

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE INITIATIVES,  
Including the  
EQUAL ACCESS INITIATIVE  
*PRO BONO* INITIATIVE  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE  
JUSTICE POLICY INITIATIVE  
and  
CRIMINAL ISSUES INITIATIVE**

**COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE INITIATIVES**

The standing Committee on Justice Initiatives (CJI) was created in 2003 to coordinate the activities of the former Access to Justice Task Force, Access to Justice Campaign, and Open Justice Commission. Its jurisdictional statement provides that it “shall promote the effective delivery of high quality legal services to all Michigan citizens, and to assure that barriers are reduced so that the justice system is the strongest possible, equal and fair in its application to all.” The Committee does its work through its Initiatives: Equal Access, *Pro Bono*, Justice Policy, Criminal Issues and Resource Development. The State Bar President appointed all committee members. The Chair of CJI appointed the Initiative and Workgroup members.

**Officers and Membership:**

*Committee on Justice Initiatives Chair:* Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, *Members:* Teresa Caine Bingman; Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh; Thomas F. Cavalier; Evanne L. Dietz; Frank D. Eaman; Robert Fair Gillett; Alyce M. Haas; Daniel F. Hopp; Ronald D. Keefe; James R. Neuhard; Valerie R. Newman; Edward H. Pappas; Linda K. Rexer; Angela Kay Sherigan; Terri L. Stangl; Hon. Paul S. Teranes; Laurin’ C. Roberts Thomas; Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder, *Staff Liaison:* Jerome Reide.

**2006-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 30, 2006. Additional meetings occurred on April 12, 2007 (Lansing), with meetings scheduled for June 5, 2006 and September 27, 2007.

**Committee Activities:**

The Committee engaged in the following efforts:

- Created an Annual Justice Initiatives Planning and Evaluation System, including: Annual Calendar which integrates steps and flows into SBM Budget system, Criteria for Justice Initiatives Work as per the CJI, Planning Work Group recommendations adopted by the BOC, June, 2005. Reorganized Justice Initiatives Division staff to designate primary and secondary staff for each Initiative, backup staff assignments for coverage and cross-functionality.
- Called for proposals from January 15th with a March 15th deadline and reviewed 32 new

- proposals from JI initiatives and outside groups;
- Provided overall review and guidance to all Initiatives;
- Received information on the State Planning Body;
- Participated in national efforts to promote access to justice and equal access, including (1) sending CJI Chair and EAI Program Manager to attend and present a menu of *pro bono* opportunities at the Equal Justice Conference, (2) sending representatives to the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, and (3) sending CJI Chair and EAI Program Manager to national Access to Justice Chairs meeting;
- Ratified a new comment on MRPC 6.1 (from the SE Michigan Corporate Committee an RDI subcommittee) to develop a two-tier donation strategy that was also adopted by the Representative Assembly. The proposed change to MRPC 6.1 with the addition of the comment is before the Supreme Court.
- Adopted positions on legislation and Court Rules pursuant to recommendations from the Initiatives.
- Adopted a work plan for 2007-8 Bar Year after a review of the recommendations of the Planning & Evaluation Committee. That committee, comprised of the Initiative chairs and the committee chair, made recommendations to the full committee. These recommendations were the result of the sub committee evaluating the current efforts of the committee and its initiatives, reviewing the initiative work plan proposals for the next bar year as well as the proposals from external groups.

**What follows are the reports of the four Initiatives through which the substantive work of Justice Initiatives is done.**

### **EQUAL ACCESS INITIATIVE**

The mission of the Equal Access Initiative (EAI) is to work within the State Bar of Michigan's Justice Initiatives structure to facilitate equal justice and to work to eliminate and minimize barriers in the administration of justice, as well as entry to and participation in the legal profession and the Bar.

