

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2010-2011 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:** Committee on 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.

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

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Terri L. Stangl	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>
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 Liaison	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@nssb.com">buiteweg@nssb.com</a>

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

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		

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CJI Meeting	June 21, 2010	Teleconference
Justice Initiatives Kickoff	October 18, 2010	State Bar of Michigan
CJI Meeting	December 13, 2010	Teleconference
CJI Meeting	February 17, 2011	Teleconference

**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 Activities:**

CJI hosted its annual Justice Initiatives Kickoff on Monday, October 18. It was attended by approximately 35 members of the JI community. President Tony Jenkins addressed the group. Linda Rexer and Lorraine Weber, co-chairs of the Solutions on Self-Help Task Force, provided an update on their work and its progress since the April JI summit. A lunchtime discussion focused on the challenge of developing leadership and led to a consensus that this would be a good topic for the spring JI summit. Janet Welch provided a Judicial Crossroads update.

At its December 13 meeting CJI received reports on Judicial Crossroads, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Conference, and the Solutions on Self-Help Task Force. The committee was provided with a copy of the proposed ABA Language Standards which will be reviewed by the ABA House of Delegates at its August 2011 meeting. CJI is interested in the Standards because they advance the language goals of the ATJ Crossroads report.

CJI met on February 17 and received an update on Judicial Crossroads, the ABA Proposed Language Standards, and Solutions on Self Help Task Force. It was advised of the appointment of the Justice Initiatives Summit Cabinet and the progress of that group.

**Justice Initiatives Summit:** The Summit occurred on April 11 and focused on “Engaging the Next Generations of Justice Initiatives Leaders.” Presentations on “Who are Our Future Leaders and How Do They Communicate in today’s World?” and “Where and How Leadership Occurs” were used as a basis for breakout discussions. Five separate groups addressed what actions, strategies and approaches can the State Bar of Michigan take to engage the next generation of lawyers in justice initiatives work. Some of the main themes that developed from the breakouts are to define “justice initiatives” better, to use leadership from each of the four generations within the profession, consider all available communication methods before deciding which works best for reaching a group and helping them work together, allow people to work in whatever structure that works best for them, build new relationships with law schools and begin leadership development there, and be conscious about developing and recognizing leadership skills everywhere. It was suggested that a leadership institute be established. The group agreed that the key to engaging volunteers is to find their particular passion point and have enough opportunities for them to participate from that point. Opportunities can range from undertaking a discrete task to helping one client or to changing the system in a broader way.

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
C0-Chair	Frank Eaman	645 Griswold Suite 3060 Detroit, MI 48226	313 962-7210	<a href="mailto:eaman@eamanlaw.com">eaman@eamanlaw.com</a>
Co-Chair	Martin Krohner	PO Box 3348 Farmington Hills, MI 48333	248 464-0040	<a href="mailto:marty@mich.com">marty@mich.com</a>
Staff Liaison	Elizabeth Lyon Amanda Chubb	State Bar of Michigan	517 346-6325 517 346-6396	<a href="mailto:elyon@mail.michbar.org">elyon@mail.michbar.org</a> <a href="mailto:achubb@mail.michbar.org">achubb@mail.michbar.org</a>
Commissioner Liaison	N/A			

MEMBER/ADVISOR/OTHER	MEMBER/ADVISOR/OTHER
Miriam Aukerman	Hon. Mabel Mayfield
Sheila Spalding Blakney	James Neuhard
Caridad Pastor Cardinale	Valerie Newman
Hon. Katherine Hansen	Hon. Angela Kay Sherigan
Martin Glista	Regina Daniels Thomas
Stacy Hickox	Heather J. Garretson
David Koelsch	Kym Worthy
Daniel Less	

**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
Initiative meeting	October 18, 2010	Teleconference

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

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 during the 2009-2010 bar year. Both projects extended into the 2010-2011 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.
- Outcome: The CII reviewed and analyzed the Act. The Representative Assembly at their April 2011 meeting voted in favor of advocating for a collateral consequences act in the state of

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Michigan. The State Bar will work to introduce this legislation and will lobby for its enactment. CII will assist as needed with the enactment of the legislation.

### **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 developed an Annual Meeting panel program that aimed 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. Panelists discussed the US Supreme Court *Padilla* decision and its connotations related to an attorney's duty to warn defendants of potential collateral consequences of a criminal conviction.

### **PUBLIC DEFENSE REFORM**

House Bill 5676 that would create a statewide public defender office in Michigan was introduced in December 2009. The bill ultimately did not make it out of committee; however, the State Bar was active in 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, was published as an online resource.

