President W. Anthony Jenkins called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. on Friday, November 19, 2010 at the State Bar of Michigan Building, Lansing, MI.

Commissioners present:
Danielle Mason Anderson  
Dennis M. Barnes  
David R. Brake  
Robert J. Buchanan  
Lori A. Buiteweg  
Margaret A. Costello  
Richard L. Cunningham  
Brian D. Einhorn, Secretary  
James N. Erhart  
Julie I. Fershtman, President Elect  
Stephen J. Gobbo  
W. Anthony Jenkins, President  
Edward L. Haroutunian  
David A. Kallman  
Donald E. McGinnis, Jr.  
Maureen M. McGinnis  
Lambro Niforos  
Lawrence P. Nolan  
David A. Perkins  
Victoria A. Radke  
Michael J. Riordan  
Donald G. Rockwell  
Thomas C. Rombach, Treasurer  
Richard J. Siriani  
Angelique Strong Marks  
Julie A. Sullivan  
Laurin C Roberts Thomas  
Dana M. Warnez

Commissioners absent and excused:
Commissioners Courtade, Escobedo, Olsman and Robinson were absent and excused.

State Bar Staff present:
Janet Welch, Executive Director  
Marge Bossenbery, Executive Coordinator  
Nancy Brown, Director, Member Services and Communications  
Gregory Conyers, Director, Justice Initiatives  
Candace Crowley, Director, External Development  
Dawn Evans, Director, Professional Standards  
Cliff Flood, General Counsel  
Danon Goodrum-Garland, Professional Standards Investigative Counsel  
James Horsch, Director, Finance and Administration  
Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn, Professional Standards Service Counsel  
Naseem Stecker, Manager, Media and Communications Division  
Anne Vrooman, Director, Research and Development

A motion was offered, supported and adopted to adopt the consent agenda.

**Commissioner Committee Reports**

**Finance.** Thomas C. Rombach, Chairperson
Mr. Einhorn provided the Board with a financial and investment update.

**Audit Committee.** Thomas C. Rombach, Chairperson
Mr. Einhorn provided the Board with an update on the activities of the Audit Committee.

**Professional Standards.** Brian D. Einhorn, Chairperson
Character and Fitness Committee Recommendations
Mr. Einhorn offered a motion to approve the District Character and Fitness Committee Appointments for Districts A – I as distributed. Motion supported and carried.
Ms. Costello informed the Board that the Professional Standards Committee will consider the proposed changes to Rule 8.126 at a future meeting. She indicated that if anyone on the Board has comments or suggestions regarding the proposals before the Supreme Court that they send them to Mr. Einhorn so that the committee members can review them as part of their discussion. Mr. Einhorn asked Ms. Evans to provide the Board with all of the proposals now being considered.

**Programs and Services**, Bruce A. Courtade, Chairperson

There was not a report.

**Public Policy, Image and Identity**, Julie I. Fershtman, Chairperson

The Board was provided with a written report from Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.

The Board was provided with a written report from the Justice Initiatives co-chairs.

**Domestic Violence Committee Recommendations**

The Domestic Violence Committee is requesting consideration of proposals to the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) to adopt various new forms. The Public Policy Committee recommends that these items be deferred to the Domestic Violence Committee to advocate for the adoption of new forms.

**Michigan Court Rules**

2008-12 - Proposed amendment to MCR 2.002 - Allow a Court to Deny Indigent Status for Vexatious Lawsuits

Motion offered and supported to oppose this rule change as drafted. Motion adopted

Motion offered to include in the letter an explanation of the objection and ways in which the Supreme Court might improve the rule. (Interested commissioners will assist in this effort; the timeline for accomplishing this is January 1, 2011. Motion supported and adopted.

**Legislation**

HB 5036

No action was taken

HB 6530

Motion was offered and supported to oppose this legislation. Motion adopted.

**Leadership Reports**

**President's Report**, W. Anthony Jenkins, President

Mr. Jenkins discussed his Bar-related activities since he took office in September.

**Executive Director's Report**, Janet K. Welch, Executive Director

Judicial Crossroads Task Force

Ms. Welch provided an update on the Judicial Crossroad Task Force Recommendations and asked that the Board accept receipt of the report. Motion offered, supported and adopted.

**Economic of Law Survey**

Ms. Vrooman reported to the Board that the Bar had received over 3,800 responses to the survey which is triple the number that was received when the last survey was taken. A more detailed report will be forthcoming.
Representative Assembly Report, Victoria Radke, Chairperson
Ms. Radke reported that the Representative Assembly (RA) officers are working on the agenda for the April 2011 meeting, and that the deadline for submission of agenda items is February 25, 2011.

Ms. Radke stated that there are currently seventeen vacancies on the RA and that the officers are working to fill those positions.

Ms. Radke indicated that nominations for the Michael Franck and the Unsung Hero Award are being sought and that the deadline for submission is March 1.

American Bar Association (ABA) Report, Reginald Turner, State Delegate
There was not a formal report provided, however, Mr. Jenkins reported that the mid-year meeting is taking place in Atlanta, GA in February, 2011 and he will see to it that the Board members a kept informed of issues that will be discussed.

Young Lawyers Section Report, Maureen M. McGinnis, Chairperson
Ms. McGinnis provided the Board with a report on the Young Lawyers Section activities. The current vacancy on the YLS Executive Board will be filled by Ms. Dionnie Winter.

Ms. Strong Marks reported on an event, “YLS Platinum in the Profession”, that took place in October. The event focused on African American Leadership in the Law and there were over 150 attendees. Ms. Strong Marks distributed the event brochures to all Board members.

Comments or questions from Commissioners
Ms. Gobbo asked Ms. Welch about the process of reviewing the Judicial Crossroads Committee recommendations and if they will just come before the Board or if there were plans for them to come before the RA. Ms. Welch responded that the recommendations advancing proposals not already approved by the State Bar will return for a formal position according to the normal public policy process.

Comments or questions from the public
There were none.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.