#### **Officers and Membership:**

*Initiative Chairs:* Evanne L. Dietz; *Vice-Chair* Erika L. Butler-Akinyemi,  
*Members:* Hon. William J. Caprathe; Ann M. Cooper; J. Kay Felt; Martha Gonzales-Cortez;  
 Daniel F. Hopp; Dale A. Iverson; Linda D. Johnson; Mary Mansfield; Nelson P. Miller; Hon.  
 Paul S. Teranes; Laurin' C. Roberts Thomas *Staff Liaison:* Laura Graham

#### **2006-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 30, 2006. Additional meetings occurred on March 20, 2007. Other meetings are set for May 15, 2007 and August 21, 2007.

## **Committee Activities:**

On March 29, 2007 the Equal Access Initiative (EAI) and the Michigan Network for Youth and Families presented its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Runaway Project. Anthony "Tony" Derezinski, a member of the Criminal Issues Initiative moderated the event. There were nine speakers from various disciplines of the criminal justice system. The program is a one-day training for runaway and homeless youth providers who offer family therapy, street outreach, transitional living and other services to young people in Michigan. There were more than 25 attendees and the program was well received. This seminar was an outgrowth of the work of the committee in producing and distributing its Juvenile law DVD and brochure. Both items are available through the SBM website.

In March, advocates from around the country met in Denver for the annual Equal Justice Conference sponsored by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA). The theme was partnerships and Judge Cynthia Stephens, Chair of the Committee on Justice Initiatives, was one of four panelists for a program entitled *The Pinnacle of Pro Bono Involvement: Judicial Participation in Pro Bono*. Panelists discussed examples of how they energize *pro bono* efforts at the local level. Laura Graham, Program Manager for EAI was an attendee of the conference.

On April 20, 2007, the Equal Access Initiative (EAI) partnered with the Women's Lawyers Association Of Michigan at their 87<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting where the theme was "*How Women Can Own Their Own Success*." The keynote speaker was Jennifer Bluestein, who delivered a presentation on the best practices for the promotion of women in law firms, and discussed methods of identifying mentors and how to make your case to get what you want from your employer. Evanne Dietz, Chair of EAI, attended the event.

The Initiative continues to distribute its many publications. One of the publications a 24-minute video entitled, "It Isn't Fair If You're Not There" is a tool to help educate the public about the importance of jury duty. The video is not for juror orientation, but can be used in Michigan courts, classrooms, town hall meetings, and educational forums to stress the importance of participation in the jury process. The video was distributed to all chief judges and court administrators in VHS format. It has been converted to DVD format and, along with its companion curriculum, is available on the Justice Initiatives portion to the SBM website. Additionally The Disabilities Report, the court form entitled a Request for Accommodations (MC 70) and the Disabilities e-newsletter continue to be disseminated. These items have been available as hard copy handouts at many conference settings, including the SBM Annual Meetings, and available on the SBM website. The Disabilities e-newsletter has nine issues as of January 2007. Finally, distribution of the Alimony Guidelines Software has been completed. SBM oversaw the distribution of approximately 50 copies of the software. The Alimony Guidelines Survey is available on the SBM website.

The EAI sponsored programs at the SBM Annual Meeting in 2005 dealing with persons with cognitive disabilities in the criminal justice system. The program was videotaped and produced as a DVD and is available for distribution. Additionally, the EAI sponsored a program at the National Bar Association Annual Conference in August 2006 that dealt with racial and ethnic fairness in the area of alternative dispute resolution (ADR.) Portions of this program were also

presented at the SBM Annual Meeting in 2006. The program was videotaped and produced as a DVD.

**Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:**

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***PRO BONO* INITIATIVE**

The *Pro Bono* Initiative is responsible for encouraging and coordinating the delivery of *pro bono* legal services. This Initiative is also responsible for the activities surrounding the American Bar Association “ABA Day” in Washington DC to support increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

**Officers and Membership:**

*Initiative Chair:* Robert Fair Gillett; *Vice-Chair:* Margaret A. Costello,  
*Members:* Evanne L. Dietz; Kirsten A. Enstice; Mark P. Fancher; Hon. Denise Page Hood; Joan Glanton Howard; Robert Ianni; Carol A. Martinelli; and *Staff Liason:* Gregory Conyers

**2005-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 30, 2006. Additional meetings occurred on January 25, 2007 (teleconference), and March 22, 2007 (teleconference). Additional meetings are scheduled for May 24, 2007 and July 26, 2007.