### **Future Goals and Activities:**

Initiative members have expressed interest in 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:eakinyemi@sbcglobal.net">eakinyemi@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	Member
Teresa Caine Bingman	Dale Ann Iverson
Tracey W. Brame	Linda D. Johnson
Hon. William J. Caprathe	Ayanna D. Jones
Mark A. Cody	Jay D. Kaplan
Ann M. Cooper	Mark D. McWilliams
Hon. Yasmin J. Elias	John R. Nussbaumer
Pamela C. Enslin	Hon. Paul S. Teranes
J. Kay Felt	Laurin' C. Roberts Thomas
Hon. Lisa K. Gigliotti	Maya K. Watson
Coffiann U. Hawthorne	

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Teleconference	October 28, 2010	Conference Call
In Person Meeting	December 7, 2010	State Bar of Michigan
Teleconference	February 1, 2011	Conference Call
In Person Meeting	April 26, 2011	State Bar of Michigan
Teleconference	June 14, 2011	Conference Call

**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.

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**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 (ADR) Task Force on Diversity**

The task force was directed by a steering committee and assisted by co-facilitators. They 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 steering committee, comprised of various members of the ADR community, worked over the last several months to combine information from the three meetings into a document that seeks to fully capture the discussions and present action proposals for individual entities to review. While the role of EAI as a convener is completed, the plan going forward is to examine the information to identify potential topics for future projects.

### **The Disabilities Workgroup**

The Disabilities Workgroup recently completed work on the follow up to the 2001 report entitled “Access to the Legal System in Michigan for Persons with Disabilities.” The new “Persons with Disabilities and Access to the Michigan Legal System: A Status Report, 2010” updates the questions asked in the 2001 report with information collected in a survey sent to over 300 lawyers who are either disabled or serve disabled clients. It also includes feedback from focus groups held around the state to gather input from care providers and patients at centers for assisted living, and gathered information with the help of the State Courts Administrators Office (SCAO) from judges, court administrators and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinators.

A second project is a quarterly online e-newsletter with concise, utilitarian articles regarding disabilities issues; over six 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 also produced the *Michigan Bar Journal* theme issue on disabilities for August 2010.

The **Diversity Project** held three colloquia on diversity in the legal profession in June 2010 at three law school locations. The focus was gathering input for the development of the Pledge to Achieve Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession in Michigan. Approximately 100 attorneys from across the state gathered to develop a consensus document that was adopted by the Board of Commissioners and is the foundation of the work now occurring in this area under the Director of Diversity.

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; most recent programs were held in Benton Harbor and Detroit. Recently members of the project team and staff met with Dan Pappas, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) to discuss working with that group to introduce the Jury Curriculum to more teachers statewide.

**Additional EAI work** The Michigan Bar Journal for December 2011 will be a theme issue focused on diversity.

**Future Goals and Activities:** The Diversity Project will continue to act as the program implementation group for activities identified as moving the diversity and inclusion forward. The disabilities WorkGroup is interested in developing an Annual meeting program. The Jury Curriculum program is looking into more programs with the schools.

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EAI will continue to review the 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 and the ADR Task Force for future projects.

**Other Information:**

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**Committee Name:** Justice Policy Initiative

**Jurisdiction:** This group 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	Michael J. Blau	The Sam Bernstein Law Firm, 31731 Northwestern Hwy Ste 333, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1669	(248) 737-8400	<a href="mailto:mblau@sambernstein.com">mblau@sambernstein.com</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>

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Roland C. Fancher, Member	Nancy L. Mullett, Member
Marcia E. Femrite, Member	Kenneth C. Penokie, Member
Jessica S. Fox, Member	Melinda A. Pitman, Member
Hemant Madhusudan Keskar, Member	Christine N. Seppala, Member
Martin P. Krohner, Member	Thomas K. Thornburg, Member
Daniel Levy, Member	Hollie Wallace, Member

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Teleconference	July 1, 2010	
Teleconference	July 13, 2010	
Teleconference	August 17, 2010	
In Person Meeting	October 18, 2010	State Bar of Michigan
Teleconference	January 12, 2011	
Teleconference	February 9, 2011	
Teleconference	March 2, 2011	
Teleconference	April 6, 2011	
Teleconference	May 4, 2011	
Teleconference	June 1, 2011	

**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:**

From July 1, 2010 to April 6, 2011, the Initiative reviewed 21 public policy items and provided nine positions that were subject for review by the Committee on Justice Initiatives before they were provided to the Board of Commissioners or Executive Committee.



