

State Bar of Michigan | 2016-2017 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 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.

Justice Initiatives: Justice Policy Initiative

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

Co-Chair

P34834 Michael J. Blau, Farmington
35145 Oakland St
Farmington MI 48335-3344
Phone: (248) 943-6148
e-mail: mikeblau924@gmail.com

P60753 Lorry S.C. Brown, Ann Arbor
Michigan Poverty Law Program
220 E Huron St Ste 600A
Ann Arbor MI 48104-1947
Phone: (734) 998-6100 x113
Fax: (734) 998-9125
e-mail: lorryb@mplp.org

Member

Term Ending: 2017

P76762 Heather Renee Abraham, Traverse City
P34834 Michael J. Blau, Farmington
P60753 Lorry S.C. Brown, Ann Arbor
P70937 Jessica S. Fox, Eaton Rapids
P60260 James R. Gerometta, Detroit
P76599 Laura M. Kubit, Caro
P39152 Daniel M. Levy, Detroit
P59065 Gerrow D. Mason, Marysville
P44713 Nancy L. Mullett, Battle Creek
P45371 Jill L. Nylander, Flint
P73490 Olivia Marcella Paglia, Bloomfield Hills
P30685 Kenneth C. Penokie, Escanaba
P57571 Christine N. Seppala, Detroit
P28417 Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, Detroit
P51498 Joon H. Sung, Clinton Township
P46863 Thomas K. Thornburg, Saint Joseph
P77752 Lisa Whitney Timmons, Detroit

State Bar Liaison

P79603 Peter Cunningham, Lansing
Kathryn Hennessey, Lansing
Carrie Sharlow, Lansing

Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

**Please keep meeting descriptions brief.*

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Meeting Type Regularly Scheduled Meeting	5/13/16	Teleconference
Description		
Meeting Type Justice Initiatives Kick-off	10/10/16	In Person/Teleconference
Description		
Meeting Type Regularly Scheduled Meeting	12/9/16	Teleconference
Description		
Meeting Type Regularly Scheduled Meeting	2/10/17	Teleconference
Description		
Meeting Type		
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Meeting Type		
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Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:

The Justice Policy Initiative received the following support from State Bar of Michigan (SBM):

- Provided financial support from the SBM budget;
- Referred relevant legislation and proposed court rule amendments to the Initiative for its review and consideration, including background materials and information and conducting additional inquiries and research when requested.
- Coordinated the Initiative meetings, including scheduling times, informing and reminding members of meetings, arranging conference calls, preparing agendas, and circulating materials for meetings;
- Provided support during Initiative meetings, including taking attendance, ensuring quorum, taking notes, and drafting minutes;
- Assisted with drafting Initiative's public policy position statements for consideration by the Committee on Justice Initiatives and the SBM Board of Commissioners.

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Committee Activities:

Over the course of this year, the Initiative discussed several proposed court rule amendments and pieces of legislation affecting the delivery of quality legal services in Michigan. The initiative took positions and made recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on a number of issues, including supporting with conditions the expanded use of videoconferencing in court proceedings, opposing allowing the Friend of the Court to use text messaging as a form of alternative electronic service to send notices and court documents; opposing removing the requirement that the Friend of the Court seek a court order in order to schedule a contempt hearing; and opposing changes to the procedural rules for taxing post-judgment costs.

Future Goals and Activities:

The Justice Policy Initiative will continue reviewing proposed court rule amendments and legislation that fall under its jurisdiction. The Initiative will continue to be proactive and consider projects that it can initiate or partner with other groups or organizations to further its goals of achieving the effective delivery of high quality legal services to all of the people of Michigan.

Other Information:

The Justice Policy Initiative consists of leaders in a diverse spectrum of practice settings, including legal service organizations, serving both urban and rural communities, government, in-house, and private practice. Members have a broad range of expertise, including consumer protection, landlord-tenant litigation, family law, appellate practice, criminal law, elder law, disability rights, military and veterans' law, and alternative dispute resolution. This diversity within the Initiative helps ensure that each piece of legislation and proposed court rule amendment is analyzed from multiple perspectives to provide the Initiative with a deep understanding of the impact that the proposed legislation or court rule amendment will have on the delivery of legal services in Michigan.

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Approved by	Approved	Name
Chair	yes	Lorray Brown
Co-chair		Michael Blau
Staff Liaison	yes	Katie Hennessey
Other		Peter Cunningham

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