

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 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 subentity 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 subentity.

Committee Name: Domestic Violence

Jurisdiction: · Make recommendations to increase attorney awareness of domestic violence. · Make recommendations and encourage training of attorneys and judges on legal remedies and community resources for victims of domestic violence. · Develop and distribute legal resources involving domestic violence and victims' access to the legal process. · Assist in the coordination of domestic violence programs and activities in Michigan.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Darling A. Garcia	3815 W Saint Joseph St Ste C200 Lansing, MI 48917-3671	(517) 853-2367	dgarcia@elderlawofmi.org
Co-Chair	Veronica T. Thronson	610 Abbot Rd East Lansing, MI 48823-3369	(517) 336-8088 x1014	veronica.thronson@law.msu.edu
State Bar Liaison	Robert G. Mathis, Jr.	306 Townsend St Lansing, MI 48933-2012	(517) 346-6412	RMathis@mail.michbar.org

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Emily Ann Calabrese	Robert William Mendham, Jr.
Danielle J. Carter	Audrey R. Monaghan
Nancy E. Gallagher	Melissa Maria Pearce
Darling A. Garcia	Bruce E. Petrick
Hon. Richard B. Halloran	Elizabeth Marie Petsche
Martin J. Hillard	Eilisia G. Schwarz
Abigail Jennex	Rebecca E. Shiemke
Jennifer Veronica Lamp	Katherine Karen Strickfaden
Mary M. Lovik	Veronica T. Thronson
Ashley E. Lowe	Rebecca L. Veidlinger
Kathleen M. Maine	

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

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.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Public Policy Subcommittee	May 13, 2014	Teleconference
Full Committee	May 16, 2014	In-Person
Public Policy Subcommittee	June 12, 2014	Teleconference
Full Committee	June 13, 2014	Teleconference
Public Policy Subcommittee	September 9, 2014	Teleconference
Full Committee	September 12, 2014	Teleconference
Full Committee	November 7, 2014	Teleconference
Publications Subcommittee	November 7, 2014	Teleconference
Public Policy Subcommittee	November 20, 2014	Teleconference
Full Committee	December 12, 2014	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee	December 16, 2014	Teleconference
Full Committee	January 9, 2015	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee	January 13, 2015	Teleconference
Publications Subcommittee	February 13, 2015	Teleconference
Full Committee	February 13, 2015	Teleconference
Full Committee	March 13, 2015	Teleconference
Publications Subcommittee	March 13, 2015	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee	March 13, 2015	Teleconference
Publications Subcommittee	April 10, 2015	Teleconference
Full Committee	April 10, 2015 (Postponed until May 8, 2015)	Teleconference
Public Policy Subcommittee	TBD (April __, 2015)	Teleconference

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

The State Bar of Michigan provides the Standing Committee on Domestic Violence with staff support and a modest budget to facilitate projects, trainings, and meetings.

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2014-2015 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Activities:

The Domestic Violence Committee is a very active committee that seeks to explore areas in which change, education, training, and awareness can have a positive impact in reducing the incidents of domestic violence and increasing the safety of victims and their children as they proceed through the legal system.

The Domestic Violence Committee has created four subcommittees:

- **Training and System Education**
 - *Mission: Continue exploring and scheduling training opportunities; possibly develop training and education opportunities regarding understanding trauma of the victim and how that needs to be considered throughout the legal process.*
- **Public Policy**
 - *Mission: Address public policy items that are sent to the full DV Committee for consideration.*
- **Publications**
 - *Mission: Oversee the Family Law Journal assignments, topics, and reminders, as well as explore other publication opportunities.*
- **Resource** (This subcommittee meets only as needed)
 - *Mission: Explore how to broaden the mission; to review how the criminal side of domestic violence intersects with the goals of the committee and attempt to have more involvement with those players (i.e., law enforcement, prosecutors, etc.).*
 -

The subcommittees meet on a regular basis (depending on need) focusing on their specific targeted areas. A reporting time is set aside at each monthly meeting of the DV Committee for each subcommittee to provide a report to the full committee for discussion or vote.

Michigan Family Law Journal Articles

In response to a column in 2008 by the editor of the Family Law Journal calling for more action on preventing domestic violence, the committee contacted Norman Robbins and offered to coordinate a monthly “domestic violence column” in the Family Law Journal. As a result, beginning with the June/July 2008 edition, the committee has published a monthly article related to domestic violence and authored by committee members or guest experts in the field. The articles submitted for publication, with the general article topic, from May 1, 2014 to May 1, 2015 are as follows:

- May 2014 Issue – Human Trafficking
- June/July 2014 Issue – Review of the DV Screening Tools Developed by the Minnesota Bar Association
- August/September 2014 Issue – Child Custody and the Hague Convention
- October 2014 Issue– Pro Bono Month

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

- November 2014 Issue – Holding PPO Petitioners in Contempt for Violations of the Order
- December 2014 Issue– Cell Phone Location, Privacy and Intimate Partner Violence
- January 2015 Issue – Solutions on Self-Help Update
- March 2014 Issue – Mediation and Domestic Violence Protocol
- May 2014 Issue – Title IX

Public Policy Positions – Positions taken by the Domestic Violence Committee, but not necessarily positions taken by the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

Bill or Michigan Court Rule Reviewed by the DV Committee	General Issue of the Public Policy Item	DV Committee Position
MCR 3.206	This proposed court rule amendment would limit the ability of a court to require one party to pay another party's attorney fees	Oppose
SB 980	Requiring alternate service on DV victims in appeal	Support
SB 981	Anti-Trolling Bill	Support
HB 5652	Limiting mediation in DV cases	Support
HB 5657	Requiring the Department of Education to develop a model curriculum about teenage dating violence	Support
HB 5658	Adding pet protection to PPOs	Support
HB 5659	Allowing the search for and seizure of firearms and ammunition during a domestic violence incident	Support
HB 5082	Parenting Coordinator	Oppose
HB 4913	A strategic limitation on SLAPP law suits	Support
MCR 3.705	The proposed amendment to MCR 3.705(C) would prohibit publication on the Internet of information that could reveal the identity or location of a PPO petitioner or other party protected by a PPO	Support
HB 4120 (2014) / HB 4141 (2015)	Mandatory Joint Custody	Oppose
HB 4132	Custody Act and First Refusal	Oppose

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

HB 4176	Expunge criminal history records if complaining witness recants	Oppose
---------	--	--------

Future Goals and Activities:

- **Pro Bono Family Law Training – October 23, 2015**

The committee will conduct a pro bono training for attorneys who are new to the area of domestic violence family law. The training is slated for October 23, 2015. Subject matter of the training will include, but not be limited to, how to conduct the initial client interview with DV survivors, substantive legal issues, initial pleadings and service, pre-trial and trial practice, and trauma informed practice. In exchange for the free training, attorneys will agree to handle a domestic violence family law case, referred from their local legal aid organization, on a pro bono basis.

- **Webinars**

The DV Committee is reviewing the feasibility of providing webinar(s) to Michigan attorneys handling domestic violence family law cases. Webinar topics may include Personal Protection Orders, Property Division Procedures (QDROs, retirement accounts, spousal support, etc), and others.

- **Prepare Written Information Regarding Domestic Violence Issues**

The DV Committee has discussed creating and distributing written materials regarding various domestic violence issues.