

**STATE BAR of MICHIGAN**

**2006-2007 Annual Report  
Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications**

**Committee Name:** Standing Committee on Judicial Qualifications

**Jurisdictional Statement:**

Shall evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and shall report its findings in confidence to the authority requesting its assistance. The chief staff attorney of the Attorney Grievance Commission, a non-voting member, shall serve as reporter for the Committee. Appointed members shall be limited to a single full three-year term, except those holding the office of co-chair who shall be limited to two full three-year terms.

**Officers and Membership:**

Kathleen L. Bogas, Co-Chair  
Robert B. Webster, Co-Chair

**Members:**

- \*Alan Ackerman, Troy (2007)
- \*Janis M. Burgess, Menominee (2007)
- \*James F. Graves, Lansing (2007)
- \*Pamela R. Harwood, Birmingham, (2007)
- \*Kenneth W. Hoesch, Zeeland (2007)
- \*Bruce W. Neckers, Grand Rapids (2007)
- \*Michael J. Riordan, Detroit (2007)
- \*Margaret M. Van Houten, Bloomfield Hills (2007)
- \*Renee T. Vander Hagen, Sterling Heights (2007)
- \*Joseph M. Xuereb, Canton, (2007)

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- Susan E. Gillooly, Detroit (2008)
- Michael S. Leib, Southfield, (2008)
- Lambro Niforos, Detroit (2008)
- Daniel T. Stepek, Mount Clemens (2008)
- Richard E. Zuckerman, Detroit, (2008)

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- Michael K. Lee, Southfield (2009)
- Todd J. Shoudy, Marysville (2009)
- Joelynn T. Stokes, Pleasant Ridge (2009)
- Norman D. Tucker, Southfield (2009)

**Attorney Grievance Commission:  
Commissioner Liaison:  
Staff Liaisons:**

Ruthann Stevens, Reporter  
Hon. William B. Murphy  
Victoria V. Kremski  
Patricia M. Peyton

*Associate Members: none*

*\* Regular Members Terms Expiring 9/30/07*

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

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***2006-07 Meeting Schedule:***

State Bar of Michigan,  
Michael Franck Building, Lansing, Michigan

Meeting Dates Canceled (Interviews Not  
Requested by the Governor's Office)

November 14, 2006  
December 12, 2006  
January 9, 2007  
March 13, 2007  
March 21, 2007\*  
April 10, 2007  
May 8, 2007  
June 12, 2007  
July 10, 2007  
August 14, 2007  
September 11, 2007

October 10, 2006  
February 13, 2007+

\*Special Meeting  
+Canceled Due to Weather

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

In support of the Committee, the State Bar of Michigan provides a meeting room at the Michael Franck Building as well as lunch for the Committee. A staff liaison is assigned to coordinate the interview schedule with the Governor's Office, submit a report to the Governor indicating the Committee's ratings for each candidate and handle the administrative work.

In the Fall 2006, a database was created for the Judicial Qualifications Committee to assist with tracking interview statistics. The available interview history is now more readily accessible by the Committee. A former Character & Fitness staff member is credited with the design and creation of the database.

### ***Committee Activities:***

As requested by the Governor, the Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews, evaluates and rates candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies. Interview preparation, Committee discussion and final ratings are confidential, and reported directly to the Governor.

Prior to the interview, the application is assigned to one Committee member who contacts lawyers in the community to obtain background information regarding the candidate. The Reporter, a representative of the Attorney Grievance Commission, prepares and presents background information obtained from local judges and grievances filed against the candidate, to the Committee. All interview sources are kept confidential.

A representative from the Governor's Office and the State Bar Staff Liaison are also present during the interview. The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month as needed.

The Committee met on seven occasions from May 2006 to April 2007 to interview 109 candidates for the following vacancies:

<b>Interview Date</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>No. of Interviews</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
8/8/06	60 <sup>th</sup> District	8	Hon. Fredric A. Grimm, Jr	Maria Ladas Hoopes
11/14/06	9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	2	Hon. William G. Schma	Gary C. Giguere, Jr.
12/12/06	6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	31	Hon. Deborah G. Tyner	Hon. Leo M. Bowman
1/9/07	6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	3	Hon. Deborah G. Tyner	Hon. Leo M. Bowman
	9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	1	Hon. William G. Schma	Gary C. Giguere, Jr.
	28 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	3	Hon. Charles D. Corwin	Not yet appointed
	46 <sup>th</sup> District	6	Hon. Stephen C. Cooper	William J. Richards
3/13/07	3 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit	25	Hon. Maggie W. Drake	Not yet appointed
	28 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	1	Hon. Charles D. Corwin	Not yet appointed
3/21/07	3 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit	8	Hon. Maggie W. Drake	Not yet appointed
	48 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	10	Hon. Harry A. Beach	Not yet appointed
4/10/07	48 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	1	Hon. Harry A. Beach	Not yet appointed
	50 <sup>th</sup> District	10	Hon. Leo M. Bowman	Not yet appointed

The Committee was honored to receive a personal visit from Governor Jennifer Granholm on December 12, 2006. She expressed appreciation of the Committee's dedication and diligence to the judicial appointment process by providing her with candidate ratings.

### ***Future Goals and Activities:***

Future Goals include assisting the Governor's Office with creating an application form that may be completed by filling in blanks with a word processing program.