

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

President McGill called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. on Friday, June 13, 2025, in the Grand Pavilion room of the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island.

Commissioners present:

David C. Anderson, Secretary	Joshua A. Lerner
Erika L. Bryant, Vice President	James L. Liggins, Jr.
Aaron V. Burrell	James W. Low
Hon. B. Chris Christenson	Ashley E. Lowe
Alena Clark	Elizabeth L. Luckenbach
Ponce D. Clay	Silvia A. Mansoor
Tanya N. Cripps-Serra	Gerard V. Mantese
Patrick J. Crowley	Gerrow D. "Gerry" Mason
Sherrie L. Detzler	Joseph P. McGill, President
Robert A. Easterly	Thomas P. Murray Jr.
Jacob G. Eccleston	Takura N. Nyamfukudza
Nicole A. Evans	Nicholas M. Ohanesian
Lisa J. Hamameh, President-Elect	Hon. David A. Perkins
Claudnyse D. Holloman	John W. Reiser III
Thomas H. Howlett, Treasurer	Douglas B. Shapiro
Elizabeth A. Kitchen-Troop	Hon. Kristen D. Simmons
Suzanne C. Larsen	Danielle Walton

Consent Agenda

The Board received the minutes from the April 24, 2025 Board meeting.

The Board received the recent activities of the president.

The Board received the recent activities of the executive director.

The Board received the FY 2025 financial reports through February 2025.

Mr. McGill asked if any items needed to be removed from the consent agenda. There were none.

A motion was offered to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.

President and Executive Director's Report: Joe McGill, President and Peter Cunningham, Executive Director.

Mr. McGill introduced former State Bar of Michigan Presidents Julie Fershtman and Lori Buiteweg who were attending the meeting.

Mr. McGill reported that the AI Workgroup has completed their work and that everyone should have a copy of the final report. Mr. McGill recognized the members of the workgroup and SBM staff for their work.

Supreme Court Commissions Updates
Justice For All (JFA) Commission

Mr. Cunningham reported that the JFA Commission met on June 9 and received several updates on the progress of several JFA initiatives. Of particular interest to the State Bar was an update from the Implementation Steering Committee that is making recommendations for a new pilot program that would allow licensed paralegals to provide limited scope legal services. The JFA Commission had recommended the creation of the Implementation Steering Committee to advise the Court on the pilot program.

Mr. Cunningham reported that State Bar staff have begun meeting with representatives of SCAO and the Implementation Steering Committee to discuss the regulation of these new licensed paralegals and the potential impact on the Bar.

DEI Commission

Mr. Cunningham told the Board that the DEI Commission has met twice since April and is working on updating the strategic plan for the commission.

Commission on Well-Being in the Law (WBIL)

Molly Ranns gave the board an update on the activities of the WBIL Commission.

Staff Updates

Mr. Cunningham reported that there are currently several open positions that are either currently posted or expected to be posted soon. Two of those positions were recently vacated: Director of Research and Analytics and Managing Editor of the Michigan Bar Journal. In addition, Joann Hathaway, who has served as the Practice Management Advisor for nearly 20 years, announced she will be retiring in July. As announced at the April Board meeting, the Interim IT Director retired at the end of May, but this position is not going to be immediately filled. Nancy Brown, Senior Management Advisor, will lead the IT Department and the Bar will contract with an outside firm for a fractional CIO for at least one year to help implement the recommendations of the recent IT audit and provide strategic IT guidance.

Marge Bossenbery, Executive Coordinator, informed the Board that she will be retiring at the end of November. The Board expressed their gratitude for Ms. Bossenbery's years of service to the Board, and Mr. Cunningham told the Board that the intention is to hire a successor in the position before Ms. Bossenbery retires so that she can help her replacement.

Attorney Surveys

Mr. Cunningham told the Board that two surveys will be sent to SBM members in the next few months before the Economics of Law Survey is launched early next year. They include a survey about well-being in the law and one on violence against attorneys.

Mr. Cunningham recognized Ms. Ranns who has accepted a one-year position as a commissioner on the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs.

Closed Discussion

A motion was offered for the Board to recess into a closed session to communicate with our legal counsel on a potential litigation risk and to discuss the renewal of the employment contract for our Executive Director. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Board returned to the open session at 11:00 a.m.

A motion was offered to approve what was discussed in the closed session. The motion was seconded and approved.

Representative Assembly (RA) Report: John W. Reiser, III, Chairperson

Mr. Reiser reported that the Legal Deserts Workgroup has developed a set of recommendations which were presented to the RA in April. The work group is soliciting feedback from the RA members and plans to bring the final recommendations to the RA for approval at the September meeting. The two RA awards will be presented at the September meeting: Janet Welch will receive the Michael Franck Award and Kamau Sandiford will receive the Unsung Hero Award. In addition to the election for a new clerk, Mr. Reiser reported that the Hon. Angela Sherigan will speak to the RA in September about the Native American boarding schools.

