

## Professional Education & Events – Standing Committee

### Jurisdiction

Support the professional education services of the State Bar of Michigan:

- Making recommendations on and assisting in the development of budgeted educational events for State Bar members events such as the Bar Leadership Forum, Upper Michigan Legal Institute, and the Annual Meeting.
- Assessing the quality and relevance of SBM professional education services and their coordination and collaboration with ICLE and local bar education programming, and suggest and support any other desirable collaboration.
- Making recommendations on improving access to legal information for members through traditional and emerging methods of conducting legal research, including SBM-endorsed research programs, legal publications, print and online digital libraries.
- Providing guidance to the Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) on the development, maintenance, and evaluation of resources, programs, and services designed to help members build and strengthen their law practices, with particular emphasis on the use of online resources as the primary vehicle to market and disseminate PMRC services.
- Assisting in the publicity and promotion of mentorship programs throughout the state.
- Reviewing and evaluating metrics measuring the effectiveness of the State Bar's professional education and events efforts.

**Committee Chair:** Mary Chartier-Mittendorf

**Staff Liaisons:** Darin Day, JoAnn Hathaway, Alecia Ruswinckel, and Kari Thrush

**Meetings:** In-person: 0; Electronic or phone: 1

### Committee Activities

1. The committee worked with SBM staff to recommend to the Communication and Member Services Commissioner Committee that the Annual Meeting format realign with the goals of the strategic plan.

*Goal 4: Strategy 2: Employing practices that strengthen the State Bar of Michigan's fiscal position and responsible use of resources*

2. Staff has completed brochures, postcards and opened registration for the 2019 Bar Leadership Forum and Upper Michigan Legal Institute. Both are accepting registrations and being actively promoted.

*Goal 1: Strategy 3: Engaging members in learning about and implementing innovative delivery methods*

3. The BLF Scholarship Subcommittee will meet via teleconference in April to decide which applicants will be awarded scholarships.

*Goal 1: Strategy 4: Promoting greater member engagement to connect members with the bar, its resources and each other*

4. The UMLI Workgroup will meet in person on June 15, 2019 to review evaluations from the Upper Michigan Legal Institute and plan programming for the 2020 institute.

*Goal 1: Strategy 3: Engaging members in learning about and implementing innovative delivery methods*

5. The Practice Management Resource Center continues the podcast project, On Balance, in collaboration with Michigan Legal Talk radio. The podcast series focuses on the need for interplay between practice management and lawyer wellness for a thriving law practice.

*Goal 1: Strategy 3: Engaging members in learning about and implementing innovative delivery methods*

## Work Groups

1. **Upper Michigan Legal Institute Work Group:** The mission of this work group exists to provide input with developing the education content of this annual legal seminar especially targeted to the practice needs of northern Michigan practitioners. The Upper Michigan Legal Institute program was designed in February, printed and mailed in March to approximately 3200 northern Michigan attorneys.
2. **Mentoring Work Group:** In the 2017-2018 bar year, the Mentorship Workgroup reviewed and discussed mentoring programs in general and concluded that they are most effective when they align with one or more of the following: (1) the program draws mentors and mentees from a relatively local community, such as the same city or same county; and/or (2) the program draws mentors and mentees from the same practice area, for example a young lawyer interested in trial work matched with an experienced litigator or a new tax attorney matched with a seasoned tax attorney; and/or (3) the mentor-mentee relationship focuses on a specific project, for example a pro bono matter.
  - a. With respect to a statewide program, the workgroup concluded that the SBM Mentoring Center found at michbar.org provides a sufficient resource for interested mentors and mentees to find matches that align with one or more of these three principles -- local community-focused, practice area-focused, and/or project-focused.
  - b. In addition, the workgroup directed staff to identify successful local mentoring programs and consider ways to promote and support them through the SBM. Such programs were found within the D. Augustus Straker Bar, the Federal Bar Association-Eastern District, the Grand Rapids Bar, the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, the Oakland County Bar, the Referees Association of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar, and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Staff has made contact with these organizations and is working with them to lend support.

- c. Finally, the workgroup concluded that much informal mentoring occurs within most, if not all, affinity bar associations and state bar sections. Where it is local and/or topic-focused, mentoring is strong throughout Michigan's legal community. Where there are opportunities for the SBM to provide additional support to a specific program or help make connections between and among programs, SBM staff within the Outreach Department, Diversity and Inclusion, and the Pro Bono Counsel's office are aware and engaged.
- d. Accordingly, the work of the SBM Mentorship Workgroup may be considered completed.