

**State Bar of Michigan
Representative Assembly
September 18, 2014**

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The following is a summary of proceedings of the State Bar Representative Assembly session held Thursday, September 18, 2014, at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

1. Call to order by Chairperson Kathleen M. Allen.
2. Clerk Daniel D. Quick declared a quorum (50 members) was present.
3. Matthew Antkoviak, Chair, Rules and Calendar Committee addressed the Assembly with two amendments to the proposed calendar. Upon a motion made and seconded, with the amendments the calendar was adopted as proposed.
4. As provided in Rule 4.8, the Summary of Proceedings of the April 26, 2014 meeting was deemed approved.
5. Judge Jeffrey Nellis, Chair, Nominating and Awards Committee, addressed the Assembly on filling vacancies for the current meeting. Upon a motion made and seconded, Ann Victoria Hopcroft (23rd Circuit) was appointed to fill an immediate vacancy within her Circuit.
6. Michael Blau, Representative Assembly member, and Lorry S.C. Brown, co-chair of Justice Policy Initiative, addressed the Assembly for consideration of proposed amendment of MCR 7.109 to allow an indigent person to move for the waiver of transcript fees on appeals from agency decisions. Upon a motion made and support, after discussion, the proposal passed as follows:

MCR 7.109.

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(B) Transcript.

(1) Appellant's Duties; Orders; Stipulations.

(a) The appellant is responsible for securing the filing of the transcript as provided in this rule. Unless otherwise provided by circuit court order or by subrule (f), or this subrule, the appellant shall order the full transcript of testimony and other proceedings in the trial court or agency. Under MCR 7.104(D)(2), a party must serve a copy of any request for transcript preparation on the opposing party and file a copy with the circuit court.

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(f) If the court finds that the appellant from an agency decision is financially unable to pay for the preparation of transcripts for appeal, the court must order transcripts prepared at public expense.

7. Elizabeth Jolliffe presented the *Unsung Hero Award* to Susan F. Reed for her contribution to the improvement of the quality of criminal defense representation in southeast Michigan. Ms. Reed accepted the award and addressed the Assembly.
8. Webb A. Smith presented the *Michael Franck Award* Julie I. Fershtman for her outstanding contribution to the improvement of the profession. Ms. Fershtman accepted the award and addressed the Assembly.
9. Brian D. Einhorn, President, addressed the Assembly on general State Bar issues, his views on *Keller* and how it affects the State Bar and the Representative Assembly actions, followed by video interview with Robert Sedler, Wayne State University constitutional law professor, on his interpretation of *Keller*.
10. Janet Welch, Executive Director, addressed the Assembly to offer a national and historical perspective on *Keller*.
11. Tom Rombach, President-Elect, addressed the Assembly on the three goals of his presidency, maintaining a mandatory Bar, preserving public policy advocacy, and preserving the current governing structure.
12. Kathleen M. Allen, Representative Assembly Chair, announced the election of Fred Herrmann as the 2014-2015 Clerk of the Assembly.
13. Kathleen M. Allen, Representative Assembly Chair, presented certificates to the outgoing Assembly members whose terms of service expired at the end of the September 2014 Annual Meeting.
14. Kathleen M. Allen, Representative Assembly Chair, presented tokens of appreciation to the 2013-2014 Committee Chairs for their work over the past year.
15. Kathleen M. Allen, Representative Assembly Chair, introduced Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens of the Michigan Court of Appeals in Detroit to swear in Vanessa P. Williams.
16. Vanessa P. Williams was sworn in as 2014-2015 Chair of the Assembly by Hon. Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens of the Michigan Court of Appeals in Detroit.
17. Vanessa P. Williams, Representative Assembly Chair, presented a plaque to Kathleen M. Allen for all her work over the past year as Assembly Chair.
18. Adjournment