

Public Outreach & Education – Standing Committee

Jurisdiction

Support the public education services of the State Bar of Michigan

- Assisting in developing educational events and programs advancing lay understanding of law and the legal profession, with particular emphasis on community programs, including Law Day and Constitution Day
- Providing review and recommendations concerning the State Bar of Michigan’s online resources available to the public
- Exploring and assessing opportunities for **collaboration** in public outreach consistent with SBM strategic goals with local bar associations, nonlegal professional associations, and other external entities
- Conferring and coordinating regularly with the Unauthorized Practice of Law committee to discuss how each committee’s work might interact with and support the other’s work
- Recommending Michigan Legal Milestones that commemorate significant cases, events, places and people in the State’s legal history, and upon approval of the Board of Commissioners, helping implement the milestone and its celebration
- Reviewing reports on effectiveness of public outreach programming from the Social Media and Website Committee based on evaluation metrics and utilizing these reports as a basis for recommending improvements in content, or modification or discontinuation of programs.

Committee Chair: Allan Motzny

Staff Liaisons: Darin Day and Laurin’ Roberts Thomas

Meetings: In-person: 2; Electronic or phone: 2

Committee Activities

1. Michigan Legal Milestones: Dedicated Milestone 41, commemorating the fact that Michigan was the first government in the English-speaking world to ban the death penalty, on November 6 at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit, in collaboration with the Detroit Bar Association. Drafted plaque language for the 42nd Michigan Legal Milestone, recognizing Senate Bill 31 of 1857. Under this bill, enacted into law on Valentine’s Day 1857, Michigan’s indigent defendants were guaranteed the same representation as those who could afford attorneys, and court-appointed attorneys were guaranteed payment to support this objective. The original bill was updated by PA 93 of 2013, which established the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), and new regulations promulgated in 2017. Next steps for Milestone 42 are to have the Board of Commissioners approve the topic, finalize the plaque text and begin planning the program and dedication ceremony.

Goal 4: Strategy 4: Targeting the State Bar of Michigan’s communications

2. K-12 Programs: Three major initiatives for 2018-2019: (1) review Law Day and Constitution Day curricular materials available to affinity bars, schools, and attorneys at michbar.org, and make updates and improvements to such materials, where necessary; (2) continue to build a lasting collaboration with the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DIAC) with respect to K-12 pipeline programs including Face of Justice and other jet mentoring opportunities; (3) create and post to michbar.org webinar videos in support of Constitution Day, and promote these among K-12 schools, affinity bars, the Hall of Justice Learning Center, the MCCCE, and similar entities.

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3. Public Outreach Resources: Identified, reviewed and indexed all materials intended for a lay audience or the general public maintained on michbar.org and/or in printed form by the SBM. Maintain an indexing tool to track all such materials. The indexing tool is intended to help the POEC address, as they arise, needs for revision of such materials, consolidation of redundant information, removal of obsolete materials, and/or creation of new materials.

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4. High School Mock Trial National Finals Exploratory: This subcommittee explored the feasibility and submitted a letter of intent, to host the 2021 national finals. It is anticipated that between 40-45 states will participate, each sending between 10-12 students plus family members. This requires massive numbers of volunteers, including judges and support staff. The host will need to guarantee a minimum of 350 hotel rooms, 25 court rooms or their equivalent, and a venue for an awards ceremony with a minimum 900-seat capacity, as well as ground transportation, food and beverage, logistics support, a convenient nearby airport, hundreds of volunteers, and funding in the range of \$500,000.

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Special Committee Characteristics

This committee may have more than 15 members and may include non-State Bar members.