



RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Article VI of the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, the Board of Commissioners adopts the following as the committees and appointed subentities of the State Bar of Michigan for fiscal year 2017-2018

STATE BAR STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES 2017-2018

The President of the State Bar, at his or her discretion, may appoint for a one-year term, non-voting advisors, including individuals who are not members of the State Bar, to any committee on which such advisors, in his or her judgment, would be beneficial. Such advisors may be re-appointed to subsequent terms without limit.

No standing or special committee has authority to bestow an award or significant honor. Any award or significant honor recommended by a standing or special committee to be bestowed must be approved by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly, as appropriate.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES JURISDICTION AND NOTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS STEERING COMMITTEE (SP)

Jurisdiction:

- Work with our partners to effectively regulate the legal profession in Michigan
- Educate members on ethical rules and regulations, and adopting them to eliminate barriers to innovation
- Promote respect for diversity as an important element of professionalism
- Support each active member's professional competence and continuing professional development

CHARACTER & FITNESS (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Investigate the character and fitness of candidates for admission to the State Bar, pursuant to Rule 15, Section 1, of the Supreme Court Rules concerning the State Bar of Michigan.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members. See Supreme Court Rule 15.

CLIENT PROTECTION FUND (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Make recommendations concerning the Client Protection Fund, including reimbursement of claims authorized by the Board of Commissioners, revision of rules and policies, and subrogation actions to recoup monies paid from the Fund.
- Review and recommend loss prevention measures to minimize claims and public loss.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- Implement the Strategic Plan through workgroups including Payee Notification.

JUDICIAL ETHICS (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Prepare written opinions on ethical conduct of judges at the request of the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Executive Director, individual members of the State Bar inquiring about their own contemplated conduct, or on its own initiative.
- Recommend amendments to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct and other standards of professional conduct, and review proposed amendments.

Notes:

- The Michigan Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates, and the Referees Association of Michigan shall each nominate one member for appointment to the committee.

JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Evaluate candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies and report in confidence to the authority requesting its assistance.

Notes:

- The chief staff attorney of the Attorney Grievance Commission serves as reporter for this committee. The appointed members are limited to three two-year terms. Chairs of the committee may serve more than three two-year terms. This committee may have more than 15 members.

LAWYERS & JUDGES ASSISTANCE (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Recommend and support programs and educational presentations that provide assistance to law students, lawyers, and judges regarding substance use issues, mental health issues, and general wellness.
- Review and make recommendations concerning proposed statutes and court rules affecting assistance to lawyers and judges faced with personal and professional problems related to substance use and mental health issues.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Prepare written opinions on professional ethical conduct at the request of the State Bar President, Board of Commissioners, Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board, Attorney Grievance Commission, Executive Director, individual members of the State Bar inquiring about their own contemplated conduct, or on its own initiative.
- Recommend amendments to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct and other standards of professional conduct, and review proposed amendments.
- Recommend and support programs and educational presentations related to professional ethics.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members. The grievance administrator and a AGC staff attorney designated by the grievance administrator and the executive and deputy director of the Attorney Discipline Board or his or her designee shall serve as nonvoting, ex officio members.
- Implement the Strategic Plan through workgroups including Receiverships, Multidisciplinary Practice Pilot, Regulatory Objectives, and Technology Competence.

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW (ST) (Professional Standards Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Propose and support measures to educate the public and the legal profession about unauthorized practice of law issues.
- Provide guidance concerning matters involving the alleged unauthorized practice of the law, including filing and prosecuting actions to enjoin the unauthorized practice.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

PUBLIC POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE (SP)

Jurisdiction:

- Encourage progress toward the public policy goals set forth in the strategic plan.
- Help ensure that public policy work is carried out in a manner that effectively considers input from members, efficiently responds to public policy issues, encourages *Keller*-permissible proactive public policy work, and effectively communicates public policy issues and positions to our members.

