

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2009-2010 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	220 E. Huron, Ste 600A Ann Arbor, MI 48104	(734) 998-6100, ext 127	rshiemke@lsscm.org
Staff Liaison	Amanda E. Chubb	State Bar of Michigan	(517) 346-6396	achubb@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Lori Buiteweg	121 W Washington St Ste 300 Ann Arbor, MI 48104	(734) 994-3000	buiteweg@nsssb.com

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
P58735 Elizabeth Anne Eggert	P34737 Hon. Darnell Jackson
P45431 Hon. Katherine L. Hansen	P41113 Hon. Amy Krause
P58783 Heidi A. Naasko	P67835 Gail L. Krieger
P59073 Christine Lynn Pfeiffer	P25890 Janet E. Prater
P41321 Victoria A. Radke	P58869 Sarah R. Prout
P64626 Mary F. Rubio	P58021 Ashley E. Lowe
P64169 Michael C. Brown	P59396 Lori L. Pourzan
P44745 Cathy C. Church	P36171 Nancy E. Gallagher (advisor)
P60973 Robert S. Coleman	P25664 Hon. Richard B. Halloran (advisor)
P43245 Leslie A. Hagen	P69110 Jeannine Provencher Laible (advisor)
P48502 Lorna T. Beard	P69405 Sarah B. Mason (advisor)

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**Committee Meeting Schedule:**

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

<b>Meeting Type, Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
General Committee Meeting	9/12/10	Teleconference
Subcommittee: Michigan Bar Journal	10/6/09	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	10/31/09	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	11/30/09	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	1/6/10	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: October Pro Bono Presentation	1/29/10	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	2/3/10	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: October Pro Bono Presentation	2/9/10	Teleconference
Co-chairs and Staff Liaison meeting	2/24/10	In-person; State Bar of Michigan building
Training Subcommittee: October Pro Bono Presentation	3/10/10	Teleconference
Training Subcommittee: October Pro Bono Presentation	4/13/10	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	4/16/10	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	5/5/10	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	June 2010 (tentative)	Teleconference
General Committee Meeting	July 2010 (tentative)	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.

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**Committee Activities:**

**Trainings**

- a. Sarah Buel Event:  
The committee hosted a free event featuring nationally recognized speaker and DV advocate, Sarah Buel, on March 15, 2010. Ms. Buel spoke on witness tampering in civil and criminal intimate partner violence cases. The event was held live at Ann Arbor Cooley campus, and was telecast to the remaining campuses in Grand Rapids, Auburn Hills and Lansing.
  
- b. Pro Bono Training with the Family Law Council:  
The committee has an opportunity to collaborate with Family Law Council on a pro bono training during domestic violence and pro bono month tentatively on Friday, October 29, 2010. Subject matter will include how to conduct the initial client interview with DV survivors, substantive legal issues, initial pleadings and service, and pre-trial and trial practice.

***Michigan Family Law Journal Articles***

In response to a column in 2008 by the editor of the Family Law Journal calling for more action on preventing domestic violence, the committee contacted Norm 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 submitted for publication as of May 1, 2010 for the 2009-2010 bar year are:

- Domestic violence and the best interest factors
- Using a coordinated community response in disputed custody cases
- Assessing risks to children from exposure to batterer
- The batterer as parent
- Effects of domestic violence on survivors’ parenting and on the litigation process
- Guardian ad litem and DV
- Parental Alienation Syndrome
- International Kidnapping
- Immigration rights for DV survivors
- Mutual protection orders
- Sexual Assault PPOs
- Stalking relief in domestic relation PPOs

The committee plans to continue this endeavor into next bar year.

***Theme Issue of the Michigan Bar Journal***

The Committee applied for and was awarded a theme issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* to be published in September 2011 on Domestic Violence Awareness. The Committee is in the process of narrowing article subjects and authors.

**Public Policy Matters**

Since the last annual report in May 2009, the DV Committee has taken a position to:

- oppose ADM 2009-11, a proposed amendment of MCR 6.302 that would require all discussions regarding a defendant’s plea agreement to occur in open court;
- oppose ADM 2008-09, proposed amendments of MCR 3.210 and 3.211 that sought to clarify and simplify the procedures courts use to grant judgments in domestic relations cases;

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- oppose HB 5036 that would limit strategic lawsuits against public participation;
- oppose HB 5114 that would mandate joint custody in every custody dispute with certain exceptions.

The Committee also submitted significant commentary to the Supreme Court on the current mediation confidentiality provisions of MCR 2.411 and 3.216, and made recommendations for participation in a workgroup on MCR 3.932 that will be examining proposed changes to the consent calendar court rule.

**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*. The special issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* will be a significant focus for the coming bar year. The Committee plans to hold a pro bono training to increase the number of pro bono attorneys qualified to represent domestic violence survivors in family law cases. The Committee will continue providing comment on applicable public policy matters, and will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with others on training events.