

2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN INDIAN LAW
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

(Due May 31, 2004)

Committee Name: Standing Committee on American Indian Law

Jurisdiction: Shall review issues of American Indian law, focusing on the relationship between tribal courts, state courts, and federal courts, and on the promotion of positive relationships between the lawyers of Michigan and the American Indian Community.

Officers and Membership:

Chair: Patrick M. Shannon

Members: 14

Associate Members: 4

2003-04 Meeting Schedule (date and location):

Several of the Committee members met at least two (2) times on an informal basis to plan the activity described below for next year.

Committee Activities:

- This year the Committee identified the need to review and compile the tribal court processes that exist in Michigan relating to domestic violence and personal protection orders. Last year the Committee did support and take part in several statewide trainings for local-state-tribal-federal authorities in the enforcement of personal protection orders. After those sessions, it was recognized by some Committee members that the same training should be directed to the tribes and their tribal courts. It is believed that some of the tribes do not possess a workable process to assist victims of domestic violence. Some of the Committee members are at this time planning a tribal specific training to provide the Michigan tribes the legal resources to establish and operate a system for the creation of protective orders and the enforcement of the those orders. We believe that this training will complete the need for training at least temporarily in the area of enforcement of tribal and state protection orders. The proposed training will not occur until late fall of 2004 or winter of 2005. In any event, the proposed training will not take place until after the conclusion of the 2003/04 year.

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Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, "every Committee and Section shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year..." Since the annual report will be posted on the SBM website, I would greatly appreciate your sending this report via e-mail to smcmann@mail.michbar.org by May 31, 2004.

Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan in Support of Committee Work:

None

Future Goals and Activities:

Be see the planned Committee activities section.

Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information: Patrick Shannon (906-248-3354 ext. 4230, pshannon@bmcc.edu

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