AMERICAN INDIAN LAW (ST) (Public Policy Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Identify the most effective role of the State Bar of Michigan in advancing the interests of the sovereign tribal courts.
- Facilitate and encourage the relationship between tribal courts, state courts, and federal courts, and the promotion of positive relationships between the lawyers of Michigan and the American Indian Community.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- Includes a representative from the Michigan Supreme Court.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE POLICY (SP) (Public Policy Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Analyze and make recommendations for positions on proposed legislation, court rules, and other policies for the effective delivery of high quality legal services in Michigan, equal and fair to all.
- Make recommendations regarding collateral civil consequences of criminal convictions and issues of adequate representation for adults and juveniles in the criminal justice system.

CIVIL PROCEDURE & COURTS (ST) (Public Policy Standing Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Review proposed court rules and statutes related to civil practice in the courts and make recommendations concerning improvements in the administration, organization, and operation of Michigan state courts.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

CIVIL PROCEDURE AND DISCOVERY (SP) (Public Policy Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Review and propose revisions to the Michigan Court Rules dealing with the civil discovery process to address the expense and burden of civil discovery, including technology considerations on civil discovery and the organization of the rules.

CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE & PRACTICE (ST) (Public Policy Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Review proposed court rules and statutes related to criminal procedure and practice in state courts and make recommendations concerning improvements in the operation of criminal law and procedure to promote the fair and efficient administration of criminal justice.
- Make recommendations concerning the establishment and operation of systems for the representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.

UNITED STATES COURTS (ST) (Public Policy Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- 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 are judges designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and one member is a judge designated by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.
- The Federal Bar Association Eastern District and the Federal Bar Association Western District may each nominate an advisor for appointment to the committee.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE (SP)

Jurisdiction:

- Promote greater member engagement to connect members with the bar, its resources, each other.
- Help new lawyers to be practice ready.
- Engage members in learning about and implementing innovative delivery methods.
- Provide timely, targeted messages to promote understanding of the rule of law, role of judicial and legal profession.
- Create and maintain an accessible, coordinated online foundation of legal resources for the public.
- Create and maintain greater public awareness and competence around legal issues that affect them.

- Target communications to build awareness of bar programs and initiatives among members and the recipient community.

AWARDS (ST) (Communications/Member Services Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Recommend attorney recipients qualified to receive awards made in the name of the State Bar of Michigan.
- Recommend recipients of the annual Liberty Bell Award made to non-attorneys.
- Recommend the establishment of new awards or discontinuation of existing awards.

Notes:

- The vice-president is a member of this committee.

MICHIGAN BAR JOURNAL (ST) (Communications and Member Services Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Provide editorial guidance concerning the Michigan Bar Journal.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & EVENTS (SP) (Communications and Member Services Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Provide assistance developing educational events for State Bar members that include, but are not limited to, the Bar Leadership Forum, Upper Michigan Legal Institute, and the Annual Meeting.
- Assist in improving access to legal information for members through resources at libraries and legal publications, and methods of conducting legal research.
- Provide guidance to the Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) in the development, maintenance, and evaluation of resources, programs, and services designed to help members build and strengthen their law practices, with particular emphasis on the use of online resources as the primary vehicle to market and disseminate PMRC services.
- Supporting mentorship opportunities by helping design, develop, and evaluate mentorship programs.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- The president, president-elect, and RA vice chair are to be members of this committee.
- Planning for UMLI should include one quarter Upper Michigan attorneys.
- This committee may include non-State Bar members.
- Implement the Strategic Plan through workgroups including PMRC, Technology Help, Large Meetings Review & Design, Print Publications, Media Relations, and Mentorship.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH (SP) (Communications and Member Services Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Provide assistance developing educational events and programs advancing lay understanding of law and the legal profession, with particular emphasis on community programs, including, but not limited to, Law Day and Constitution Day.

- Assist in improving access to legal information for the public by creating and maintaining an online foundation of legal resources.
- Recommend Michigan Legal Milestones that commemorate significant cases, events, places and people in the State's legal history.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members. This committee may include educators, Michigan Lawyers Alliance, and other non-State Bar members.
- Implement the Strategic Plan through workgroups including PSAs, Law Day, Constitution Day, Teachable Moments, Print Publications, and Community Collaboration.

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE (SP) (Communications and Member Services Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Provide assistance developing content for the SBM website and social media.
- Provide guidance to staff regarding resources and information related to social media.
- Assist in promotion of the SBM website, social media, and SBM e-publications (e-journal, Public Policy Newsletter, SBM News.)

