

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2009-2010 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:** Justice Initiatives

**Jurisdiction:** Develop and recommend proposals for the effective delivery of high quality legal services in Michigan, equal and fair to all. This committee consists of several initiatives whose activities include:

- Analyzing and making recommendations for positions on proposed legislation, court rules, and other policies relevant to the committee's jurisdiction.
- Developing policies and programs to benefit underserved populations, including juveniles and those with special needs.
- Encouraging and coordinating free or discounted civil legal services.
- Working to increase resources for civil legal aid programs.
- Examining collateral civil consequences of criminal convictions and issues of adequate representation in the criminal justice system

**Chairs and Committee Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Terri L. Stangl	320 S Washington 2nd Fl Saginaw, MI 48607	989 755-3120	<a href="mailto:tstangl@ccj-mi.org">tstangl@ccj-mi.org</a>
Co-Chair	Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens	3020 W Grand Blvd, Suite 14-300 Detroit, MI 48202-6020	313 972-5708	<a href="mailto:cstephens@courts.mi.gov">cstephens@courts.mi.gov</a>
Staff Liaisons	Janet K. Welch Candace Crowley	State Bar of Michigan	517 346-6331 517 346-6319	<a href="mailto:jwelch@mail.michbar.org">jwelch@mail.michbar.org</a> <a href="mailto:ccrowley@mail.michbar.org">ccrowley@mail.michbar.org</a>
Commissioner Liaison	Lori A. Buiteweg	121 W Washington St, Suite 300 Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1300	734 994-3000	<a href="mailto:buiteweg@nsssb.com">buiteweg@nsssb.com</a>

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Erika L. Akinyemi	Robert Fair Gillett
Lorray S.C. Brown	Alyce M. Haas
Margaret A. Costello	Martin P. Krohner
Evanne L. Dietz	Linda K. Rexer
Frank D. Eaman	

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Justice Initiatives Kickoff	October 3, 2009	State Bar Building

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Teleconference	December 11, 2009	n/a
Teleconference	February 16, 2010	n/a
Justice Initiatives Summit	April 12, 2010	State Bar Building
Teleconference	April 26, 2010	n/a
Teleconference	June 21, 2010	n/a

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

The State Bar of Michigan provides Committee on Justice Initiative (CJI) with staff support and a budget to facilitate projects and meetings. Please also see the individual initiatives.

**Committee Redesign**

The Committee on Justice Initiatives was redesigned over the last year and the new committee organization features an Annual Justice Initiatives Summit. By invitation of the president of the State Bar, prominent public officials and other high-level stakeholders, justice initiatives leaders, individuals with expertise in state and national movements and trends, and “big thinkers,” will attend. A Summit Cabinet consisting of the State Bar president-elect and executive director, the executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, and two presidential appointees from the Committee on Justice Initiatives will be responsible for planning and execution. The Summit will provide an opportunity for all major players in justice initiatives issues, including representatives of the Supreme Court, and executive and legislative branches, to come together to exchange perspectives and information on the most important access to justice issues, and the challenges and opportunities facing Michigan and its legal community in the upcoming year. They will be informed of current JI work from a report given by the State Bar of Michigan Executive Director. The Summit will be convened in April so that its insights and perspectives can be used in identifying issues to address and preparing the budget for the next bar year. Under extraordinary circumstances, a biannual Summit might be convened.

The **Committee on Justice Initiatives** Volunteer Managers Team will be appointed by the president of the State Bar of Michigan and will consist of all Initiative Co-chairs, additional volunteers, and the executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. CJI will meet quarterly or as needed and will be responsible for managing the work of the Initiatives with a goal of assisting the State Bar with strategic goals and establishing priorities, coordinating projects, and working on a communication strategy.

The CJI includes four **Initiatives**: Criminal Issues Initiative, Equal Access Initiative, Justice Policy Initiative and the Pro Bono Initiative. Each will provide an opportunity for State Bar members and other justice system stakeholders to participate in furthering the work of the State Bar in a variety of concrete ways suited to their particular interest and talents. Initiatives advance ideas for projects, workgroups and training events to CJI. If applicable, Initiatives can make policy recommendations on legislation, court rule proposals, or final recommendations at the conclusion of approved projects. Such recommendations will be reviewed by CJI; if they have not taken any action within two weeks of receiving a recommendation from an Initiative, the recommendation will be advanced to the Public Policy, Image and Identity committee of the Board of Commissioners, or the appropriate committee of the Representative Assembly.

