

American Indian Law – Standing Committee

Jurisdiction

Support the State Bar of Michigan’s efforts to support effective and appropriate interaction between sovereign tribal courts and state and federal courts, and on the practice of law in those courts by:

- Reviewing and making recommendations on relevant proposed court rules and legislation
- Proposing court rule, legislative, or policy changes to advance more effective and appropriate interaction between sovereign tribal courts and state and federal courts

Committee Chair: Judge Angela Sherigan

Staff Liaison: Gregory Conyers

Meetings: In-person: 1; Electronic or phone: 8

Committee Activities

1. Proposed amendments to MCR. Rule 3.993 Guardianship of Minors. The Committee proposed rule amendments so that the rule complied with the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act. The Committee presented the rule proposal to the Representative Assembly and appeared on behalf of SBM before the Michigan Supreme Court at the public administrative hearing.
Goal 3: 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
2. Proposed changes to MCR 5.404(B)(2). The committee is working with SCAO’s Trial Court Improvement Program Committee on language to fix the rule so that it complies with the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act.
Goal 3: 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
3. Participated in Tribal-State-Federal Judicial Forum. The Committee serves as liaison between the Forum and SBM and serves as an avenue for the Forum to put into action the recommendations of the Forum. Committee members attend all Forum meetings.
Goal 2: 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