

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Section Expense Reimbursement Policies and Procedures (July 2021)

General Policies

1. Requests for reimbursement of individual expenses should be submitted as soon as practical after being incurred, but not to exceed 45 days. However, at the end of the fiscal year, any remaining expense reimbursement requests for the fiscal year just ended must be submitted by the 3rd workday in October. The State Bar reserves the right to deny a reimbursement request that is untimely or where the State Bar's ability to verify an expense has been compromised due to any delay. Expense reimbursement forms, along with instructions for completing and transmitting expense reimbursement forms, are found on the State Bar of Michigan website at: <http://michbar.org/programs/forms>
2. All expenses must be itemized. Each reimbursed expense must be clearly described and the business purpose indicated.
3. Reimbursement in all instances is limited to reasonable and necessary expenses for business purposes.
4. Detailed receipts are recommended for all expenses but required for expenses over \$25.
5. An itemized receipt is required before reimbursement will be made for any meal. The reimbursement request must identify whether the meal is a breakfast, lunch or dinner. If the receipt covers more than one person, the reimbursement request must identify the names of all those in attendance for whom reimbursement is claimed, and the business purpose of the meal. If the receipt includes charges for guests for whom reimbursement is not claimed, the guests need not be identified by name, but their presence and number should be noted. Reimbursed meals while traveling (except group meals) are taxable if no overnight stay is required. For subsidized sections (Young Lawyers Section and Judicial Section) the presumptive limits on meal reimbursement are the per diem amounts published on the State of Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget's website at [DTMB - Travel\(michigan.gov\)](http://DTMB-Travel(michigan.gov)) referencing Travel Rates and Select Cities for the current fiscal year. This policy applies to each individual meal - breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Meal reimbursements exceeding the per diem amounts due to special circumstances must be approved by the section treasurer or section chair, whenever possible in

advance of the expenditure. Reimbursement for meals exceeding the presumptive limits without an acceptable explanation of special circumstances will be limited to the published per diem amount. The presumptive limit on meal reimbursement applies to any meal expense (individual or group) reimbursed under this policy, but does not apply to meals for group meetings and seminars invoiced directly to the SBM. For all other sections, the amount of the meal reimbursement shall be deemed what is reasonable and necessary.

6. Spouse expenses are not reimbursable.
7. Mileage is reimbursed at the current IRS approved rate for business mileage. Reimbursed mileage for traveling on State Bar business is limited to actual distance traveled for business purposes.
8. Receipts for lodging expenses must be supported by a copy of the itemized bill showing per night charge, meal expenses and all other charges, not simply a credit card receipt, for the total paid. Barring special circumstances such as the need for handicap accessibility accommodations, for conference attendance, the reimbursement will be limited to the least expensive available standard room conference hotel rate.
9. Airline tickets should be purchased as far in advance as possible to take advantage of any cost saving plans available.
 - A. Tickets should be at the best rate available for as direct a path as possible. The use of travel websites such as Travelocity, Priceline and Hotwire are recommended to identify the most economical airfare alternatives.
 - B. Reimbursement of airfare will be limited to the cost of coach class tickets available for the trip at the time the tickets are purchased. The additional cost of business class or first class airfare will not be reimbursed.
 - C. Increased costs incurred due to side trips for the private benefit of the individual will be deducted.
 - D. A copy of the ticket receipt showing the itinerary must be attached to the reimbursement request.

10. Reimbursement for car, bus, or train will not exceed reimbursable air fare if airline service to the location is available.
11. Outside speakers must be advised in advance of the need for receipts and the above requirements.
12. Bills for copying done by an outside provider should include the number of copies made, the cost per page, and general purpose (committee or section meeting notice, seminar materials, etc.).
13. The State Bar of Michigan is exempt from sales tax. Suppliers of goods and services should be advised that the State Bar of Michigan is the purchaser and that tax should not be charged.
14. All gift cards and gift certificates are taxable income regardless of the amount. Tangible gifts other than recognition items (e.g. plaques, gavels, etc.) are considered taxable if value is greater than \$100.

Specific Policies

1. Sections may not exceed their fund balance in any year without express authorization of the Board of Commissioners.
2. Individuals seeking reimbursement for expenditures of funds must have their request approved by the chairperson or treasurer. Chairpersons must have their expenses approved by the treasurer and vice versa.
3. Requests for reimbursement of expenses which require council approval must be accompanied by a copy of the minutes of the meeting showing approval granted.
4. Payments to vendors for \$5,000 or greater are not reimbursable. Payments to vendors for \$5,000 or greater should be paid directly by the State Bar.