

State Bar of Michigan | 2017-2018 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Article VI § 6, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

No later than May 1 of each year, the chair of each committee and sub entity of the Bar, with the assistance of the staff liaison, shall report to the Executive Director on a form provided by the State Bar on the activities and accomplishments of the committee or sub entity.

Access to Justice

- Jurisdiction: Proactive Policy and Program Development
- Develop, recommend, and implement programs to benefit underserved populations including the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, gender identity, juveniles, domestic violence survivors, and those with special needs.
 - Work to increase resources for civil legal aid programs.
 - Maintain commitment to the provision of pro bono legal services.
 - Recommend John W. Cummiskey Award recipient to the Awards Committee.
 - Implement the Strategic Plan through formation of work groups as resources allow to address first responder pro bono, Michigan Free Legal Answers, online intake and triage, consistent treatment of fee waiver requests.

Co-Chair

- P66497 Keith L. Morris, Lansing
Elder Law of Michigan Inc
3815 W St Joe St Ste C200
Lansing MI 48917-3671
Phone: (517) 485-9164
Fax: (517) 372-0792
e-mail: kmorris@elderlawofmi.org
- P71349 Maya K. Watson, Detroit
Bodman PLC
1901 Saint Antoine St Fl 6
Ford Field
Detroit MI 48226-2310
Phone: (313) 393-7502
Fax: (313) 393-7579
e-mail: mwatson@bodmanlaw.com

Member

Term Ending: 2018

- P78203 Elizabeth Kamm Abdnour, East Lansing
P57076 Jennifer S. Bentley, Lansing
P57203 Caroline Bermudez-Jomaa, Detroit
P73708 Aaron Vaughn Burrell, Detroit
P74225 Daphne Short Cunningham, Auburn Hills
Jamie A. Hochman Herz, Farmington Hills
P70648 Sarah Ann Luke, Chicago
P66497 Keith L. Morris, Lansing
P77019 Carolyn E. Noble, Detroit
P62288 Sherry D. O'Neal, Detroit
P57191 Kimberly A. Paulson, Detroit
P62753 Jean-Paul Rudell, Escanaba
P77401 Rachel Renee Suhrbier, Kalamazoo
P81376 Emily M. Sullivan, Detroit
Virginia C. Thomas, Detroit
P74562 Veronica T. Thronson, East Lansing
P66964 Angela S. Tripp, Ann Arbor

P71349 Maya K. Watson, Detroit
P28106 Robert L. Willis, Jr., Southfield

Advisor

P28273 Hon. Denise Page Hood, Detroit
P28571 Linda K. Rexer, Ann Arbor

State Bar Liaison

P32078 Candace A. Crowley, Lansing
P66868 Robert G. Mathis, Jr., Lansing

State Bar Liaison Assistant

Jennifer Williams, Lansing

Committee Meeting Schedule:

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

**Please keep meeting descriptions brief.*

Meeting Type Description	Date	Location
Meeting Type In-Person with Telephone Access Description Review committee structure and BOC's oversight role to ensure SBM Strategic Plan compliance. Review delivery of pro bono in Michigan, aspirational pro bono goals, and recognition tools. Discuss I & I prioritized projects.	11-07-2018	Lansing & Detroit
Meeting Type Telephone Description Report on current progress and next steps for associated workgroup and committees. Discuss and review proposed amendments to MCR 2.002. Encourage member engagement in Access to Justice Initiative (ATJI) committees.	03.06.2018	N/A
Meeting Type Telephone Description At this meeting, the ATJI will review annual reports and assess progress.	06.05.2018	N/A
Meeting Type Description		
Meeting Type Description		
Meeting Type Description		

[Reset Section](#)

Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:

Review volunteer applications and suggest members for ATJI and associated workgroups and committees, poll for meeting dates, work with co-chairs to draft agendas, organize meetings, provide meeting materials, draft minutes, coordinate in-person meetings and teleconferences, and draft Annual Report. In addition to SBM staff, two law student interns also support the work of the ATJI.

[Reset Section](#)

Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies as charged to the committee for fulfillment:

Please use this page while filling out the activities, goals and information pages following.