**Committee Activities:**

A team of State Bar of Michigan (SBM) volunteers led by President Kim Cahill and including SBM past president Thomas Cranmer, SBM Executive Director Janet Welch, SBM Board of Commissioners member Bruce Courtade and Gregory Conyers SBM staff traveled to Washington D.C. **April 18 and 19, 2007** to meet with the Michigan Congressional delegation and lobby in support of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). SBM provided materials and information about the current state of legal services provision and access to services in Michigan. The Michigan team benefited from the pre-visit assistance of the Washington D.C. office of Dykema and David Arthur, who provided briefing and assisted during the visits again this year.

The delegation was able to meet with 11 of the 17 House and Senate members or their staff and discuss support for increased funding for LSC and the work of the lawyers and legal services community in Michigan. The meetings were very productive, with many of the legislators committing to working with the SBM to build and maintain support for an increase for LSC.

The ABA also held a reception in conjunction with the Law Day activities. The reception honored three outstanding members of Congress that have advocated on behalf of the ABA goal of equal justice for all, including Rep. John Conyers, Jr. from Michigan. Mayor Dennis Archer presented the award and the Michigan delegation was present to acknowledge the Congressman and his contributions to the profession.

PBI continued its oversight of the successful MI-LAPP, which opened 30 new files in 2006 through the State Bar of Michigan. An update on these new files, as well as similar information from other MILAPP partners will be developed in the summer. Plans are underway to improve the use of technology with the use of the PIKA site for MI-LAPP reporting in 2006. The system has been customized for use by MPLP and SBM staff to allow for data input and report generation.

PBI recommended the CIJ endorsement of a new comment on MRPC 6.1 (from an RDI subcommittee) to develop a two- tier donation strategy and successfully moved that comment through the Representative Assembly.

The PBI monitored reporting from programs and volunteers regarding the 2005 Domestic Violence Training Project, (a collaboration between the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence) The information shows that 122 hours of *pro bono* service have been provided as a result of the training. Over 235 participants registered for the training and over 130 participated at six sites across the state, committing to provide 30 hours of *pro bono* services in exchange for training and materials to give clients access to needed legal help.

The PBI also reviewed and clarified the Circle of Excellence criteria this year. The Circle of Excellence is one of the Bar's primary lawyer recognition programs, and allows the Bar to honor the commitment of firms across the state to expanding legal services access through a combination of donations and service.

PBI endorsed a successful project to recruit and train *pro bono* lawyers to conduct naturalization clinics in western Michigan in 2006.

#### Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:

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## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

The goal of the Access to Justice Development Campaign is to raise funds to improve access to justice for low-income people with civil legal needs in Michigan.

### **Officers and Membership:**

*Initiative Chairs:* Edward H. Pappas, Chair; *Special Advisor:* Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh; Chair: - Statewide Campaign, Ronald D. Keefe,

### **Statewide Campaign Committee:**

Nino Green (Region 1); *Open* – (Region 2); Francine Cullari (Region 3); Jon Anderson, Bruce Courtade (Region 4); Tom Rombach (Region 5); Ed Pappas and Antoinette Raheem (Region 6); Jim Graves (Region 7); Charles Borgsdorf (Region 8); Anthony Delorenzo (Region 9); Bill Winsten (Region 10) and *Staff Liason:* Gregory Conyers

### **Southeast Michigan Corporate Committee:**

*Chair:* E. Christopher Johnson; *Members:* Jon W. Bilstrom; Tom Linn; David Leitch; Bruce Peterson; Reginald Turner

