

**State Bar of Michigan
Representative Assembly
April 26, 2025**

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The following is a summary of proceedings of the State Bar Representative Assembly session held Saturday, April 26, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Lansing and via Zoom Meeting.

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 September 19, 2024, 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, Scott R. Sanford (2nd Circuit), Michael E. Hall (3rd Circuit), Chastity A. Youngblood (3rd Circuit), Steven E. Makulski (4th Circuit), William D. Renner (5th Circuit), Ashley Felton Eckerly (6th Circuit), Kimberly L. Ward (6th Circuit), Katherine M. Stanley (7th Circuit), Katie M. Johnson (8th Circuit), Gail M. Towne (9th Circuit), Kyle F. Attwood (13th Circuit), Shawn L. Perry (14th Circuit), Zachary W. Stempien (15th Circuit), Aaron P. Ogletree (16th Circuit), Daniel V. Barnett (17th Circuit), Ernsie Augustin (30th Circuit), Amanda J. Skeel (33rd Circuit), Christopher N. Moraitis (36th Circuit), Jessica Paladino (38th Circuit), Nicholas A. Lebbin (43rd Circuit), David E. Prine (44th Circuit), Dean W. Herioux (47th Circuit), Michael J. Becker (48th Circuit), Judge David B. Herrington (52nd Circuit), Mark Toaz (55th Circuit) were appointed to fill immediate vacancies within their respective Circuits.
6. Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett, Chair of the Nominating and Awards Committee, addressed the Assembly concerning 2025 Award Nominations. Upon a motion made and seconded, the Assembly approved the 2025 Award Recipient for the Unsung Hero Award to be presented to Kamau W.A. Sandiford, and the 2025 Award Recipient for the Michael Franck Award to be presented to Janet K. Welch.
7. Judge Angela K. Sherigan 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. 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.
9. Ashley E. Lowe, Board of Commissioner Member and Chair of the Justice Initiatives Committee, Aaron V. Burrell, Board of Commissioner Member and Member of the Justice Initiatives Committee, Heidi A. Naasko, Member of the Justice Initiatives Committee, and Retired Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn J. Kelly addressed the Assembly for consideration of a proposal to

establish a new emeritus-prop bono practice membership class by amendments to the Michigan Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan Rules 3 and 4. After discussion and vote, the proposal passed 102 to 2 with 1 abstention.

10. Nicole A. Evans, Vice-Chair of the Representative Assembly, addressed the Assembly for consideration of forming a workgroup to finalize a proposal to amend Michigan Court Rule 8.119(H). After discussion and vote, the proposal to form a workgroup passed 91 to 9.
11. Adjournment.