

**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 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 Domestic Violence

**Jurisdiction:** Make recommendations concerning increasing attorney awareness of the problem of domestic violence. Advise on the encouragement of training of attorneys and judges on legal remedies and community resources concerning domestic violence. Help develop and distribute legal resources concerning domestic violence and victims' access to the legal process. Assist in the coordination of programs and activities concerning domestic violence in Michigan.

**Chair(s) and Committee Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Co-Chairs	Mary M. Lovik	235 S Grand Ave Ste 506 PO Box 30037 Lansing, MI 48909	(517) 241-7591	lovikm@michigan.gov
	Rebecca E. Shiemke	611 Church St Ste 4A Ann Arbor, MI 48104	(734) 998-6100, ext 27	rshiemke@umich.edu
Staff Liaison	Amanda E. Chubb	306 Townsend St Lansing, MI 48933	(517) 346-6396	achubb@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Julie A. Sullivan	303 N Rose St Ste 600 Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 226-2950	sullivanj@millerjohnson.com

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Charlotte L. Allen	Guerline Laurore
Lorna T. Beard	Christine L. Pfeiffer
Cathy C. Church	Sarah R. Prout
Leslie A. Hagen	Gail L. Krieger
Hon. Darnell Jackson	
Hon. Amy Krause	
Heidi A. Naasko	
Janet E. Prater	
Mary F. Rubio	
Elizabeth A. Eggert	
Hon. Katherine L. Hansen	

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**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

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

Meeting Type, Description	Date	Location
General Committee Meeting	10/4/2008	SBM Building, Lansing MI
Co-chairs and Liaison Meeting	11/3/2008	Brighton, MI
General Committee Meeting	11/8/08	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	12/13/08	Teleconference
Co-chairs and Speakers: Law School for Legislators Project	12/17/08	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	12/30/08	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	1/8/09	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	1/29/09	Teleconference/in person
General Committee Meeting	1/31/09	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	2/6/09	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	2/20/09	Teleconference/in person
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	3/18/09	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: Vicarious Trauma Training	4/8/09	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	4/18/09	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee, Speaker and Facilitators: Vicarious Trauma Training	4/29/09	Teleconference
Co-chairs and Liaison Meeting	5/8/09	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	5/9/09	Teleconference

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General Committee Meeting	6/13/09	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	7/25/09	Teleconference

**Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:** The State Bar provided the committee with a modest budget and a staff liaison. The Bar's Governmental Relations Director forwarded policy issues to the committee. A Commissioner liaison attended meetings and offered input and advice.

**Committee Activities:**

**Trainings**

a. Judicial Training:

The committee continued to pursue its focus on judicial training and submitted a detailed training proposal to the Michigan Judicial Institute for the upcoming Annual Judicial Conference in September 2009. The committee is waiting for a response from MJI and its planning committee.

The committee also submitted to the State Bar a judicial survey focusing on judges' training issues and needs to assist the committee in planning an appropriate and relevant training. The survey was approved by the State Bar and the SCAO has offered to include the survey in one of the weekly judges' email announcements.

b. Oakland County Bar Association/Cooley Law School Training:

The committee was approached by the OCBA and the Cooley Law School clinic to organize a training for attorneys who represent domestic violence survivors in divorce and custody matters. Cooley will provide space at no charge at its Auburn Hills location and will simulcast the training to its locations in Lansing and Grand Rapids. The Bar and Law School were particularly interested in a training focusing on vicarious trauma for lawyers who work in this field. The committee located Dr. Andrew Levin, a national expert in the field from Columbia University, who agreed to be the presenter and garnered volunteers from domestic violence agencies and legal aid programs to facilitate at the two off-sites.

The committee also successfully raised funds from several organizations, including the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, Michigan Poverty Law Program, Pro Bono Initiative of the State Bar and the Oakland County Bar Association in order to defray the costs. As a result, the training will be open to private attorneys interested in doing pro bono work on behalf of survivors. The training, entitled "When Caring Hurts: Avoiding Burnout when Representing Traumatized Clients," is scheduled for May 11, 2009.

c. Other:

The committee is also considering approaching the District Judges Association regarding its summer 2009 conference, as well as the Federal bench regarding its interest in a training event.

**Law School for Legislators**

The committee participated in the State Bar's Law School for Legislators program, to educate new legislators on legal issues of interest to Bar members. The committee prepared a detailed curriculum

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with materials and recruited two experts to discuss legal issues related to domestic violence. The session was held on February 17, 2009.

***Michigan Family Law Journal Articles***

In response to a column last year by the editor of the Family Law Journal calling for more action on preventing domestic violence, the committee contacted Mr. Robbins and offered to coordinate a monthly “domestic violence column” in the Family Law Journal. As a result, beginning with the June/July 2008 edition, the committee has published a monthly article related to domestic violence and authored by committee members or guest experts in the field. The articles include:

- PPO practice – 2 parts
- SLAPP suits against domestic violence crime victims
- Firearm restrictions in PPOs and domestic violence misdemeanors – 2 parts
- Domestic violence and consumer issues
- New legislation affecting child protective services and friend of the court offices
- Domestic violence in the military – 2 parts

The committee has articles scheduled through October 2009.

**Public Policy Matters**

The committee took positions on three bills from the 2007-2008 legislative session. House Bills 6281 (supporting PPOs for sexual assault victims), 4741 (supporting PPO relief to protect pets) and 4742 (supporting making it a felony to harm an animal in connection with domestic violence). However, the committee was unable to forward its positions on the bills in time for both the Board of Commissioners meeting and before the end of the legislative session.

**Member Education**

Committee members shared various resources, training opportunities and legal updates related to domestic violence over the course of the year with other committee members. Information was shared at meetings or between meetings by email.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

The committee aims to continue monthly article contributions to the *Michigan Family Law Journal*. Due to the interest generated by the May 11 training on vicarious trauma, the committee would like to consider coordinating an event for the 2009-2010 bar year on another topic related to domestic violence. The committee will continue to seek opportunities for judicial training, and is hopeful for its future inclusion in MJI trainings. The committee has also made preliminary steps toward pursuing trainings for federal judges and US Probation, who have been initially supportive of a training related to domestic violence.