### **Internal Cabinet Members**

*State Bar of Michigan:* Kim Cahill (SBM President); Ed Pappas (Chair, RDI Initiative); Janet Welch (SBM Executive Director); Jerome Reide (Director, Justice Initiatives); Hon. Cynthia Stephens (Chair, Committee on Justice Initiatives)

*Michigan State Bar Foundation:* Margo Nichols (MSBF President); Hon. Al Butzbaugh (Chair, MSBF Legal Services Grants Committee); Linda Rexer (MSBF Executive Director)

*Legal Aid Providers:* Deierdre Weir (Executive Director, LAD); Bob Gillett (Executive Director, LSSCM); Kate White (Executive Director, ELM), Mike Chielens (Executive Director, LAWWM); Ken Penokie (Executive Director, LSNM)

### **2006-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 30, 2006. The Resource Development Initiative is organized into a Statewide Campaign with ten regions, a Corporate Committee, and an advisory Internal Cabinet. The regional committees have each met at least once.

### **Committee Activities:**

The SBM provides leadership and staff support for the Access To Justice (ATJ) Campaign in

partnership with the Michigan State Bar Foundation (MSBF) and civil legal aid providers throughout the state. The Campaign continues to grow and improve, last year raising \$781,519.25 (\$776,019.25 net of adjustments) in new cash and pledges. This boosts total contributions, pledges and planned gifts for the ATJ Fund to more than \$6,800,000 since its inception. An Internal Cabinet (IC) comprised of legal service providers, officers and staff of the MSBF and the SBM was convened in the spring. As the campaign nears its 10<sup>th</sup> year, this group will review the priorities and processes of the campaign and make recommendations to increase its effectiveness. In another effort to bolster the resources available to the civil legal service community RDI's Southeast Michigan Corporate committee made the recommendation for the amendment of MRPC 6.1.

### **Chair Contact Information:**

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Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh, Special Advisor– Berrien County Trial Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, 811 Port Street, Saint Joseph, MI 49085; Phone: (269) 983-7111; Fax: (269) 9828614; Email: [abutzbau@berriencounty.org](mailto:abutzbau@berriencounty.org)

Ronald D. Keefe - Chair, Statewide Campaign - Kendricks Bordeau Adamini Chilman & Greenlee PC, 128 W Spring Street, Marquette, MI 49855; Phone (906) 226-2543; Fax: (906) 226-2819; Email: [keefer@kendricksllaw.com](mailto:keefer@kendricksllaw.com)

E. Christopher Johnson, Jr. – Chair, Corporate Committee – General Motors, Legal Staff, 300 Renaissance Center, MC 482-C25-A36, Detroit, MI 48265; Phone: (313) 665-4860; Fax: (313) 665-4992; Email: [echris.johnson@gm.com](mailto:echris.johnson@gm.com)

### **JUSTICE POLICY INTIATIVE**

It shall represent the interest of persons who are unable to afford counsel in civil matters and the legal aid programs servicing such persons.

### **Officers and Membership:**

*Initiative Chair:* Terri L. Stangl, *Vice-Chair:* Lorry S. C. Brown,  
*Members:* Michael J. Blau; Thomas F. Cavalier; Pamela R. Galloway; Joan Glanton Howard; David M. Huntley; Martin P. Krohner; Kenneth C. Penokie; Melinda A. Pitman; Thomas A. Stotz; Thomas K. Thornburg; Karen M. Tjapkes, *Staff Liaison:* Jerome Reide.

## **2006-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 30, 2006. Additional meetings occurred on January 25, 2007, March 8, 2007 (teleconference), and April 5, 2007. Additional meetings are scheduled for May 10, 2007, July 28, 2007 and August 9, 2007.

**Committee Activities:** The Justice Policy Initiative serves primarily as a policy review body. During the past bar year, it reviewed many legislative and court rule proposals and made recommendations to CJI. The CJI in turn made recommendations to the Public Policy committee of the Board Of Commissioners or the Representative Assembly. A compilation of the positions is posted on the CJI webpage:

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/justicepolicy.cfm>

When a barrier to access the legal system could be solved by pro-active legislation, advocacy or a court rule, JPI decides whether to submit a proposal to the Representative Assembly.

