

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2008-2009 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.

Committee Name: Standing Committee on American Indian Law (67)

Jurisdiction: Review issues of American Indian Law, focusing on the relationship between tribal courts, state courts, and federal courts, and on the promotion of positive relationships between the lawyers of Michigan and the American Indian Community.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	William J. Brooks	359 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660	231-723- 1101	wjbrooks@earthlink.net
Staff Liaison	Dionnie Wynter	306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933	571-346- 6412	dwynter@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Bernhardt D. Christenson	302 E. Court Street, Flint, MI 48502	810-232- 1112	cchristenson@cflegal.net

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Anne-Marie H. Voice, Supreme Court Representative Member	Meredith Mullins, Law Student Advisor
Jeff Davis, Non-Bar Member	William S. Gregory, Member
Patrick D. Shannon, Member	R. John Wernet, Jr., Member
Dawn S. Duncan, Member	Ezekial J. N. Fletcher, Member
Sheila Hackett Gaskell, Member	Shaun Matthew Johnson, Member
James M. Kinney, Member	Denise A. McNulty, Member
Joseph P. O'Leary, Member	Michael D. Petoskey, Member
Kathryn L. Tierney, Member	

Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Regular Meeting	11/14/08	Conference Call
Subcommittee Meeting: Indian Child Welfare Court Rules	12/5/08	Conference call

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Regular Meeting	12/12/08	Conference call
Subcommittee Meeting: Indian Child Welfare Court Rules	1/30/09	Conference call
Regular Meeting	2/13/09	Conference call
Regular Meeting	4/17/09	Conference call

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

- Assistance in getting conference calls for meeting set up.
- Liaison to resources at ICLE.
- Guidance on State Bar requirements for Committee activities.
- Assistance in scheduling/facilities for Committee meeting at Annual Upper Michigan Legal Institute.

Committee Activities: The major activities include:

- Continuation and completion of review of the Michigan Family Law Bench book published by ICLE. Committee members provided input on revisions to the Bench book to ensure that appropriate text and/or cross-references are in the text concerning the Indian Child Welfare, Tribal jurisdiction over family law matters (i.e. support; custody; paternity).
- Other activities included work on drafting recommendations for revisions to Michigan Court Rules pertaining to Indian Child Welfare Act matters. Ultimately, it was determined to suspend Committee action in this area due to overlap with efforts undertaken by the Supreme Court Administrator's Office (SCAO). Committee members were encouraged to participate in the SCAO Subcommittee working on these issues.
- The Committee also discussed contributions to future issues of the Michigan Bar Journal. Committee member Ezekial Fletcher was instrumental in securing the February 2010 future edition with an Indian Law theme.

Future Goals and Activities:

- Continue efforts to monitor drafting of revisions to Michigan Court Rules designed to implement responsibilities under the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Continue to develop relationships with other Committees/Sections within the Bar to raise the profile/familiarity with Indian Law and the role/jurisdiction of Indian tribes and Tribal Courts in the State.

Other Information: N/A.