

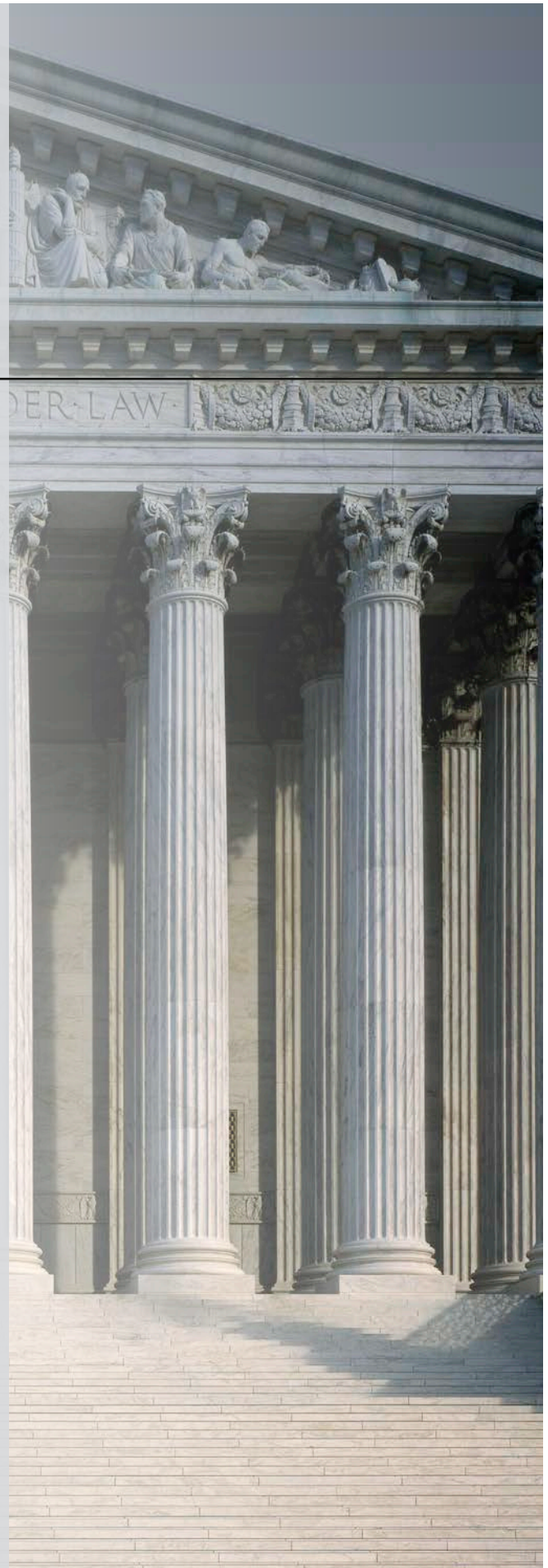


Mandatory State Bar Associations

# Managing Keller

The following information regarding mandatory bars and how they manage Keller related activities was compiled by State Bar of Michigan between February 2014 and May 2014. This was a significant research initiative to support the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on the Role of the State Bar of Michigan. As information was gathered, executive directors from several state bars expressed an interest in receiving this compilation of material. We are pleased to share this information with those who find it useful. Please note that the State Bar of Michigan does not update this compilation as policies and statutes change in various states. Users are encouraged to check with the state bars directly to learn of any relevant changes.

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## **District of Columbia Bar**

### **Michigan Bar inquiry re Keller**

#### **Who We Are**

The District of Columbia Bar (“D.C. Bar”) is a unified bar. Those of the D.C. Bar’s core functions that are supported by mandatory member dues are the registration of lawyers, operation of a lawyer disciplinary system, maintenance of a Clients’ Security Trust Fund, communications with members and certain other administrative operations. Other core functions carried out by the Bar, including many of the important educational and public service programs such as the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, continuing legal education and sections, are funded by voluntary contributions, user fees, and other nondues sources of income.

#### **History**

The D.C. Bar was created by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 1972.

#### **Our Mission**

- Aid the courts in carrying on and improving the administration of justice.
- Promote access to justice and enhance the delivery of legal services to those in need.
- Foster and maintain high ideals of integrity, learning, competence in public service, and high standards of conduct.
- Safeguard the professional interests of the members of the D.C. Bar.
- Encourage and support the activities of voluntary bar associations.
- Provide a forum for and publish information about the practice of law, the science of jurisprudence and law reform, and the relationship of the D.C. Bar to the public.
- Carry on a continuing program of legal research and education.

#### **Our Core Purpose**

To enhance access to justice, improve the legal system, and empower lawyers to achieve excellence.

#### **Public Statements**

A series of referenda approved by the membership in the late 1970’s limited the authority of the Board of Governors to make recommendations on proposed legislation on behalf of the D.C. Bar. The Board of Governors may be authorized to make recommendations on behalf of the D.C. Bar on proposed legislation (1) only on matters closely and directly related to the administration of justice, and (2) only after a referendum or meeting of the Bar is held at which a majority of votes cast is in favor of taking the position.

In 2001, the membership approved (and reauthorized several times to date) a resolution authorizing the Board of Governors and officers of the D.C. Bar to make public statements and

recommendations to support adequate funding for the District of Columbia courts. The authorization includes the ability to speak on the issue of court funding in the context of specific legislation proposed or pending before Congress.

In 2005, the membership approved (and reauthorized several times to date) a resolution authorizing the Board of Governors and officers of the D.C. Bar to make public statements before the District of Columbia Council about funding to improve access to civil legal services in the District of Columbia as proposed by the Access to Justice Commission (created by the D.C. Court of Appeals).