

Unauthorized Practice of Law – Standing Committee

Jurisdiction

Provide advice on and support for the State Bar of Michigan’s unauthorized practice of law responsibilities under Rule 16 of the Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan:

- Proposing and supporting measures to educate the public and the legal profession about unauthorized practice of law issues
- Providing guidance to the Board of Commissioners concerning matters involving the alleged unauthorized practice of the law (UPL), including recommendations on the filing and prosecuting of actions to enjoin the unauthorized practice of law.
- Proposing and advising on revisions to courts rules and legislation related to the unauthorized practice of law
- Determining how the committee’s work might interact with and support work of the Professional Ethics, Public Outreach and Education, and Affordable Legal Services committees, including through conferring and coordinating regularly with them on trends, data, insights, and metrics
- Reviewing and evaluating metrics for measuring the effectiveness of efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the State Bar of Michigan under Rule 16, MCL 600.916, and MCL 450.681

Committee Chairs: Barbara BakerOmerod and Kandra Robbins

Staff Liaisons: Amy Emmons, Katherine Gardner, and Danon Goodrum-Garland

Meetings: In-person meetings: 4; Electronic or phone meetings: 25

Committee Activities

1. The UPL Committee will routinely review UPL complaints to determine follow-up needed, if any, and to make recommendations regarding matters that may require litigation to resolve

Goal 3: Strategy 1: Working with our partners to effectively regulate the legal profession in Michigan

2. Through its subcommittee structure, the UPL Committee will continue to prepare public and member educational materials on UPL subject matters, and explore opportunities to participate in and/or develop meaningful outreach programming in partnership with relevant Sections and other professions

Goal 2: Strategy 2: Creating and maintaining greater public awareness and competence around legal issues that affect them

3. Through its subcommittee structure, the UPL Committee will continue to prepare public and member educational materials on UPL subject matters, and explore opportunities to participate in and/or develop meaningful outreach programming in partnership with relevant Sections and other professionals

Goal 2: Strategy 5: Expanding collaboration with professional organizations and communities outside of the legal community

4. The UPL Committee will work with the Professional Ethics, Affordable Legal Service, and Public Outreach Committees to explore avenues for collaboration, avoid duplication of services, and share information regarding trends, data insight, and metrics

Goal 2: Strategy 2: Creating and maintaining greater public awareness and competence around legal issues that affect them

5. The UPL Committee, through its subcommittees, will work to support the State Bar's social media efforts by providing information and articles to educate the public about the risks of UPL

Goal 2: Strategy 2: Creating and maintaining greater public awareness and competence around legal issues that affect them

Future Committee Activities

To establish well-recognized public outreach presentations in collaboration with SBM Sections, SBM Committees and other relevant entities and professionals on a variety of legal topics to educate the public on the dangers of UPL and available legal resources, similar to the "Who Can You Trust" outreach seminars

Additional Comments

As clarification for the number of telephone meetings, this includes subcommittee meetings, which are all held by telephone conference

Special Committee Characteristics

UPL activity of the State Bar of Michigan is subject to the ongoing oversight of the Michigan Supreme Court and recommendations of the committee on specific UPL prosecution must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. This committee may have more than 15 members.