- GOAL 1: The State Bar of Michigan provides resources to help all of its members achieve professional excellence and success in the practice of law.**
 - Strategy 1: Helping new lawyers to be practice ready
 - Strategy 2: Supporting each active member's professional competence and continuing professional development
 - Strategy 3: Engaging members in learning about and implementing innovative delivery methods
 - Strategy 4: Promoting greater member engagement to connect members with the bar, its resources and each other
- GOAL 2: The State Bar of Michigan champions access to justice, and builds public trust and confidence in the justice system in Michigan.**
 - Strategy 1: Creating and maintaining an accessible, coordinated online foundation of legal resources for the public
 - Strategy 2: Creating and maintaining greater public awareness and competence around legal issues that affect them
 - Strategy 3: Expanding opportunities for SBM members to participate in access to justice initiatives through traditional means including pro bono and by partnering with public service organizations, local and affinity bars
 - Strategy 4: Encouraging improved diversity and inclusion of the profession as a fundamental component of the public's respect for the rule of law and confidence and trust in the justice system
 - Strategy 5: Expanding collaboration with professional organizations and communities outside of the legal community
 - Strategy 6: Providing timely, targeted messages to promote understanding of the rule of law and role of judiciary and the legal profession
- GOAL 3: The State Bar of Michigan maintains the highest conduct among its members, and initiates and advocates for improvements that facilitate accessible, timely justice.**
 - Strategy 1: Working with our partners to effectively regulate the legal profession in Michigan
 - Strategy 2: Educating members on ethical rules and regulations
 - Strategy 3: Reviewing ethical rules and regulation, and adapting them to eliminate barriers to innovation
 - Strategy 4: Conducting research and development that promotes innovation and forecasts change
 - Strategy 5: Pursuing permissible and achievable public policy goals, while minimizing divisiveness and encouraging member input and diverse points of view on public policy issues
 - Strategy 6: Promoting respect for diversity as an important element of professionalism
- GOAL 4: The State Bar of Michigan structures itself to achieve its strategic goals in a responsive and cost-efficient manner.**
 - Strategy 1: Developing governance, member and administrative structures that provide for broad-based decision making and timely action
 - Strategy 2: Employing practices that strengthen the State Bar of Michigan's fiscal position and responsible use of resources
 - Strategy 3: Ensuring the technology infrastructure follows best business practices and is poised to meet the future needs of members and the State Bar of Michigan
 - Strategy 4: Targeting the State Bar of Michigan's communications to build awareness of bar programs and initiatives among members and the recipient community

Committee Activities and Strategic Goal Accomplishments:

Please list each accomplishment/activity, and indicate which strategic plan area it supports by checking the corresponding boxes.

<p>The I & I Steering Committee prioritized the Delivery Committee's ongoing and new work for the bar year. The Delivery Committee in turn prioritized the work of the ATJI and assessed whether goals of Strategic Plan are being met. The ATJI included many of the ongoing projects on the old Pro Bono Initiative, as well as the newly formed Consistent Fee Waiver Workgroup which will proposed needed amendment to MCR 2.002.</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G4 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S6 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reset Section</p>
<p>MI Free Legal Answers continues to expand and is now serving all low-income clients in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. Low-income clients post legal questions to the MI Free Legal Answers website and pro bono attorneys answer their questions. Clients in need of more help than can be provided through the website are provided with additional information or referred to an appropriate legal aid provider.</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S6 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reset Section</p>
<p>The 2017 John W. Cummiskey Award was presented to attorney Robert Treat of QDRO Express, a member of the State Bar's QDRO Pro Bono Program, at the SBM Annual Awards Dinner at the SBM Next Conference. The award included a \$3,000 stipend payable to Lakeshore Legal Aid and the Michigan Advocacy Program per Mr. Treat's request.</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G2 <input type="checkbox"/>G3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G4 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S6 <input type="checkbox"/>S6 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reset Section</p>
<p>The Ninth Annual October as Pro Bono Month Celebration occurred in 2017, which included about 60 events throughout Michigan during the Pro Bono Month 2017 season. The Pro Bono Month website included a list of upcoming pro bono month events, talking points, a sample speech, and many other resources.</p> <p>The State Bar of Michigan and the Michigan State Bar Foundation worked together to plan the annual ABA Day event in Washington, D.C. The Michigan delegation will talk with members of Congress about the tremendous need and benefits of increased funding for LSC and civil legal services for the poor.</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S6 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reset Section</p>
<p>The Tenth Annual Spring Pro Bono Workshop is slated for May 22, 2018 at the State Bar building. Since January, a workgroup has been hard at work planning sessions designed to encourage interactive discussions amongst attendees, with increased opportunities for attendees to network to discuss strategies for increasing pro bono legal services in Michigan.</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>G4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input type="checkbox"/>S1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S2 <input type="checkbox"/>S2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input type="checkbox"/>S3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S4 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S5 <input type="checkbox"/>S6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>S6 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reset Section</p>

Future Goals and Activities:

The ATJI will continue to develop, recommend, and implement programs to benefit underserved populations in Michigan through innovative programs that include MI Free Legal Answers, the Pro Bono Workshop, Celebrate Pro Bono Month, the Tax Pro Bono Program, the QDRO Pro Bono Program, and the Patent Pro Bono Project. The ATJI will also continue to work to increase resources for civil legal aid providers and the provision of pro bono legal services.

Other Information:

In addition to any other important information, please indicate the titles of any workgroups or subcommittees, and attach their annual report as an addendum.

The Consistent Fee Waiver Workgroup's Annual Report.

[Reset Section](#)

Approved by	Approved	Name
Chair		
Co-chair	X	Keith Morris, Maya Watson
Staff Liaison	X	Robert Mathis, Candace Crowley
Other		

[Email Form](#)