

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
AWARDS COMMITTEE**

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.

Committee Name: Awards

- Jurisdiction:**
- Recommend attorney recipients qualified to receive awards made in the name of the State Bar of Michigan. Recommend recipients of the annual Liberty Bell Award made to non-attorneys.
 - Recommend the establishment of new awards or discontinuation of existing awards.
 - The President-elect is a member of this committee.

Chair(s) and Committee

Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Lori A. Buiteweg	121 W Washington St Ste 300 Ann Arbor, MI 48104- 1300	(734) 994-3000	buiteweg@nsssb.com
Co-Chair	Julie I. Fershtman	32300 Northwestern Hwy Ste 230 Farmington Hills, MI 48334- 1571	(248) 785-4731	jfershtman@fosterswift.com
State Bar Liaison	Nancy Brown	306 Townsend StLansing, MI 48933-2083	(517) 346-6350	nbrown@mail.michbar.org
State Bar Liaison	Samantha Meinke	306 Townsend StLansing, MI 48933-2012		smeinke@mail.michbar.org

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Jennifer S. Bentley	Brian D. Figot
Lori A. Buiteweg	Katherine A. Fox
Francine Cullari	Hon. Denise Langford Morris
Peter J. DeRose	Daniel P. O'Neil
TO BE DETERMINED	Solon M. Phillips
Nancy J. Diehl	Gregory T. Stremers
Julie I. Fershtman	Janet K. Welch

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Committee Meeting

Schedule:

Please describe the meeting type and purpose, including the date, time and location. Any additional information required should be attached as an addendum.

November 12, 2014 3:30 conference call

January 27, 2015 4:00 conference call

March 18, 2015 3:30 conference call

June 3, 2015 3:30 conference call

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

October, second week Staff contacts co-chairpersons to schedule meetings and mailing dates.

Staff sends future meeting dates via e-mail to committee members

November, first week Staff designs and updates language of Awards Brochure and online nomination forms to reflect new awards, new deadlines and any other changes to the process that have been made.

Nov. 12, 2014 Staff called a teleconference to discuss negative feedback received about the Awards Banquet in the Annual Meeting feedback survey. Attendees of the banquet felt it was too long and that too many awards were granted. The committee determined that the awards presentation should no longer stop for photos, but that there should be no limits placed on the number awards granted. Staff takes meeting minutes.

January, first week Staff posts updated Awards Brochure and nomination forms online

Staff prepares and issues news release and brochure (printed and electronic) to legal newspapers and SBM Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, State Bar Foundation, local and affinity bars, prosecutor and defender associations, law school deans, courts, large law firms, SBM Section and Committee chairpersons, etc.

Staff prepares and posts announcement for Michigan Bar Journal, e-Journal, SBM eblast, SBMBlog, social media sites and other publications.

Staff updates and posts the following documents to the portal one week before first teleconference:

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
AWARDS COMMITTEE

1. Announcement of first meeting
2. Mission and member list
3. Links to SBM By-Laws Articles V1, VIII
<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/bylaws.cfm#6>
<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/bylaws.cfm#8>
4. Awards Procedures and Policies
5. Awards Committee Schedule
6. Previous year's Annual Report
7. Copy of Award Nomination Brochure
8. Copy of awards news release
9. Listing of all previous award recipients

Jan. 27, 2015	Second teleconference meeting takes place – staff introduces committee to awards process and drafts meeting minutes
February–April, second week	Staff prepares EXCEL tables summarizing nominees' accomplishments as applications are received.
March, second week	Chairpersons and staff discuss nominations (number and diversity—age, race, gender, geography, etc.), to determine if additional solicitation is needed. Deadline reminders are sent to media and legal community. Email was sent to committee to ask them to seek additional nominations.
March 18, 2015	Second teleconference meeting takes place — committee members report on groups they reached out to for nominations. Staff takes meeting minutes.
April, first week	Staff acknowledges receipt of nominations by mail, e-mail or phone call to nominator. Staff conducts simple background checks on nominees before names are submitted for consideration
April, third week	Staff compiles booklet in April (news articles and recommendations referenced in EXCEL matrix will be available for members prior to June meeting)
May, last week	Staff creates and sends Survey Monkey survey to committee members to narrow down list of nominees. Staff sends announcement of third meeting via e-mail
June 2, 2015	Staff compiles results from Survey Monkey survey and emails them to committee members to help them make final decisions.
June 3, 2015	Third teleconference meeting takes place – award recipients are chosen. Staff compiles meeting minutes.

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
AWARDS COMMITTEE**

June 4, 2015	Staff drafts memorandum from co-chairpersons to SBM Board with recommendations for award winners
June	After SBM Board meeting, staff prepares letter from State Bar Executive Director to award winners who were chosen, and letters to nominators of non-winners with a mention that their nominations carry over for a second year
Summer	Staff prepares publicity for the awards recipients by researching them, gathering photos of them, and writing feature stories about them for the Bar Journal, SBM website, SBMBlog, and social media sites. Staff sends news releases announcing winners, and posts list on website, blog, newsletters and social media. Staff orders Awards and writes speeches for SBM presidents so they can present awards, scripts for the awards banquet, and drafts and designs an event program for the Annual Meeting Awards ceremony.
October 7, 2015	Awards are presented to winners at SBM Awards Banquet – part of the SBM Annual Meeting

Committee Activities:

The committee members go out and seek good quality nominations for SBM awards. For the coming year's awards cycle (coming to an end at the 2015 Annual Meeting, where the awards will be handed out), there are 24 nominations to consider for seven awards (some awards can have multiple recipients).

In the last year's cycle, commencing at the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Committee gave out awards to 11 Michigan attorneys and two Liberty Bell Awards to non-attorneys:

Roberts P. Hudson Award

Francine Cullari
Carl E. Ver Beek

Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award

Corbin R. Davis

Champion of Justice Award

Bridgette A. Carr
Brian L. Morrow
Michael L. Pitt
Dawn A. Van Hoek
DeBoer et al v Snyder et al plaintiff legal team (Kenneth M. Mogill, Dana M. Nessel, Robert A. Sedler, Carole M. Stanyar)

Kim Cahill Bar Leadership Award

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Thomas G. McNeill

John W. Reed Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award

No award

John W. Cumiskey Pro Bono Award

Susan M. Kornfield

Liberty Bell Award

Matilyn Sarosi

Gary B. Lasceski

Note: The Awards Committee has one co-chairperson ex-officio as the President-elect of the SBM Board of Commissioners. The second co-chairperson is the operating co-chairperson appointed by the President of the SBM Board.

Future Goals and Activities:

The committee members work very hard every year to seek out nominations, and ensure that they are submitted by the nomination deadlines. An important goal of this committee is to also make sure that the quality of the award recipients is always outstanding and that the winners represent diversity in the legal profession.