOS Task Force has been disbanded because it has completed its work as the Michigan Legal Help web site is up and running. The Task Force will be replaced by two entities that will provide long-term management of the project: Michigan Legal Help Stakeholders, which will seek a dedicated funding source, and the Michigan Legal Help Advisory Board, which will focus on the web site’s content and training for its use.

Laura also reported that twelve training sessions on the Michigan Self-Help web site were conducted in the state that reached 200 public librarians. In response to growing demand, three additional training sessions are forthcoming. Additional web site content will be added and funding is being sought for a Spanish translation of the site in 2014.

b. Heather Simmons reported that Janis Johnston, former Professor and Director of the Law Library at the University of Illinois, has retired and a search to fill that position is underway. The job announcement is posted on indeed.com.

c. Lance Werner reported that legislation may be introduced by Senator Casperson that would affect all public librarians by removing the statutory certification requirement librarians. He is tracking this legislation.

6. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan. Kincaid Brown will survey the Committee for dates.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia C. Thomas
Advisory Member