

Welcome to Committee Work with the State Bar of Michigan

The State Bar of Michigan is the association of the members of the bar of this state, organized and existing as a public body corporate pursuant to powers of the Supreme Court over the bar of the state. The State Bar of Michigan shall, under these rules, aid in promoting improvements in the administration of justice and advancements in jurisprudence, in improving relations between the legal profession and the public, and in promoting the interests of the legal profession in this state.

Rule 1, Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan.

Committees

The SBM could not provide a benefit to its members without volunteers like you! Thank you for your service.

State Bar of Michigan Rules

Rule 11 Committees. *Section 1. Appointment.* Committees of the State Bar of Michigan may be established for the promotion of the objects of the State Bar of Michigan, and shall consist of limited numbers of members appointed by the president with their number, jurisdiction, method of selection and tenure determined in accordance with the bylaws and the resolution establishing the committee. In the event of the resignation, death or disqualification of any member of a committee, the president shall appoint a successor to serve for the unexpired term.

State Bar of Michigan Bylaws

ARTICLE VI—Committees and Appointed Subentities of the Bar

Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners establishes and prescribes the functions and organization of committees and sections, which operate within the scope of their jurisdiction. Sections and committees may be reconstituted or terminated by action of the Board. SBM Rule 5, §1(b), 11 and 12. The Board has explicit authority to manage the State Bar, adopt a budget, publish the *Michigan Bar Journal*, conduct litigation, hold real estate, and borrow money. The Board may delegate these functions to another State Bar entity. SBM Rule 5, §1(b) and (c).

Representative Assembly

The Representative Assembly as the final policy-making body of the State Bar. SBM Rule 6. Members are elected by constituents of the judicial circuits. Each judicial circuit is entitled to one representative and the remaining seats are apportioned among the circuits based upon lawyer population.

Strategic Plan

SBM Committees are entrusted with the responsibility to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan. Each Committee Annual Report includes a list of the accomplishments and activities that advance the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Public Policy Work

Any committee that considers advancing a public policy issue should review the items below and contact the Public Policy Division before taking any public action.

Keller v. State Bar of California, 496 U.S. 1 (1990)

The compelled association and integrated bar are justified by the State's interest in regulating the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services. The State Bar may... constitutionally fund activities germane to those goals out of the mandatory dues of all members. It may not, however, in such manner fund activities of an ideological nature which fall outside of those areas of activity.

Administrative Order 2004-1 requires that all public policy matters comply with the following:

- The regulation and discipline of attorneys.
- The improvement of the functioning of the courts.
- The availability of legal services to society.
- The regulation of attorney trust accounts.
- The regulation of the legal profession, including the education, the ethics, the competency, and the integrity of the profession.

Committee Member Roles and Policies

Committee Procedures and Policies

1. The committee chair(s) with the assistance of SBM committee liaisons will determine an agenda for the meeting.
2. Staff Liaisons will distribute the agenda and accompanying materials in advance of the meeting.
3. To take action, the committee must have a quorum, which is a majority of its members present.
4. The committee may not issue awards, only the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly may bestow an award or significant honor. [Awards Policy](#).
5. Committee member expenses are not reimbursed by the Bar.
6. All external documents produced by entities of the SBM must adhere to the [logo and design standards](#).

Committee Member Responsibilities

1. **Prepare for Meetings.** Review all relevant material before committee meetings. These materials will be sent to you by the staff liaison, and meetings are more efficient and effective when all members are prepared to discuss the items on the agenda.
2. **Attend Meetings.** Your participation at meetings is essential to the committee. Please respond promptly to all meeting scheduling requests and make every effort to attend the meetings. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let the committee chair or liaison know. Any member who has three consecutive unexcused absences is deemed to have resigned from the committee.
3. **Actively Participate.** Provide thoughtful input on committee deliberations, focusing on the committee's jurisdictions and goals and the best interest of SBM. Work with

committee members to help propose policies and develop projects that help advance the jurisdiction of the committee.

4. **Do not speak on behalf of SBM, your committee, or in your capacity as a committee member, unless explicitly authorized to do so.** With very limited exceptions, only the SBM President speaks on behalf of SBM.
5. Members of Character and Fitness, Judicial Qualifications, and Ethics only must abide by the [Discipline Policy](#).

Diversity and Inclusion

The State Bar of Michigan actively promotes the importance of diversity and inclusion in the profession. A member of the Diversity and Inclusion Division is available to speak with your committee about diversity and inclusion.

Resources

- [State Bar of Michigan Website](#)
- [SBM Connect](#)
- [Benefits for State Bar of Michigan Members](#)