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More Initiative positions on public policy items are expected before the end of the State Bar Fiscal Year due to upcoming meetings in May and June.

In 2009, the Initiative formed a subcommittee to focus on the issue of access to identification required for entry to buildings or courthouses where essential services are provided. The Identification Subcommittee drafted the "Proposed Resolution Supporting Equal Access to State-Issued Identification Documentation" that was provided to the Committee on Justice Initiatives for review. Upon the full committee's approval, the position paper went before the Representative Assembly (RA) at its September 30, 2010 meeting, where it was forwarded to the RA drafting committee for further revision. At its April 9, 2011 meeting, the RA adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the State Bar of Michigan shall adopt a position in favor of the implementation of procedures or administrative rules designed to ensure that, upon application and payment or waiver of any applicable fee, an official state personal identification card is issued to any Michigan resident who is "legally present" in the United States (as that term is defined in MCL 28.291), and who otherwise qualifies for the card.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

JPI would welcome more opportunities to participate in discussions about important policy positions with other bar entities.

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**Committee Name:** Pro Bono Initiative

**Jurisdiction:** To support and encourage lawyers' efforts to comply with the Voluntary Pro Bono Standard by performing pro bono legal services and by making donations to organizations providing free legal services to the poor.

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

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chair	Margaret Costello	400 Renaissance Center Detroit, MI 48243	313-568-5306	mcostello@dykema.com
Co-Chair	Robert F. Gillett	420 N 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave Ann Arbor, MI 48104	734-665-6181 ext. 24	rgillett@lsscm.org
Staff Liaison	Candace Crowley Robert Mathis	SBM	517-346-6319 517-346-6412	<a href="mailto:ccrowley@mail.michbar.org">ccrowley@mail.michbar.org</a> <a href="mailto:rmathis@mail.michbar.org">rmathis@mail.michbar.org</a>
Commissioner Liaison	n/a			

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
C. Michael Bryce	Ashley E. Lowe
Thomas F. Cavalier	Keith L. Morris
Christopher Desmond	Heidi A. Naasko
Kirsten A. Enstice	Sandra D. Parker
Mark P. Fancher	Linda K. Rexer
Rick A. Haberman	Amy L. Sankaran
Hon. Denise Page Hood	Justin M. Sheehan
Joan Glanton Howard	Nathaniel R. Wolf

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Committee meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Teleconference	June 7, 2010	n/a
Teleconference	August 30, 2010	n/a
In-person/teleconference	October 18, 2010	State Bar of Michigan
Teleconference	December 6, 2010	n/a
Teleconference	March 7, 2011	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 Eric I. Frankie at the SBM awards dinner at the annual meeting in Grand Rapids. The award includes a \$2,000 donation to an ATJ program to be made through the Access to Justice Fund. Mr. Frankie asked that the award be designated for Legal Services of South Central Michigan.

The second **October Pro Bono Month Celebration** occurred in 2010. A website was developed to post Michigan events. The theme for pro bono month was “Now more than ever, pro bono is more than just the right thing to do.” The website was enhanced and included a list of upcoming pro bono month events, talking points, a sample speech with the Michigan theme, and many other resources. A press release and an op-ed piece were also issued. Again in 2010, the Governor’s office proclaimed October as Pro Bono Month in Michigan. During the month of October alone, more than 25 Michigan pro bono events were reported. Those included the October 1 “Master Lawyers Section Guide to Pro Bono” at the State Bar Annual meeting in Grand Rapids, and the “Pro Bono Training: Introduction to Domestic Violence” presented by the State Bar Domestic Violence Committee on October 29. Pro Bono Month continues to shine a light on the need for pro bono legal services for Michigan’s poor. See <http://www.michbar.org/probono.cfm>.

2010 was another successful year for **MI-LAPP’s QDRO Referral Program**. In 2010, the program closed 83 QDRO referral cases. The great success of the Program in 2010 was due in very large part to the Program’s dedicated volunteer Drafters. In 2010, the Program’s volunteers included: **Joseph Cunningham, Bob Treat, Nancy Keppelman, David and Jackie Roessler, Mary Ade, and Jim Crowley**. Each QDRO case that is prepared by a Drafter, on average, requires four hours to complete. For 2010, the 83 cases that were closed resulted in 332 pro bono hours being donated. MI-LAPP continues to rely on the QDRO Committee, spearheaded by Joseph Cunningham of Plante Moran and Robert Treat of QDRO Express LLC.

