

## Affordable Legal Services Committee

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2020

**Jurisdiction:** Support the State Bar of Michigan’s access to justice and member services goals by:

- Reviewing, developing, and recommend innovative practices to provide low-cost legal services and evaluate efforts to expand access to affordable legal services for persons of modest means, including low bono services; non-profit law firms and sliding scale civil legal services; online dispute resolution and alternative dispute resolution services; lean process analysis, both at law practice and court administrative levels; alternative fee agreements; and fixed fee packages.
- Identifying possible collaborations to support the committee’s jurisdiction
- Identifying the need for any workgroups to support the jurisdiction of the committee
- Conferring and coordinating regularly at least annually with the Justice Initiatives, Unauthorized Practice of Law, Access to Justice Policy, and Online Legal Resources and Referral Center committees
- Identifying possible collaborations to support the committee’s jurisdiction
- Reviewing and evaluating metrics measuring

**Note:** This committee may have more than 15 members.

Time Frame	Strategic Plan Goal/Strategy	Description of Activity
FY 2020	1.3/2.1	Limited scope – in partner with Justice Initiatives Committee, hear from national experts to identify possible areas of limited scope representation practice for pro bono lawyers; continue education in limited scope representation with ICLE Family Law Institute, Cooley Law School, 26th Circuit Bar Association, Michigan Judicial Institute, Marquette Bar, sections, more; Arrange for Bar Journal profile of limited scope practitioner(s); Continue promotion of Connect through scripted messages
	1.3/2.1	Modest means – expand and open more flexible fee model; work with LRS to update website with expanded case types
	1.3/2.1	Online dispute resolution – inventory Michigan courts offering online settlement; learn about possible barriers/access challenges for self-represented litigants
	1.3/2.1	Study sliding scale and non-profit law firm models; explore pro bono development of “non-profit law firm in a box”
	1.3/2.1	Explore LEAN/design thinking supports for practitioners; incorporate focus on tech competence; provide Lean input to PMRC Business Continuity webinar
Current Projects	1.3/2.1	Limited scope pro bono pilot project
	1.3/2.1	Lean Process and tech competence
	1.3/2.1	Affordable Bar Journal article for ATJ theme issue
	1.3/2.1	Non-profit law firm in a box
	1.3/2.1	Possible ODR/ADR expansion
Future Goals	1.3/2.1	Identify LSR pro bono opportunities including possible expanded use of ADR/ODR in post-COVID justice system

	1.3/2.1	Author Bar Journal article
	1.3/2.1	Develop Lean/design thinking tools
	1.3/2.1	Market modest means, limited scope, non-profit/sliding scale practices with most strategic partnerships
	1.3/2.1	Prioritize efforts in collaboration with changing ATJ and statewide planning structures; consider profound changes and access opportunities brought about by quarantine and redesigned legal processes; seek opportunities to partner with relevant structures and identify tools to help lawyers provide affordable legal services for the public.

**Recommended Committee Changes:** Refocus and prioritize work; consider eliminating initiatives that have not progressed.

**Additional Comments:** This committee hold tremendous potential and will benefit greatly from new leadership and staff support.