The work of the **Internal Cabinet**, an advisory group for the Access to Justice ATJ Campaign which provides a forum for collaborative discussion among the ATJ partners the State Bar, the Michigan State Bar Foundation, and legal aid providers, will continue to be an important resource for the Justice Initiatives program.

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**Committee Activities:**

A **Justice Initiatives Open House** at the State Bar Annual Meeting on Friday, September 18, 2009 from 2 – 4 pm. All State Bar members and Annual Meeting attendees were invited to this informal gathering for a chance to sip wine, win prizes and meet JI staff and volunteers.

The Committee and all Initiatives held the **Annual Kickoff** on October 3, 2009. The agenda for that meeting included a presentation on pro se in Michigan, a presentation about the Judicial Crossroads Task Force, and a presentation from Lorraine Weber, the Michigan Supreme Court’s new Director of Access and Fairness.

**Representative Assembly Presentation, March 27, 2010:** CJI Co-Chair Terri Stangl made a presentation about JI work at the March RA meeting so that members have ideas on how JI work connects with local bars and other groups they have contact with.

**Justice Initiatives Summit:** The Summit occurred on April 12 and focused on “Addressing the Needs of the Unrepresented: Assisting the Self-Represented, Unbundled Legal Services, Civil Right to Counsel.” Two distinguished experts - Massachusetts Appeals Court Judge Cynthia Cohen and New England School of Law Professor Russ Engler spoke on the topic. Both have examined this issue and worked toward solutions for the unrepresented in their jurisdictions, and both are nationally recognized leaders and experts. There was consensus that the Summit was a good opportunity to present both contextual and pragmatic information on the challenge of the unrepresented to a wider group of Michigan stakeholders.

Throughout the year, the CJI met to assess the work of its initiatives to keep informed of the work of the **Access to Justice Crossroads Task Force**. Separate reports for each of the four initiatives are included below.



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**Committee Name:** Criminal Issues Initiative

**Jurisdiction:** The dual purposes of this initiative are to address issues of indigent criminal defense in Michigan and to educate the legal community on civil collateral consequences.

**Chair(s) and Committee Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Frank Eaman	645 Griswold Suite 3060 Detroit, MI 48226	313/962-7210	eaman@eamanlaw.com
Co-Chair	Martin Krohner	PO Box 3348 Farmington Hills, MI 48333	248/464-0040	marty@mich.com
Staff Liaison	Elizabeth Lyon Amanda Chubb	State Bar of Michigan	517/346-6325 517/346-6396	elyon@mail.michbar.org achubb@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	n/a			

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Miriam Aukerman	Daniel Less
Sheila Spalding Blakney	Hon. Mabel Mayfield
Caridad Pastor Cardinale	James Neuhard
Anthony Derezinski	Valerie Newman
Martin Glista	Hon. Angela Kay Sherigan
Heather Garretson	Regina Daniels Thomas
Stacy Hickox	Kym Worthy
David Koelsch	

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

<b>Note:</b> Co-chairs and SBM staff meet via teleconference and meetings of the whole are convened when action items are present. Project workgroups meet separately as the work requires.		
Meeting Type	Date	Location
Teleconference	November 24, 2009	n/a
In person	May 12, 2010	State Bar of Michigan
Teleconference	Late Aug/Early Sept (proposed)	n/a

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

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The State Bar of Michigan provides the Criminal Issues Initiative with staff support and an initiative budget to facilitate projects and meetings.

**Committee Activities:**

The Criminal Issues Initiative committed to undertaking two new projects for the 2009-2010 bar year. Both projects will extend into the next bar year.

**PROJECT 1: Collateral Consequences Act**

- Purpose: Participate in Uniform Law Revision Commission workgroup that will examine possible benefits of implementing the Uniform Collateral Consequences Act in Michigan.
- Goal: The CII will review and analyze the Act. If the review is favorable, they will aim to have the bill and any recommendations approved by the Representative Assembly at their September 2010 meeting. If approved, work will be done to introduce the bill at the beginning of the legislative session in 2011.

**PROJECT 2: Reclassification of Low Level Misdemeanors**

- Purpose: Evaluate the ability to reclassify low level misdemeanors as civil infractions in partnership with other groups that may include SADO, PAAM, and the Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice Committee.
- Goals: Focusing on non-criminal misdemeanors in Michigan, evaluate the current landscape of what constitutes a misdemeanor in Michigan and what avenue would be needed to reclassify certain examples, in order to help mitigate the tide of Michigan citizens who are experiencing collateral consequences from their criminal record and to potentially reduce the criminal case load.

**ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM**

The CII has requested an Annual Meeting program that will highlight the growing public defense reform movement in Michigan, or similar topics.

**PUBLIC DEFENSE REFORM**

House Bill 5676 that would create a statewide public defender office in Michigan was introduced in December 2009. CII members are active in attending and providing assistance in the efforts for public defense reform.

**DEMOGRAPHICS PROJECT**

The Demographics project, which is a compilation of data pertinent to criminal justice issues within the state of Michigan, will be published as an online resource this bar year.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

Initiative members have discussed a project that would aim to create attorney awareness around the new requirements set forth for effective assistance of counsel by the 2010 Supreme Court ruling in *Padilla v. Commonwealth of Kentucky*. The ruling has major implications for attorneys representing clients who are not citizens in criminal cases; attorneys must now be aware of the immigration consequences of any conviction, and provide correct advice to their clients.

Initiative members will discuss at their next meeting the possibility of forming a workgroup to review self-representation in district court misdemeanor cases, and consequential violations of *Argersinger* (requiring counsel in misdemeanor cases where a jail sentence is possible), violations of *Rothgery* (requiring the assistance of counsel at the accused's first court appearance), and contact between unrepresented persons and prosecutors.

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**Committee Name:** Equal Access Initiative

**Jurisdiction:** This group develops projects, programs and trainings to benefit underserved populations on issues such as race and ethnicity, gender and disability.

**Chair(s) and Committee Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Evanne Dietz	Oakland County FOC PO Box 436012 Pontiac, MI 48343	248 975-9770	<a href="mailto:dietze@oakgov.com">dietze@oakgov.com</a>
Co-Chair	Erika Akinyemi	645 Griswold Suite 1300 Detroit, MI 48226	313 237-6295	<a href="mailto:ekinyemi@sbcglobal.net">ekinyemi@sbcglobal.net</a>
Staff Liaison	Gregory Conyers Judy Hershkowitz	State Bar of Michigan	517/346-6358 517/346-6335	<a href="mailto:gconyers@mail.michbar.org">gconyers@mail.michbar.org</a> <a href="mailto:jhershkowitz@mail.michbar.org">jhershkowitz@mail.michbar.org</a>
Commissioner Liaison	n/a			

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Teresa Bingman	Dale A. Iverson
Tracey W. Brame	Linda D. Johnson
Hon. William J. Caprathe	Hon. Sheila Johnson
Mark A. Cody	Mark D. McWilliams
Ann M. Cooper	Dean John Nussbaumer
J. Kay Felt	Hon. Paul S. Teranes
Hon. Lisa Gigliotti	Laurin' C. Roberts Thomas
Coffiann U. Hawthorne	Marcelina Treviño-Savala

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

<b>Note:</b> The initiative members meet in person and via conference call as follows. Project workgroups meet separately as the work requires.		
Meeting Type	Date	Location
In person	November 24, 2009	State Bar of Michigan
Teleconference	February 18, 2010	n/a
In person	May 20, 2010	State Bar of Michigan

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Teleconference	June 17, 2010	n/a
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**Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:**

The State Bar of Michigan provides the Equal Access Initiative (EAI) with staff support and an initiative budget to facilitate projects and meetings.

**Committee Activities:**

EAI has various workgroups which include:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution Task Force on Diversity
- Disabilities WorkGroup
- Diversity Project
- Jury Curriculum Program

The **Alternative Dispute Resolution Task Force on Diversity** (ADR TF) established a steering committee and then held three day long working sessions with a large group of stakeholders from around the state that included experts in both ADR issues and diversity issues. Those sessions were designed to obtain input on the best ways to move forward with the need for diverse practitioners and to take into account serving diverse clients. The task force members have developed a plan and recommendations for promoting diversity in this arena. The Task Force is a unique partnership between EAI and the Bar's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

The **Disabilities Workgroup** has multiple projects. They are working on an update to the 2001 disabilities report that provides recommendations for law firms, law schools, and the courts. This update has included multiple focus groups, the creation of a complex survey instrument and collaboration with the State Court Administrative Office. A second project is a quarterly online e-newsletter with concise, utilitarian articles regarding disabilities issues; five years of these newsletters have been completed and the project is ongoing [www.michbar.org/programs/equalaccess.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/programs/equalaccess.cfm). This group is overseeing the *Michigan Bar Journal* theme issue on disabilities for August 2010. They have researched legislation regarding mental health diversion issues and submitted a nomination for a State Bar award.