**Expansion of the MI-LAPP malpractice insurance program** continued. Now, private lawyers with pro bono non-QDRO cases can be covered by the State Bar’s malpractice insurance. Additionally, lawyers who accept cases from ATJ programs without malpractice insurance can also be afforded that coverage. In 2010, many pro bono attorneys utilized the MI-LAPP malpractice insurance program; attorneys that otherwise would have been unable to offer pro bono legal services due to their lack of malpractice insurance.

In August 2010, the **Michigan Supreme Court published two versions of proposed amendments to MRPC 6.1**, requesting comments by December 1, 2010. Alternative A was the court version which was the current rule with a sentence added to emphasize the voluntary nature of the rule. Alternative B was the State Bar recommended version which provided more guidance to attorneys as to what qualifies as pro bono legal service. An impressive number of comments in support of Alternative B were received from pro bono provider programs, active large firms, the ABA, judges, and many others. The Court heard public comment on January 26, 2011. Bob Gillett, Thom Linn, John Nussbaumer, and Larry Dubin spoke in favor of Alternative B. The Court has scheduled a public discussion and administrative decision on MRPC 6.1 for May 11 at the Supreme Court.

During 2010 Pro Bono Month, A free attorney training was provided by **Project SALUTE**, a program designed by the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law to assist Veterans in Federal Disability and Pension Benefits matters. The training was designed to teach pro bono attorneys how to assist Veterans with legal issues regarding disability and pension benefits.

The **Second Annual Spring Pro Bono Workshop**, “*Nurture the Power of Pro Bono*,” occurred on May 26, 2010. Thirty-five attendees from various legal aid agencies were welcomed by Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. There were a variety of break-out sessions including topics such as: Recruitment, Recognition, Rural Pro Bono, Engaging Law Firms; Engaging the Judiciary; and Accessing Law School Pro Bono Resources., What’s

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New in Technology, Large Group and Community Pro Bono Opportunities, ATJ Centers, expungement clinics, immigration clinics, and others. Attendees were asked to develop pro bono programs for October pro bono month. The evaluations from the workshop were all very positive.

The Third **Annual Spring Pro Bono Workshop**, entitled, "*Nurturing Pro Bono: An interactive workshop for Michigan's pro bono coordinators*," is slated for May 25, 2011 at the State Bar. This year's workshop sessions are designed to encourage interactive discussions where anyone involved with pro bono will have an opportunity to share and expand on their successful 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 members of the new Master Lawyers Section, and to coordinate the development of a "Malpractice Insurance is Not A Barrier to Pro Bono" brochure. The program was held at the SBM Annual Meeting. The program demonstrates the role that members of the Master Lawyers Section can play in pro bono. A menu of pro bono opportunities was created to provide attorneys information and resources to help them decide how they could help provide pro bono legal assistance in their communities.

The PBI was very pleased that State Bar President Tony Jenkins dedicated his **February 2011 President's Page** in the Bar Journal to pro bono service. Tony illustrated that the need for pro bono legal services, as well as financial support of legal service providers, is greater than ever.

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. The pro bono website is progressing. The group is continuing to meet and to outline the functions to be included in the site. Peggy discussed the need for additional financial resources to operate the program. Peggy hopes to provide more information on the pilot program at the next PBI meeting.

**Robert Mathis was hired as Pro Bono Service Counsel**, and began working at the State Bar on December 1, 2010. Robert is responsible for supporting the growth and expansion of the SBM's pro bono initiative and working directly in establishing and maintaining relationships with legal aid providers to coordinate statewide initiatives.

The **Circle of Excellence** was published in the June 2010 issue of the Michigan Bar Journal. There were 36 applications for COE versus 23 the previous year.

The PBI was awarded the **October 2011 Bar Journal Theme Issue**. Work on the issue is on track. The October 2011 issue is going to be a great tribute to pro bono legal services in Michigan.

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

The **Third Annual Celebrate Pro Bono Month** is set for October 2011.

W. Anthony Jenkins, SBM President; Julie I. Fershtman, SBM President-Elect; James N. Erhart, SBM Commissioner; Reginald Turner, ABA State Delegate; and Elizabeth K. Lyon, SBM Director of Governmental Relations were in Washington, DC April 12-14 to participate in the annual **ABA Day** federal lobbying efforts. The Michigan team met with all but one member of the Michigan delegation to request current FY11 funding for the Legal Services Corporation not be cut and to request support of the Administration's proposal for an FY12 funding level of \$450 million. Efforts were largely aided by letters from local legal aid offices explaining direct constituent services they provide.

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**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. In the coming year, the PBI will continue efforts to improve the delivery of pro bono services to the poor throughout Michigan.