

**State Bar of Michigan
Representative Assembly
September 19, 2025**

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The following is a summary of proceedings of the State Bar Representative Assembly session held Friday, September 19, 2025, via Zoom Meetings and in-person at the Detroit Troy Marriott in Troy.

1. Call to order by Chair John W. Reiser, III.
2. Clerk Alena M. Clark declared a quorum (50+ members) was present.
3. Upon a motion made and seconded, the proposed calendar was adopted.
4. As provided in Rule 4.8, the Summary of Proceedings of the April 26, 2025 meeting was deemed approved.
5. Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett, Chair of the Nominating and Awards Committee, addressed the Assembly on filling vacancies for the current meeting. Upon a motion made and seconded, Shawn L. Perry (14th), Jennifer Roach (14th), J. Edmund Frost (18th), Sean M. Myers (38th), Andrew C. Thompson (42nd), Andrew M. Juillet (53rd), and Ashley K. Swick (54th) were appointed to fill immediate vacancies within their respective Circuits.
6. Tracey W. Brame presented the *Unsung Hero Award* to Kamau Wendel Allan Sandiford. Mr. Sandiford accepted the award and addressed the Assembly.
7. Gerard V. Mantese presented the *Michael Franck Award* to Janet K. Welch. Ms. Welch accepted the award and addressed the Assembly.
8. The Legal Deserts Workgroup, chaired by Board of Commissioners Member Suzanne C. Larsen and Assembly Chair John W. Reiser, III, addressed the Assembly concerning the Workgroup's Recommendations & Strategies for consideration. Also providing remarks were Kristina A. Bilowus and Philip L. Strom, co-chairs of Sub-Workgroup 1 – Expanding Attorney Pathways for Legal Deserts; Nicole A. Evans and Judge Christopher S. Ninomiya, co-chairs of Sub-Workgroup 2 – Leveraging Technology for Broader Access; and David E. Gilbert, co-chair of Sub-Workgroup 3 – Enhancing Access to Physical Courthouses.
After discussion and vote, the Recommendations passed the Assembly.
9. Edward J. Hood, Chair of the State Bar of Michigan Professional Ethics Committee addressed the Assembly for consideration of a proposal to add an exception to the imputed disqualification rule for certain conflicts arising from MRPC 1.7(b) (the so-called “material limitation” conflict rule) by amending the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.10(a). After discussion and vote, the proposal passed.

10. Edward J. Hood, Chair of the State Bar of Michigan Professional Ethics Committee addressed the Assembly for consideration of a proposal to amend the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 4.4 by adding a subsection (b) adapted from ABA Model Rule 4.4(b). After discussion and vote, the proposal passed with an amendment.
11. Alena M. Clark, Clerk of the Representative Assembly, announced the election of Tanisha M. Davis as the 2025-2026 Clerk of the Assembly in a contested election.
12. Nicole A. Evans was sworn in as 2025-2026 Chair of the Assembly by Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett.
13. Nicole A. Evans, Chair of the Representative Assembly, thanked John W. Reiser, III for all his work over the past year as Assembly Chair.
14. Adjournment.