The **Diversity Project** held dual symposia on diversity in the legal profession on March 2009 at two law school locations. The focus was the retention of the retention of underrepresented attorneys in the legal profession. Each symposium included a panel composed of a wide range of prestigious volunteers from across the state and a roundtable breakout brainstorming session, which assisted in identifying the project's next steps toward implementation of recommendations and ideas. There was active and enthusiastic participation from attendees.

The Diversity Project is now planning three events in June 2010 to promote the creation of a statement of commitment to diversity which will be followed by a signing event at the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting in September 2010. This work is being guided by the Bar's Director of Diversity, a new position created in the last bar year.

The **Jury Curriculum Program** is one that requires the collaboration of the legal and educational communities. Working with the Michigan Center for Civic Education, lawyers, judges and teachers throughout the state, come together to teach the concepts of due process, equal protection, individual rights and justice as they apply to the importance of jury service and the value of diverse jury pools. The curriculum has been presented to school districts in Kent, Genesee, Berrien and Wayne Counties; the most recent programs were held in Benton Harbor and Detroit.

**Additional EAI work** includes the filing of an amicus brief in the Michigan Supreme Court case of *Pellegrino v AMPCO Parking*. Leave was granted on the sole issue of whether MCR 2.511(F) (2) was violated

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by the trial court. On the recommendation of EAI, the State Bar opposed the adoption of the rule in 2005; the amicus brief will be filed to restate State Bar opposition to the rule.

EAI members contributed to the publication of a *Michigan Bar Journal* theme issue on cultural awareness issues in January 2010. It is available at [www.michbar.org/journal/home.cfm?viewtype=archive&volumeid=120](http://www.michbar.org/journal/home.cfm?viewtype=archive&volumeid=120).

In addition to these programs and projects, justice initiatives staff and volunteers attended a variety of national conferences in 2009. In addition to the Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in Pittsburgh, they attended the Equal Justice Conference held in Florida and the American Bar Association Presidential Diversity Summit held in Maryland, and the ABA Council on Access and Fairness Staff Diversity Directors Forum in California.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

Several aspects of the current projects are ongoing and all will continue into the next bar year. The Diversity Project is considering presenting additional symposia and they have been awarded a theme issue of the Michigan Bar Journal. The Disabilities WorkGroup is interested in a program on therapeutic justice, in addition to the completion of the updated disabilities report and ongoing quarterly e-newsletters. The Jury Curriculum program is looking into more programs with the schools, perhaps in the Southfield school district as well as repeating some of their prior programs. The ADR Task Force will proceed with the recommendations obtained from the three working sessions.

In addition, EAI is interested in the long list of recommendations that are the result of the work done by the Access To Justice Committee of the State Bar Judicial Crossroads Task Force. There is an interest in the projects to be undertaken by the Chief Justice’s Office of Access and Fairness and in the Court’s newly created Task Force regarding pro se representation.

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**Committee Name:** Justice Policy Initiatives

**Jurisdiction:** Analyzes and recommends positions on proposed legislation, court rules, and other policies relevant to the Justice Initiatives.

**Co-Chairs and Committee Members:**

| Officer              | Name              | Address                                                                            | Telephone    | Email                                                              |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-Chair             | Lorray S.C. Brown | Michigan Poverty Law Program, 220 East Huron St, Suite 600A, Ann Arbor, MI 48104   | 734 998-6100 | <a href="mailto:lorrayb@lsscm.org">lorrayb@lsscm.org</a>           |
| Co-Chair             | Terri L. Stangl   | Center for Civil Justice, 320 S. Washington, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl, Saginaw, MI 48607 | 989 755-3120 | <a href="mailto:tstangl@ccj-mi.org">tstangl@ccj-mi.org</a>         |
| Staff Liaison        | Elizabeth K. Lyon | State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend, 48933                                         | 517 346-6325 | <a href="mailto:elyon@mail.michbar.org">elyon@mail.michbar.org</a> |
| Commissioner Liaison | n/a               |                                                                                    |              |                                                                    |

| Member/Advisor/Other | Member/Advisor/Other |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Michael J. Blau      | Nancy L. Mullett     |
| Roland C. Fancher    | Kenneth C. Penokie   |



