

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
UNITED STATES COURTS COMMITTEE
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

Committee Name: United States Courts Committee

Jurisdictional Statement: “The Committee shall make recommendations concerning the administration, organization and operation of the United States Courts for the purpose of securing the effective administration of justice. Two members shall be judges designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and one member shall be a judge designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.”

Membership notes: Pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Commissioners, the membership of the committee may exceed 17.

Officers and Membership:

Chair/Vice Chairs: John A. Ferroli and Michelle Harrell
Board of Commissioner Liaison: N/A
Bar Staff Liaisons: Clifford T. Flood and Anne M. Smith

Members:

Hon. Ellen Carmody	Michelle Harrell
Hon. David M. Lawson	Thaddeus E. Morgan
Hon. Thomas L. Ludington	John P. Nicolucci
Jordan S. Bolton	Paul F. Novak
Leonid Feller	Michael W. Puerner
John A. Ferroli	Lynn H. Shecter
Harold Gurewitz	Elizabeth A. Stafford
Kelley M. Haladyna	David Weaver (Clerk, ED)
	Tracey Cordes (Clerk WD)

Advisors/Advisory Members (Appointed Annually):

Bryan R. Walters (FBA – Western Dist.)
Matthew Schneider (FBA – Eastern Dist.)
Mark W. McInerney – Advisory Member

2012-2013 Meeting Schedules (date and location):

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 – State Bar of Michigan
Wednesday, November 28, 2012 – State Bar of Michigan
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 – State Bar of Michigan
Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – State Bar of Michigan
Thursday, May 16, 2013 – Bench-Committee Dinner – WD – Noto’s in Grand Rapids

Committee Activities:

1. Reviewed proposed federal rule amendments and proposed revisions of local rules of the Eastern and the Western Districts for and submitted comments where appropriate.
2. Promoted exchange of information between the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan regarding operational and administrative functions and procedures, Bench-Bar Conferences of each District, and opportunities for cooperation and cross-districting with regard to future Bench-Bar Conferences.

3. Sponsored an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Eastern and Western Districts (alternates yearly between the two Districts), currently scheduled for May 16, 2013 at Noto's in Grand Rapids. The dinner is intended to provide an opportunity for the judges and committee members to meet and discuss common issues.
4. Reviewed en banc decisions of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals (and if appropriate, published a summary of notable decisions in ED and WD FBA newsletters and in the Bar Journal).

Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work: Besides providing the resources called for in Article VI, Section 7 of the State Bar Bylaws, the State Bar provided meeting space, equipped with telephone conferencing capabilities, and State Bar Liaisons Clifford T. Flood and Anne M. Smith provided administrative support, including attending each meeting and assisted in preparing and circulating meeting agendas and minutes. Further, the State Bar incurred the expenses for the Annual Bench Bar dinner.

Future Goals and Activities:

1. The Committee will continue to review and, when appropriate, comment on proposed amendments to the Federal Rules and to local rules.
2. The Committee will continue to educate members of the Bar through articles or other means of significant rule changes.
3. The Committee will continue to review 6th Circuit en banc opinions and, if appropriate, publish a summary in FBA newsletters and the Michigan Bar Journal.
4. The Committee will look for opportunities to publish articles in FBA newsletters and the Michigan Bar Journal regarding topics appropriate to its jurisdiction.
5. The Committee will continue its support of a statewide Bench/Bar Conference by coordinating activities of the Eastern and Western Districts FBA chapters.
6. The Committee will continue to sponsor an annual bench-bar dinner with judges and magistrates judges of the Eastern and Western Districts.
7. To promote continuity and consistency, the Committee will continue to elect a committee vice-chair each year and at the appropriate time, it will respectfully request the appointment of the vice-chair as the committee's chair for the ensuing year.

Chair Contact Information:

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