

**STATE BAR COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH
AND LEGAL PUBLICATIONS**

Minutes of the 2 April, 2011 meeting held at the Michael Franck Building, Lansing, MI

Present: Ann Baker, Sharon Barnes, Jan Bissett, Barbara Bonge, Marlene Coir, Byron Cooper, Randy Davidson, Randy Foreman, Janice Selberg, Heather Simmons, Ruth Stevens, Virginia Thomas, Kathy Vance, Lance Werner.

Excused: Bernadette Bartlett, Geraldine Brown, Kincaid Brown, Paul Edwards, Barbara Garavaglia, Barbara Goldman, Dan Kopka, Laura Mancini, Jane Meland, Marilyn Preston, Jennifer Schafer.

Absent: Marjorie Gell.

Committee Chair, J.Selberg, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Chair's Report

Minutes of January 22, 2011 were presented and approved with one amendment; M.Coir noted that the round table discussion included in the minutes referred to her own professional activities and not those of the Cooley Auburn Hills Law Library.

The Chair asked if everyone received the email "Committee Appointments 2010-2011" from Joyce Nordeen on March 24. The email asks members if they want to continue membership on the Committee in 2011-12. This the first year in which an inquiry is going out to the current committee members before new appointments are made in June. Chair received a copy of the response to this email by Paul Edwards. He is resigning from the Committee, effective immediately, citing demands on his time now and in the foreseeable future.

The Chair reported that a letter to Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P.Young was mailed March 1, and that she has not yet received a response. The letter offered the assistance and expertise of the LLRLP Committee on the Michigan Courts SCAO self-help website. Discussion followed about the Solutions on Self-Help Task Force announced by Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly in 2010. Committee advisory member L.Mancini was appointed to the Task Force. One of the Task Force's goals is to develop a state-wide self-help website, likely modeled after the Illinois Legal Aid web site (www.illinoislegalaid.org) that will help non-lawyers represent themselves more effectively. The Illinois web site has interactive forms.

The Committee's discussion centered on the role of the Committee's own self-help web site. The conclusion was that the existence of two web sites is acceptable if each is fulfilling a need. In addition, the sites should link to one another.

R.Stevens made proposal to invite Linda Rexer, co-chair of the Task Force and executive director of the Michigan Bar Foundation, to our next meeting to speak about the progress of this initiative and to hear our concerns and ideas. The Chair will send Rexer an invitation to our July meeting, alternatively to our October meeting.

J. Bissett pointed out that most pro-se patrons coming to libraries need legal advice. It is doubtful whether an online solution to this will be developed soon.

The Chair reported that the June and July issues of the Michigan Bar Journal have exchanged themes; the June issue theme of Information Technology Law will now be published in July, and the July theme of Health Care Law will be published in June. K. Brown has already submitted his IT Law article and B. Bartlett will submit an article for the June issue (was never planned to be on the subject of health care.) The themes for the remainder of 2012 were announced, and the Chair asked for article writers. The August issue article with a General theme will be written by V. Thomas, the September issue article will be written by the Chair under the theme of Arts, Communication, Entertainment, and Sports. There is no one yet assigned to the General theme issues of October and December, 2012. The November General theme issue article will be written by L.Werner.

Old Business

Self-Help website discussion (continued from Chair Report). No report on number of hits to the website was available for this meeting. The website content and links are reviewed annually; volunteers were requested for this year's review. The assignments for the nine current topics were the following:

Consumer Protection:	B. Bonge
Criminal Law:	R. Davidson
Debt Relief:	R. Stevens
Elder Law	K. Vance
Family Law	M. Coir
Identity Theft	H. Simmons
Immigration Law	V. Thomas
Landlord/Tenant	J. Selberg
Wills and Trusts	R. Foreman

Discussion followed as to whether to add the topic of Divorce Law to the web site. K. Vance stated that this might be an unnecessary division of the existing topic of Family Law. There was general agreement. J. Bissett said that the site could add value by adding a section on using a public library/legal collection. She was asked to work on the idea; M.Coir is on the MichALL pro bono committee and might be able to work with her.

The Chair asked members to send topics that need updating to her to pass on to SBM website maintenance before next meeting in July.

New Business:

Roundtable Reports:

Ann Baker, DLEG: The Department has been renamed to Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Executive Order 2011-5 provides for this change as well as the

creation of the Office of Regulatory Reinvention under LARA, which will be responsible for a complete review of all rules and rulemaking processes.

P.A. 290 of 2010 amends the LLCA and makes it easier to convert a corporation into an LLC.

Tax considerations make this desirable in many cases.

Case pending in the Michigan Court of Appeals; *McQueen v. Michigan* interpreting the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act and challenging the decision from Isabella County Circuit Court.

Ruth Stevens, GVSU: Nothing to report.

Kathy Vance, Miller Johnson: Nothing to report

Barbara Bonge, Michigan Court of Appeals: Library of Michigan's hours are now Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Lance Werner, Capital Area District Library: Will become Director of Kent District Libraries as of May 2.

Virginia Thomas, Wayne State University Law Library: Budget challenges at the University; MichALL meeting will be held May 20 at Cooley Law School, Ann Arbor. Speaker will be Coco Siewert, expert on parliamentary procedure.

Heather Simmons, General Motors: Name of entity is 'General Motors Company LLC.'

Byron Cooper, University of Detroit Mercy: Law School recently completed ABA sabbatical visit; also retroconversion project for Los Angeles County library records.

Jan Bissett, Wayne State University Law Library: Working on the National Legal Inventory for AALL.

Marlene Coir, Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills: Integration and consolidation of OCLL collection is completed.

Randy Davidson, State Appellate Defender Office: Redesign of SADO website, scheduled to take 6 months.

Randy Foreman, Cooley Law School, Lansing: Nothing to report.

Linda Barnes, State Bar of Michigan: Nothing to report.

Janice Selberg: Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: July 16, Michael Franck Building, Lansing

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