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|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Marcia E. Femrite        | Solon M. Phillips    |
| Jessica S. Fox           | Melinda A. Pitman    |
| Pamela R. Galloway       | Sydney Rooks         |
| Catherine Grochowski     | Christine N. Seppala |
| Hemant Madhusudan Keskar | Thomas A. Stotz      |
| Martin P. Krohner        | Thomas K. Thornburg  |
| Catherine L. McClure     | Karen M. Tjapkes     |

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

| Meeting Type                               | Date             | Location              |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| In Person Meeting                          | October 29, 2009 | State Bar of Michigan |
| New Member Teleconference                  | November 9, 2009 | n/a                   |
| Teleconference                             | December 3, 2009 | n/a                   |
| Identification Subcommittee Teleconference | January 6, 2010  | n/a                   |
| Identification Subcommittee Teleconference | January 25, 2010 | n/a                   |
| Teleconference                             | February 4, 2010 | n/a                   |

**Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:** The committee receives staff support from Elizabeth Lyon and Carrie Sharlow

**Committee Activities:** The committee reviewed 28 public policy items and provided six positions that were subject for review by the Committee on Justice Initiatives before they were provided to the Board of Commissioners and Executive Committee.

The committee formed a subcommittee to focus on the issue of access to justice and identification required for access to buildings or courthouses where essential services are provided. The Identification Subcommittee met twice in the beginning of the year with the final result being a draft position entitled “Equal Access to Personal Identification” that was provided to the full committee at its next meeting.

**Future Goals and Activities:** If the CJI Summit Meeting or Judicial Crossroads includes specific policy recommendations that are within the JPI purview, JPI will consider whether to develop specific policy positions or proposed court rules for consideration by the Representative Assembly.

JPI would welcome more opportunities to participate in discussions about important policy positions with other bar entities. This may result in stronger positions with a more unified base of support.



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**Committee Name:** Pro Bono Initiative

**Jurisdiction:** Encouraging and coordinating free or discounted civil legal services.

**Chair(s) and Initiative Members:**

| Officer              | Name              | Address                                             | Telephone              | Email                                                                    |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-Chair             | Margaret Costello | 400 Renaissance Center<br>Detroit, MI<br>48243-1668 | 313-568-5306           | <a href="mailto:mcostello@dykema.com">mcostello@dykema.com</a>           |
| Co-Chair             | Robert F. Gillett | 420 N 4th Ave<br>Ann Arbor, MI<br>48104-1104        | 734 665-6181<br>ext 24 | <a href="mailto:rgillett@umich.edu">rgillett@umich.edu</a>               |
| Staff Liaison        | Candace Crowley   | State Bar of Michigan                               | 517 346-6319           | <a href="mailto:ccrowley@mail.michbar.org">ccrowley@mail.michbar.org</a> |
| Commissioner Liaison | n/a               |                                                     |                        |                                                                          |

| Member/Advisor/Other | Member/Advisor/Other  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Colin M. Bryce       | Hon. Denise Page Hood |
| Thomas F. Cavalier   | Joan Glanton Howard   |
| Evanne L. Dietz      | Ashley E. Lowe        |
| Kirsten A. Enstice   | Heidi A. Naasko       |
| Mark P. Fancher      | Linda K. Rexer        |
| Rick A. Haberman     | Amy L. Sankaran       |

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

| Meeting Type   | Date               | Location |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Teleconference | July 14, 2009      | n/a      |
| Teleconference | September 14, 2009 | n/a      |
| Teleconference | December 7, 2009   | n/a      |
| Teleconference | March 22, 2010     | n/a      |

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

The State Bar of Michigan provides the Pro Bono Initiative (PBI) with staff support and an initiative budget to facilitate projects and meetings.

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**Committee Activities:**

The **John W. Cummiskey Award** was presented to attorney Joseph Basta at the State Bar Annual Meeting Awards Reception on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. The award includes a \$2,000 donation to an ATJ program to be made through the Access to Justice Fund. Mr. Basta asked that the award be split equally between Legal Aid of Western Michigan, and the UM Law School Clinical Programs

The first **October Pro Bono Month Celebration** occurred in 2009. A website was developed to post Michigan events, see <http://www.michbar.org/probono.cfm>. The celebration was concluded with an event at the Hall of Justice on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway provided greetings to the audience, and Georgetown Law's Professor Peter Edelman delivered a keynote address based on his vast knowledge and experience with the delivery of civil legal services and pro bono nationwide. The Pro Bono Month website included Governor Granholm's Proclamation recognizing October as Pro Bono month, and information on numerous Michigan events celebrating pro bono. See <http://www.michbar.org/probono.cfm>.

