

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE
May 2008**

Committee Name: Standing Committee on Technology

Jurisdictional Statement:

Assist the State Bar in evaluating, promoting, and implementing new technologies in law practices, courts, and bar associations, to provide greater services to lawyers and the public.

Officers and Membership:

Paul J. Raine, Chair

Members:

Timothy Scott Cordes
Nicholas P. D'isa
Mark L. Dobias
Joseph H. Firestone
Ernest I. Gifford
Steven M. Gray

James C. LaMacchia, II
Myron J. Lloyd
Regina A. Mullen
TeLisa Tynette Owens
Vincent I. Polley
Mayra A. Rodriguez

Advisors:

Denise Devine
Jeffrey E. Kirkey
Margo C. Runkle
Millicent K. Sloan
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey

Commissioner Liaison:

Robert K. Fergan

State Bar Liaison:

William M. Kramer, III

2007-08 Meeting Schedule:

December 11, 2007 - Teleconference
January 15, 2008 - Teleconference
February 27, 2008 - Teleconference
March 5, 2008 - Teleconference
March 20, 2008 - State Bar of Michigan
April 24, 2008 - Teleconference

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

The State Bar has provided conference room facilities, teleconference capability, web page and staff support.

Committee Activities:

Many of the members of the newly formed Technology committee met face-to-face on March 20th at the State Bar Building in Lansing for a lunch meeting. The committee has had a total of six meetings to determine direction and goals for the year. The committee meeting in January was particularly useful with participation by the State Bar President Ron Keefe and State Bar Executive Director Janet Welch. Both executives provided a historical perspective on how the committee was formed and gave the committee members encouragement to venture into uncharted territory.

The committee is researching how it can attain the goal of the committee's jurisdictional statement to "Assist the State Bar in evaluating, promoting, and implementing new technologies in law practices, courts, and bar associations, to provide greater services to lawyers and the public." In this regard, members of the committee have volunteered for the three distinct areas of 1) law practices; 2) courts and 3) bar associations. The committee plans to utilize this research to identify the technology challenges in each of those three areas. Jeff Kirkey (law practices), Mark Dobias (courts) and Vince Polley (bar associations) have volunteered for each of these areas. Once the top technology challenges are identified, the committee will then make suggestions and proposals to the State Bar on how the committee can best assist the State Bar in evaluating, promoting, and implementing new technologies. The committee also plans to utilize the fruits of the committee's research by working with Anne Vrooman to provide technology related questions for the next bar membership survey.

The committee has been asked to comment on the proposed MRE 902A regarding Electronic Evidence. The committee discussed the proposed rule during a conference call on April 24th and will be providing comments on the proposed rule soon.

William Kramer of the State Bar deserves kudos for his involvement with the committee. William has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of the committee and has taken an active role in helping research the technology needs of bar associations.

Steve Gray deserves thanks for suggesting and implementing a listserv so that the committee members can more effectively communicate with each other.

For further information, please see the meeting minutes of the committee on the committee's website.

Future Goals and Activities:

The committee will complete the research it has started and will take further action once technology challenges in the areas of law practices, courts and bar associations have been identified. The committee will comment on proposed MRE 902A. The committee will work with Anne Vrooman to provide technology related questions for the next bar membership survey.

Chair Contact Information:

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