

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2011-2012 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 subentity 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 subentity.

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Bar Leadership Liaison Advisory

Jurisdiction: Provide assistance developing an annual leadership training seminar for affinity bars and section chairs.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Daniel M. Levy	3054 W Grand Blvd Ste 3-600 Detroit, MI 48202-6054	(313) 456-3812	Levyd@michigan.gov
Staff Liaison	Nancy Brown Kari Thrush Candace Crowley	306 Townsend St, Lansing, MI 48933	(517) 346-6350 (517) 346-6371 (517) 346-6319	nbrown@mail.michbar.org kthrush@mail.michbar.org ccrowley@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Gregory L. Ulrich	770 Pear Tree Ln Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-2725	(313) 885-2341	gulrich@ulrich-law.com

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Brian D. Figot	Gregory L. Ulrich (member and CL)
Timothy Tyrone Gardner, Jr.	Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens - Advisor
Denise M. Glassmeyer	
Michael S. Khoury	
Dana M. Warnez	
Douglas D. Hampton	
Sandra Hughes O'Brien	
Rebecca Simkins	

Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Committee Meeting	1/5/2012	Conference Call
<i>- Reviewed evaluations from 2011 BLF and discussed programming for 2012 BLF.</i>		
Committee Meeting	1/26/12	Conference Call
<i>- Finalized program for 2012 BLF and formed Scholarship Sub-committee.</i>		

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

This committee develops and annually produces a program providing developing Bar Leaders with meaningful leadership tips, techniques and development training. The Annual Bar Leadership Forum (BLF) is also intended to provide upcoming leadership with the opportunity to network and get to know, most importantly the State Bar personnel they will be working with, but also other Bar leaders whose experience they can learn from and upon whom they can call for assistance.

The BLF is by invitation only. Initially invitations were extended to only Executive Directors of local Bar Associations, the guest list grew to include Chairs of Sections and Committees. More recently emphasis was placed on involving Chairs-elect so as to maximize the benefits provided by the program. This change has proven most beneficial and should be continued in perpetuity. Annual attendance has always proven to depend largely on the success of the previous year's forum and thus it has always been evident the forum must CONSISTENTLY contain valuable substance, important content, a desirable location, and beneficial networking opportunities to remain successful.

In order to ensure the success of this program, the Committee has historically been comprised of members, located throughout Michigan, who represent different facets of leadership. It is critical that BLF committee members have personally attended recent BLF programs in order to be able to not only maintain consistency but also to insure that programming remains fresh for persons who may attend annually. Membership size has varied over the years and the committee is currently comprised of nine members.

Initially this committee also was intended to review and formulate recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on requests from lawyers' associations for State Bar recognition as local or special purpose bar associations. The committee no longer serves that function as a result of action taken by the Board of Commissioners in 2007.

State Bar Staff offer invaluable services to this Committee and their contributions cannot be overstated. Among other things, the staff provides 1) assistance with identifying and obtaining speakers and sites; 2) administrative support; 3) registration of participants (offsite and onsite); 4) preparation, transportation and distribution of all forum materials and handouts; and 5) securing prizes for annual attendees raffle.

SBM staff is also responsible for the preparation, dissemination to, collection from, and summarization of feedback surveys. In addition to this information from previous BLF participants, Bar staff provides feedback from the Section Chairs' orientation. The Committee greatly values and relies on this information and has made great efforts to provide programming based upon participants' feedback. This has served to increase the already critical role staff plays in support of the Committee during planning stages, and in turn has increased the role Committee members play as conference participants. Consequently, future Committee appointments should be made with this in mind.

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Committee Activities:

Based primarily upon participant comments and recommendations, beginning in 2010 the Committee has departed from the previous tradition of bringing in a keynote speaker who was a professional expert in telling others how to lead. The focus is now placed on what current and recent SBM leaders have to offer and participants have consistently indicated they find greater value in someone who had 'been there and done that' than in nationally recognized professional development speakers of the sort that the Committee had previously assumed were who attendees expected to hear from, often at considerable expense.

The format for the 2012 program will therefore be very similar to that used in 2011. Primary emphasis will be on successful SBM leaders sharing what did and did not work for them. To this end, the forum will kick off with an opening session entitled *The Effective Bar Leader: Capitalize on Opportunities and Avoid Pitfalls* that will include a panel of previous bar presidents and section chairs. Later breakout sessions will be on the subjects of *Championing Civic Education*, *Running an Effective Meeting*, *Building Organizational Success through Effective Programming*, and *The Future of the Legal Profession*.

As in years past, leaders will be provided with a legislative update and pointers on SBM protocol for being involved in the process, and an overview of *The Big Picture* for the coming year by SBM's Executive Director, President and Assembly Chair. Also to be repeated are the separate *Meet Your Peers* interactive workshops for sections and local/specialty bar leaders, which will again be conducted immediately prior to the Grand Reception as doing so has proven to facilitate both speedier and more substantial interactions between participants.

Of course this is all in addition to the invaluable networking, the opportunities to learn from each other, and the "Grand experience" all attendees will enjoy.

Future Goals and Activities:

The future goal of the Bar Leadership Liaison Committee is to continue the presentation of quality leadership forums on an annual basis. Through these forums, the committee hopes: 1) to enhance the quality of leadership within the legal community at large and in particular within the State Bar and its related entities, 2) to provide Chairs-elect of Bar sections with the tools and SBM contacts they need to maximize their success, 3) to engage and encourage potential future State Bar leaders through their section or local bar association activities and thereby ensure a continuity of exceptional State Bar leaders, and 4) to remain effective in its role as "liaison" and further enhance the relationship between all qualified associations of lawyers and the State Bar of Michigan.

In order to remain effective, the attendance of Bar Leadership Liaison Committee members at the Forum should be strongly encouraged and properly supported, so that the Committee (and individual committee members) can: 1) be effective in its role as liaison to outside lawyers associations, 2) continue to provide unique leadership opportunities geared especially for lawyers, and 3) do so on a consistent basis from year to year in a manner that allows attendees to build upon prior experiences and maintains the high expectation level critical to ensuring annual participation by the maximum number of invited entities.

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The Committee has actively sought input, through informal discussions and formal surveys, from BLF attendees. With the assistance of SBM staff, an active effort is made each year to address this input when planning the next forum. While it is important to cover some basics for new Section leadership each year, it is also critical to provide something new for association leaders who may attend annually. The Committee is always seeking to maintain this balance.

Continuity in BLF Committee membership and appointment of new members who have attended recent forums has produced two significant results that in other contexts might intuitively seem contradictory. One is greater efficiency and the other greater interactivity. The Committee has focused on providing a program based on participant feedback rather than the desires of committee members. Committee members have been increasingly involved in the program itself and in interacting with attendees. This, combined with the incredible work of SBM staff and discussions that take place around the forum itself has resulted in rapid consensus among committee members on most program related questions.

Other Information:

It should be noted that for the last few years this committee has not had a co-chair. While this change has not presented any difficulties, it is my recommendation that in future years this committee should have both a Chair and a Chair-elect (or Vice-chair). This would permit the Chair's position to be rotated frequently (which I would also recommend), while also assuring that the future Chair will be someone who can insure continuity and who is aware of the position's expectations and well prepared to see them through.