Forty-three attorneys attended **Project SALUTE's Oct. 13 attorney training** at the State Bar of Michigan's Michael Franck Building in Lansing. The all-day workshop, sponsored by the Pro Bono Initiative, in recognition of Pro Bono Month, prepared them to assist low-income veterans in obtaining Federal benefits. Project SALUTE, a program sponsored by the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, provides free legal advice to low income veterans across the country, while teaching law school students the value of using the law to serve the community. It provides attorneys with many opportunities each month to be trained in laws affecting veterans.

For the calendar year ending December 2009, 46 Qualified Domestic Relations Order ("QDRO") cases were referred from legal services programs through the **Michigan Litigation and Partnership Program**, up from 29 in 2008. All 46 cases were placed with a lawyer specializing in pension law. MI-LAPP continues to rely on the QDRO Committee, spearheaded by Mr. Joseph Cunningham of Plante Moran. Joe leads the team of preparers who committed to accepting one referral per month through the program. The team consists of Mary Ade, Nancy Keppelman, David and Jacki Roessler, Bob Treat and newly added in 2009, Jake Sheehy. Expansions to the MI-LAPP work are being developed so that private lawyers with pro bono non-QDRO cases can be covered by the State Bar's malpractice insurance, and so that lawyers who accept cases from ATJ programs without malpractice insurance can be afforded that coverage.

The long awaited membership-wide **Pro Bono Survey** is complete. It was presented to the Board of Commissioners by Bob Gillett and Linda Rexer at the March BOC meeting. It was distributed a large number of stakeholders, was the subject of a press release, and post-survey messages are being developed.

Upon learning that the long-pending pro bono rule has not carried over on the Supreme Court's administrative docket, a PBI workgroup was formed to re-draft the proposed changes to **Model Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1**. The proposed changes were unanimously adopted by the Representative Assembly at its March meeting and are now pending again at the court.

A **QDRO training** occurred on April 29, 2010 at the Plante Moran office in Ann Arbor. Twenty legal services family law lawyers were provided information by QDRO pro bono preparers Nancy Keppelman, Mary Ade, Bob Treat and Jacki Roessler.

The **"Nurture the Power of Pro Bono"** spring coordinators workshop is set for May 26, 2010. Pro bono coordinators around the state will gather to be welcomed by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn J. Kelly and to share best practices.

The PBI provided member Tom Cavalier as a liaison to the **Master Lawyers Section Planning Committee** to enlist support for MRPC 6.1, to help identify pro bono opportunities for Master Lawyers, and to coordinate the development of a "Malpractice Insurance is Not A Barrier to Pro Bono" brochure.

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The **Circle of Excellence** is set to be published in the June issue of the Michigan Bar Journal.

Nominations for the **John W. Cummiskey Award** will be reviewed and a winner identified in May.

The **Second Annual Celebrate Pro Bono Month** is set for October.

The PBI was awarded the **October 2011 theme issue** of the Michigan Bar Journal.

The **pro bono website** proposed after the Detroit Bar Pro Bono Summit was reviewed by the Legal Services Computer Committee, which drafted a report to be reviewed further by the website workgroup.

A State Bar of Michigan delegation attended **ABA Day** in Washington, D.C. on April 20 and 21 to advocate support for increased Legal Services Corporation funding and the Civil Rights Tax Relief Act, which would end the unfair taxation of recoveries for victims of discrimination. The State Bar delegation, consisting of State Bar President Charles Toy, SBM President-elect W. Anthony Jenkins, SBM Treasurer Bruce Courtade, and Reginald Turner of Clark Hill, PC, met with all seventeen Michigan congressional offices. Their efforts were assisted by the SBM Board of Commissioners, who wrote letters of support to their respective legislators, and by many of the LSC funded legal aid organizations in the state.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

Most of the project work described in this report occurs annually, and efforts will be directed to replicating and improving those projects. With the possibility of a change in the unbundling rules, opportunities to market smaller pro bono opportunities and those identified at the Summit can be created. The development of new pro bono menus should be discussed with legal services providers.