Young Lawyers Section (YLS) Report: Silvia A. Mansoor, Chairperson

Ms. Mansoor reported that the YLS has been busy planning many upcoming events across the state including ZooLAWgical on July 12 and an Etiquette and Professionalism and Civility program on August 18. She stated that they are looking for volunteer judges for the MCAP event.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEES

Public Policy: Lisa J. Hamameh, Chairperson

Court Rules

1. ADM File No. 2023-35: Proposed Amendments of MCJC 3 and MRPC 6.5

The proposed amendments of MCJC 3 and MRPC 6.5 would incorporate the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 2, Rule 2.3 into Michigan's code and rule to prohibit bias, prejudice, and harassment.

A motion was offered to support with further amendments retaining the existing "courtesy and respect" language in both Canon 3 and Rule 6.5 and adding a reference to the Professionalism Principles to the comment on Rule 6.5.

The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was offered to authorize the Sections to advocate their respective positions on ADM File No. 2023-35.

The motion was seconded and passed.

2. ADM File No. 2019-40: Proposed Adoption of AO 2025-X, Proposed Rescission of AO 2012-7, and Proposed Amendment of MCR 2.407

The proposed administrative order would clarify when, from where, and how a judicial officer may participate remotely, subject to their chief judge's approval. If adopted, a related amendment of MCR 2.407 would strike a reference to AO 2012-7 being suspended and that administrative order would be rescinded.

A motion was offered to support ADM File No. 2019-40 in concept with amendments recommending that: (1) remote participation by judicial officers be limited to scheduling and administrative matters, or extraordinary circumstances; (2) that consideration be given to the concerns raised by visiting judges; (3) that attorneys and parties not be required to appear in person if the judicial officer is participating remotely; and (4) that the requirement of a black robe be removed for referees.

The motion was seconded and passed

3. ADM File No. 2025-03: Proposed Amendment of MCR 1.111

The proposed amendment of MCR 1.111 would prohibit reimbursement for interpreter services in criminal cases, update the definitions for "interpret," "certified foreign language interpreter," and "qualified foreign language interpreter," and add a new definition for a "registered interpreter firm."

A motion was offered to support ADM File No. 2025-03 with an additional amendment of (A)(4) to state that ". . . a person who meets all of the following criteria or in the first year after the court rule is passed, is making substantial progress to meet all the following criteria."

The motion was seconded and passed.

4. ADM File No. 2025-04: Proposed Amendment of MCR 3.613

The proposed amendment of MCR 3.613 would realign the rule with recent amendments of MCL 711.1 and MCL 711.3 regarding name change proceedings.

A motion was offered to support the proposed amendment. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. ADM File No. 2023-10: Proposed Amendment of MCR 6.008

The proposed amendment of MCR 6.008 would incorporate the People v Cramer, 511 Mich 896 (2023) holding by clarifying that circuit courts can remand misdemeanor charges to the district court following the dismissal of all felony charges that were bound over.

A motion was offered to support the proposed amendment. The motion was seconded and passed.

6. ADM File No. 2023-38: Proposed Amendments of Subchapters MCR 9.100 and MCR 9.200 and MRPC 1.12 and MRPC 3.5

The proposed amendments would replace the term "master" or "special master" with "neutral arbiter" or add the term "neutral arbiter" to a definition.

A motion was offered to support the proposed amendment. The motion was seconded and passed.

Legislation

1. **HB 4434** (Meerman) Courts: juries; State agencies (existing): attorney general. Courts: juries; one-person grand jury provisions; repeal. Repeals secs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a & 6b, ch. VII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 767.3 et seq.).

A motion was offered that this legislation was Keller permissible. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was offered and seconded to support the legislation.

The motion was adopted by a roll-call vote. Commissioners voting in support of the position: Anderson, Bryant, Burrell, Christenson, Cripps-Serra, Crowley, Detzler, Easterly, Eccleston, Evans, Hamameh, Howlett, Kitchen-Troop, Larsen, Liggins, Low, Lowe, Luckenbach, Mansoor, Mantese, Mason, Murray, Nyamfukudza, Ohanesian, Perkins, Shapiro, Simmons.
Commissioners voting in opposition: Clark, Clay, Holloman, Lerner, McGill, Reiser, Walton.

Strategic Planning and Engagement Committee (SPEC): Erika L. Bryant, Chairperson
No report was provided.

Finance and Audit: Thomas H. Howlett, Chairperson

Financial Report

Mr. Howlett provided a brief report on the committee's review of the 2025 financial reports through April 2025 noting that the Board members received copies of the documents discussed. He welcomed all commissioners to the June 26 Finance and Audit Committee's Zoom meeting where they will meet with senior management staff to review their FY2026 budgets.

Preliminary Budget Presentation

Mr. Cunningham gave the Board a brief preliminary presentation of the proposed 2025-2026 budget. There will be times offered next week for Board members to attend a Zoom meeting for a more detailed presentation of the preliminary budget in advance of the June 26 meeting.

Professional Standards: David C. Anderson, Chairperson
No report was provided

Comments or questions from Commissioners

There were none

Comments from the public

There were none

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.