

Article VI §6, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

No later than May 1 of each year, the chair of each committee and sub-entity 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 sub-entity.

Committee Name: Standing Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Jurisdiction: Pursuant to SBR 16, the State Bar of Michigan is authorized and empowered to investigate matters pertaining to the unauthorized practice of law. The Standing Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL Committee) investigates and provides guidance on matters involving the alleged unauthorized practice of the law. The UPL Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners to file and prosecute actions seeking to enjoin those engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. The UPL Committee proposes and supports measures to educate the public and the legal profession about unauthorized practice of law issues. The UPL Committee may have more than 15 members.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Christopher G. Hastings (P40861)	Thomas M. Cooley Law School 111 Commerce Avenue SW Grand Rapids, MI 49205-4105	(616) 301-6800 ext. 6906	cghastings@sbcglobal.net
Staff Liaison	Danon D. Goodrum-Garland (P53603)	State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building 306 Townsend Street Lansing, MI 48933-2012	(517) 346-6333	dgarland@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Richard L. Cunningham (P29735)	Michigan Department of Attorney General 3030 W Grand Blvd. Ste 10-354 Detroit, MI 48202	(313) 456-0204	CunninghamR3@michigan.gov

Members	Members	Members
Russell Reid Abrutyn (P63968)	Frederick H. Hoops, III (P52397)	Ruthmarie Shea (P44503)
Howard Henry Brauckmuller (P69745)	Clinton J. Hubbell (P72321)	James Anthony Siver(P33597)
Barbara BakerOmerod (P52724)	Barry C. Kane (P45851)	Perry B. Thompson (P66464)
Michael A. Braem (P69395)	David J. Klippert (P55701)	Theresa Valentine (P38857)
James Booth Burr (P11444)	Kevin S. Macaddino (P31665)	Victoria Vuletich (P48664)
Sara Lynn Doyle (P50990)	Melissa F. Miller Manela (P43833)	
Katherine Sue Gardner (P59050)	Michael D. Murray (P62580)	
Stephen J. Gobbo (P56521)	Meghan Kennedy Riordan (P44184)	
Patsy L. Holmes (P72380)	Paul A. Saba (P69791)	

Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Regularly scheduled meeting.	June 24, 2010	State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building 306 Townsend Street Lansing, MI 48933
The Committee reviewed and discussed UPL complaints and recommended two matters for litigation. Chair Hastings provided an update regarding the internal review process being undertaken by the State Bar regarding the Committee's proposed rule-based definition for the practice of law. The Committee discussed community outreach/awareness projects and distribution of pamphlets.		
Regularly scheduled meeting.	September 9, 2010	State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building 306 Townsend Street Lansing, MI 48933
The Committee reviewed and discussed UPL complaints and directed additional follow-up by staff counsel on several matters to informally resolve them.		
Regularly scheduled meeting.	January 20, 2011	State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building 306 Townsend Street Lansing, MI 48933
Chair Hastings conducted new member orientation, and then the Committee reviewed and discussed UPL complaints and approved two matters for litigation. The Committee discussed and unanimously approved the proposed rule-based definition of the practice of law and Chair Hastings explained the internal review process via a special Committee that he has been invited to participate on behalf of the UPL Committee. The Committee reviewed informal ethics opinion RI-349 and approved a letter to the Chair of the Ethics Committee regarding its concerns. The Committee also discussed the presentations to the mediation centers as part of the Committee's community outreach efforts.		
Regularly scheduled meeting.	March 24, 2011	State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building 306 Townsend Street Lansing, MI 48933
The Committee reviewed and discussed UPL complaints and recommended two matters for litigation, tabled one matter for future review and discussion after additional investigation, and directed staff counsel to continue monitoring two matters. As part of its community outreach, an UPL subcommittee participated in the Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (UPIIL) Engagement Session hosted by U.S. Citizenship Services, Detroit, which plans to launch an initiative to combat exploitative practices by: (1) promoting public understanding of the best ways to find bona fide legal advice and avoid scams; (2) building capacity for legitimate assistance and services; and (3) supporting enforcement action against those who engage in the unauthorized practice of		

immigration law. The Committee approved the Spanish translation of the immigration pamphlet and directed staff counsel to move forward with print production. In addition, a Subcommittee was formed to review a first draft Arabic translation of the immigration pamphlet. Another Subcommittee was formed to recommend amendments to the recording statute to incorporate harsher penalties for false attestation by nonlawyer preparers.

Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:

The State Bar provides staff support via the administrative assistance of a legal secretary and staff counsel who provides legal services and manages the State Bar's UPL Department. The State Bar also provides meeting facilities, food and beverage for meetings, teleconferencing services, meeting materials, and document production services. In addition, the State Bar staff provides informational pamphlets to SBM members, the general public, and to other institutions serving the public to educate the public and legal profession about the unauthorized practice of law.

Committee Activities: The Committee continued its work in prevention and remediation of the unauthorized practice of law. The Committee continues to monitor development of legal assistance centers for pro se litigants and has engaged in active dialogue with professionals assisting in this area to guard against the unauthorized practice of law and to offer meaningful support to assist the general public in finding low cost legal resources and services. The Committee has continued its investigation of pending legislation, statutes, and court rules that would facilitate the goal of protecting the public from the unauthorized practice of law.

Future Goals and Activities: The Committee will continue to expand educational activities, develop and use creative and proactive measures in addressing the unauthorized practice of law, continue to work towards adoption of its rule-based definition of the practice of law, continue to identify and take advantage of opportunities to work with the SBM Governmental Relations Department and Public Policy Committee to advance legislative measures and other legal remedies to reduce the potential for the unauthorized practice of law and reduce the impact of the associated harm to the general public, and continue to evaluate UPL complaints and make referrals to the Board of Commissioners for matters to be litigated.

The UPL Committee is scheduled to meet on June 23, 2011, and August 4, 2011, to review matters pertaining to the unauthorized practice of law and educational measures and to conduct other business as needed.

Other Information: Not applicable.