JPI also continued to provide testimony and technical assistance on JPI-recommended positions that have been adopted by the SBM while these positions are being considered by the legislature or Supreme Court.

## **Chair Contact Information:**

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Lorray S.C. Brown – Michigan Poverty Law Program, 611 Church Street, Suite 4A, Ann Arbor, MI 48104; Phone: (734) 998-6100 x 32; Fax: (734) 998-9125; Email: [lorrayb@umich.edu](mailto:lorrayb@umich.edu)

## **CRIMINAL ISSUES INITIATIVE**

The Criminal Issues Initiative examines collateral consequences (civil and social obstacles stemming from certain convictions that pose significant barriers to post conviction success), and representational issues (how to gain access to qualified legal assistance and the forums where representation is necessary).

## **Officers and Membership:**

*Initiative Chair:* Frank D. Eaman; *Vice Chair:* Martin P. Krohner

*Members:* Sheila Spalding Blakney; Hon. Alton T. Davis; Anthony A. Derezinski; Nancy J. Diehl; Stuart J. Dunning, III; Frank D. Eaman; Sandra L. Bailiff Girard; John E. Johnson, Jr.; David C. Koelsch; Hon. Mabel Mayfield; James R. Neuhard; Valerie R. Newman; Donald L. Reisig; Angela Kay Sherigan; Terri L. Stangl; Laurin' C. Roberts Thomas; Regina Daniels



Thomas *Liaison*: Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, CJI Liaison; *Staff Liaison*: Laura Graham

### **2005-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

A joint meeting of the CJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 30, 2006. Additional meetings occurred on January 14, 2006 (Lansing), February 3, 2006 (Lansing), and March 2, 2006 (Lansing). There were many telephone meetings of subgroups throughout the 2005-06 Bar year.

### **Committee Activities:**

There are three projects in progress:

- 1.) Create Handbooks (for courts and/or assigned counsel). The handbooks have the advantage of getting into people's hands right away.
  
- 2.) The employment "Quick Reference Brochure" will provide information about the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction on employment and occupational licenses and provide phone numbers for additional questions. There are different consequences for federal, state and local employment and for different types of employment. It is important to get this information into the hands of criminal defense attorneys, defendants, probation and parole officers, and the courts prior to defendants entering guilty or no contest pleas.
  
- 3.) The immigration "Quick Reference Brochure" will provide information about the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction on immigration status. This area of law has changed dramatically since 9/11/2001 and it is important to get current information into the hands of criminal defense attorneys, defendants, probation and parole officers, and the courts prior to defendants entering guilty or no contest pleas.

CII worked with Western Michigan Legal Services to launch a WIKI for re-entry issues.

The WIKI is a web site that is designed to be a reference tool for legal service advocates, criminal defense attorneys, convicted persons, probation and parole officers, housing providers, employers, units of government, courts, and social workers. People with criminal convictions must confront the legal and social stigma of the conviction. Countless federal, state and local laws deprive people with criminal records of employment opportunities, housing, occupational licenses, public assistance, financial aid, etc. In Michigan, approximately 1000 prisoners return to the community each month.

The web site has downloadable forms and procedures for commonly asked questions that can be accessed by both attorneys and the general public. Some of the data is directly targeted toward defense attorneys so that they can properly inform their client about the collateral consequences of certain convictions. Because the web site is a WIKI the information is maintained and updated by active participating and authorized attorneys.

The web site was launched for attorneys, and the general public in February 2007. Provide a

link on the State Bar of Michigan web site and appropriate e-blasts to identified stakeholders.

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

Staff support, consultants and operating budget.

**Future Goals and Activities:** Advocate for access to qualified legal assistance and the forums where representation is necessary. Address civil and social obstacles stemming from certain convictions that pose significant barriers to post conviction success.

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