IMPLEMENTATION AND INNOVATION STEERING COMMITTEE (SP)

Jurisdiction

- Develop government, member, and administrative structures that provide for broad-based decision making and timely action.
- Employ practices that strengthen SBM's fiscal position and responsible use of resources.
- Ensure technology infrastructure follows best business practices and is poised to meet the future needs of members and SBM.
- Conduct research and development that promotes innovation and forecasts change.
- Expand opportunities for SBM members to participate in access to justice initiatives through traditional means including pro bono and by partnering with public service organizations local and affinity bars.
- Expand collaboration with professional organizations and communities outside of the legal community.

DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR ALL (SP) (II Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

Develop and recommend proposals for the effective delivery of high quality legal services, equal, fair and affordable for all.

This committee consists of three initiatives:

- Access to Justice: Proactive Policy and Program Development
 - Develop, recommend, and implement programs to benefit underserved populations including the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, gender identity, juveniles, domestic violence survivors, and those with special needs.
 - Work to increase resources for civil legal aid programs.
 - Maintain commitment to the provision of pro bono legal services.
 - Recommend John W. Cumiskey Award recipient to the Awards Committee.

- Implement the Strategic Plan through formation of work groups as resources allow to address first responder pro bono, Michigan Free Legal Answers, online intake and triage, consistent treatment of fee waiver requests.
- Affordable Legal Services
 - Review and recommend innovative practices to provide low-cost legal services and evaluate efforts to expand access to affordable legal services for persons of modest means, including low bono services.
 - Explore development of non-profit law firms and sliding scale civil legal services.
 - Evaluate and recommend programs to increase online dispute resolution and alternative dispute resolution services.
 - Explore cases to remove from judicial process.
 - Explore alternative fee agreements.
- Lawyer Referral Service
 - Review and recommend programs to ensure knowledge of and access to lawyer referral services.
 - Review and recommend information to help consumers understand options and access to legal services.
 - Enhanced Directory/Online Marketplace.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members.
- Each initiative has co-chairs and works within its membership to establish quorum and deliver its work product to the Delivery of Legal Services Standing Committee, the II Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, or other as appropriate.
- The initiative co-chairs and others are members of the standing committee which functions as an umbrella to the initiatives.
- The executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation is included as a member in the Access to Justice Initiative.
- This committee will address the topic of an independent tech audit.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ADVISORY (ST) (II Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Develop concepts for recognizing best practices and exceptional achievements, including the Affinity Bar Summit and Brunch for Bars.
- Identify the most effective and efficient means of assuring a diverse and inclusive voice in all State Bar of Michigan work.
- Review concepts and ideas and make recommendations for support, implementation or other appropriate actions to SBM leadership, committees, and other bar-associated entities about SBM initiatives and programs addressing inclusion within the profession, and approaches to measuring progress concerning diversity and inclusion.
- Identify tools and strategies to assess the current state of diversity and inclusion in the Michigan legal community that can be used to set meaningful benchmarks to measure improvements and progress.
- Provide public support to the SBM leadership and staff regarding communications with members of the profession and others about the goals and outcomes of diversity and inclusion activities.

Notes:

- This committee may have more than 15 members and may include non-State Bar members.
- Implement the Strategic Plan through workgroups including Brunch for Bars, the Affinity Bar Summit, the Face of Justice program, and identifying the most effective and efficient means of assuring a diverse and inclusive voice in all State Bar of Michigan work.

LAW SCHOOL DEANS (ST) (II Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Confer on issues and subjects that affect the law schools of Michigan and lawyers practicing in Michigan.
- Make recommendations concerning legal preparation, law school admissions, education, standards, and testing of candidates for admission to the Bar.

Notes:

This committee consists of the deans of the law schools in Michigan, officers of the State Bar, and the chair of the Representative Assembly. This committee may include non-State Bar members.

PAST PRESIDENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (SP) (II Steering Committee)

Jurisdiction:

- Provide counsel and recommendations on all matters concerning the State Bar at the request of the Board of Commissioners.

Notes:

- The membership of the committee consists of all past presidents of the State Bar of Michigan.

(ST) = Standing

(SP) = Special