

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics

Jurisdictional Statement:

- Prepare written opinions on ethical conduct of judges at the request of the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Executive Director, or individual members of the judiciary inquiring about their own contemplated conduct.
- Recommend amendments to the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct and other standards of professional conduct, and review proposed amendments.
- The Michigan Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates and the Referees Association of Michigan shall each nominate one member for appointment to the committee.

**Officers and Membership:**

*Chair:* Hon. Elwood L. Brown, Port Huron

*Members:*

Hon. Theresa Doss, Detroit  
Hon. Laura A. Frawley, Harrisville  
Hon. Annette M. Jurkiewicz-Berry, Detroit  
Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach, Wyandotte  
Hon. Christopher S. Ninomiya, Iron Mountain  
James P. Pahl, Charlotte  
Referee Lorie Nancy Savin, Pontiac

*Liaison from Representative Assembly:*

Carl L. Collins, III, Southfield

**2013-2014 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

October 18, 2013, Lansing, Michigan  
January 31, 2014, Lansing, Michigan  
April 11, 2014, Lansing, Michigan  
June 20, 2014, Lansing, Michigan

**Committee Activities:**

At each meeting, the committee discusses pending opinion requests. Since the last annual report, the committee approved JI-139, pertaining to judicial fundraising for a nonprofit or service as a board member of a nonprofit that directly supports a problem-solving court, taking into consideration amendments to the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct effective August 1, 2013. The committee undertook an examination of all of the opinions that referenced any of the Canons impacted by the amendments adopted by the Supreme Court effective August 1, 2013, to determine whether changes were appropriate. As a result of that review,

the committee withdrew JI-012, replacing it with JI-140 (pertaining to whether a judge's service as an officer or director of an organization that makes grants disqualifies the judge from hearing cases involving grant recipients). The committee also voted to withdraw J-001 and replace it with J-008, an opinion discussing judicial participation in various charitable activities. The Board of Commissioners approved the withdrawal of J-001 and the adoption of J-008 on March 5, 2014.

**Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:**

The committee has been assisted in its work by staff liaisons Dawn Evans, Danon Goodrum-Garland, and Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn, as well as staff member Karen Spohn.

**Future Goals and Activities:**

The committee plans to continue responding to opinion requests and to address revisiting any opinions identified as in need of review due to subsequent developments that may have impacted the continued appropriateness of any conclusions drawn. To the extent that the Committee's input is sought by the Board of Commissioners, the Representative Assembly, or the Supreme Court on discrete issues or projects, the committee stands ready to respond with appropriate research and commentary.

**Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:**

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