

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2011 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT  
Civil Procedure and Courts Committee**

**Committee Name:** Civil Procedure and Courts

**Jurisdiction:** Review proposed court rules and statutes related to civil practice in the courts and make recommendations concerning improvements in the administration, organization, and operation of Michigan state courts

**Chair and Committee Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Frank J. Greco	4450 Lakeshore Rd, Manistee, MI 49660	(231) 723-4844	<a href="mailto:frankgreco@charter.net">frankgreco@charter.net</a>
Staff Liaison	Elizabeth K. Lyon	State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933	(517) 346-6325	<a href="mailto:elyon@mail.michbar.org">elyon@mail.michbar.org</a>
Commissioner Liaison	Dennis M. Barnes	211 W. Fort Street, Floor 15, Detroit, MI 48226	(313) 965-9725	<a href="mailto:dbarnes@bsdd.com">dbarnes@bsdd.com</a>

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Thomas H. Bannigan, Member	Joey Scott Niskar, Member
Curt A. Benson, Member	Gary R. Peterson, Member
Richard D. Bisio, Member	Victoria A. Valentine, Member
Sean F. Crotty, Member	Randy J. Wallace, Member
Lori J. Frank, Member	Peter H. Webster, Member
Kaveh Kashef, Member	
Hon. David M. Lawson, Member	Janet M. Brandon, Advisor
Ronald S. Longhofer, Member	Daniel D. Quick, Advisor
Sean P. McNally, Member	Karen H. Safran, Advisor
Martha D. Moore, Member	
Thaddeus E. Morgan, Member	

**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
In Person Meeting	Saturday, December 18, 2010	Bloomfield Hills, MI
In Person Meeting	Saturday, April 30, 2011	Bloomfield Hills, MI

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After the 2009-2010 annual report was submitted, the Committee conducted a meeting by telephone conference call on June 30, 2010, finalizing its comments on the recommendations to the Judicial Crossroads Task Force by task force committees.

**Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:** The committee receives staff support from Elizabeth Lyon and Carrie Sharlow. The State Bar covers meeting refreshments. Bar staff provided information regarding actions by the Board of Commissioners and Representative Assembly and the status of pending legislation and proposals before the Michigan Supreme Court; recommendations adopted by the Judicial Crossroads Task Force and implementation steps; circulated meeting materials and notices (both in hard copy and by email) and arranged for conference call participation for members who could not attend meetings in person.

**Committee Activities:** The Committee reviewed and discussed 6 Supreme Court rule proposals and submitted public policy positions on 5 of them. These were considered by the Board of Commissioners or the Executive Committee. In three cases, the governing bodies of the State Bar referenced the Civil Procedure & Courts Committee's positions and comments in the official positions letters to the Court. On April 5, 2011, the Court's amended MCR 2.403, 2.411, 3.216 and added new MCR 3.412, adopting language that the Committee had submitted in its public policy positions, which the State Bar attached to its official position letter.

The Committee discussed a number of other topics that did not result in public policy positions. In one case it submitted a suggestion that will be circulated for comment among other potentially interested sections and committees. And the Committee continues to work on several proposals for rule changes suggested by members or referred to the Committee by others.

The committee may take additional action at the April 30, 2011 meeting, which will take place after this report is submitted.

**Future Goals and Activities:** The Committee expects to continue to review proposed court rule amendments and legislation and to both initiate and further develop its own proposals.