

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE INITIATIVES,  
Including the  
*EQUAL ACCESS INITIATIVE*  
*PRO BONO INITIATIVE*  
*RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE*  
*LEGAL AID INITIATIVE*  
and  
*PLANNING WORKGROUP***

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE INITIATIVES**

The Standing Committee on Justice Initiatives (SCJI) was created in 2003 to coordinate the activities of the former Access to Justice Task Force, Access to Justice Campaign, and Open Justice Commission. Its jurisdictional statement provides that it “Shall promote the effective delivery of high quality legal services to all Michigan citizens, and to assure that barriers are reduced so that the justice system is the strongest possible, equal and fair in its application to all.” The Committee does its work through its Initiatives: Equal Access, Pro Bono, Legal Aid and Resource Development. Additionally, the Committee commissioned a one-year planning committee whose report was adopted in May. The State Bar President appointed all Committee, Initiatives, and Planning Workgroup members.

***Officers and Membership:***

*Initiative Chairs:* Richard D. McLellan, Co-Chair; Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, Co-Chair  
*Members:* Teresa Caine Bingman; Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh; Frank D. Eaman; Robert Fair Gillett; Daniel F. Hopp; Charlotte H. Johnson; Ronald D. Keefe; James R. Neuhard; Valerie R. Newman; Albert T. Quick; Linda K. Rexer; Terri L. Stangl; Hon. Paul S. Teranes; Representative Steven H. Tobocman; Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder

***2004-05 Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

A joint meeting of the SCJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 14, 2004. Additional meetings occurred on December 16, 2004 (Lansing), February 17, 2005 (Lansing), April 21, 2005, and May 24, 2005 (Lansing). An August meeting will be scheduled.

***Committee Activities:***

- Established budget and reviewed proposed goals and activities from all initiatives;
- Established an electronic voting procedure and used it several times to review policy matters;
- Provided overall review and guidance to all initiatives and Planning Workgroup and approved its report for submission to the Board of Commissioners;

- Received information on the State Planning Body;
- Provided input to our committee member who sits on the Commission considering modifications to the ABA Standards for Delivery of Legal Services to the Poor;
- Persuaded the Bar to reaffirm its support for the eleven criminal defense assigned counsel principles and to participate in the creation of a bill to actualize those principles;
- Participated in national efforts to promote access to justice and equal access, including (1) sending volunteer and staff to attend and present a menu of pro bono activities at the Equal Justice Conference, (2) sending volunteers and Michigan report to National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Court, and (3) sending co-chair and staff to national Access to Justice Chairs meeting;
- Supported the Initiative based work as noted below.

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

Staff and operating budget

***Future Goals and Activities:*** These are under development.

***Co-Chair Contact Information:***

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**EQUAL ACCESS INITIATIVE**

The mission of the Equal Access Initiative (EAI) is to work within the State Bar of Michigan's Justice Initiatives structure to facilitate equal justice and to work to eliminate and minimize barriers in the administration of justice, as well as entry to and participation in the legal profession and the Bar.

***Officers and Membership:***

*Initiative Chair:* Charlotte H. Johnson

*Members:* Erika L. Butler-Akinyemi; Hon. William J. Caprathe; Ann M. Cooper; Evanne L. Dietz; J. Kay Felt; Martha Gonzales-Cortez; Kathleen N. Harris; Dale A. Iverson; Linda D. Johnson; Barbara J. Kelly; Nelson P. Miller; George K. Pitchford; Albert T. Quick; Mary Mansfield (formerly Mary K. Ross); David M. Stokes; Hon. Paul S. Teranes; Norris J. Thomas

***2004-05 Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

A joint meeting of the SCJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 14, 2004. Additional meetings occurred on January 25, 2005 (Lansing), March 28, 2005 (Lansing), and May 17, 2005. Another meeting is set for July 19, 2005.

***Committee Activities:***

- Juvenile Justice brochures completed and posted on website;
- Alimony Guidelines Report finalized;
- Disabilities electronic newsletter introduced and two issues mailed;
- Commitment to Service poster distributed to all chief judges in Michigan;
- Developed and presented a *Brown v. Board* Panel Discussion at the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting;
- Round Table Curriculum and CD presentation mailed to 550 high schools;
- Jury curriculum update and “This is Our Town, Too” script under development;
- Alternate Dispute Resolution diversity project under development;
- Proposed ethics project under development;
- Sent two participants and a Michigan report to National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts;
- Developed concept for “cognitive disabilities in the criminal justice system” program for the 70th State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting;
- Successfully suggested updates for State Bar website to assure ADA compliance for vision impaired people.

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

Staff and operating budget

***Future Goals and Activities:*** These are under development.

***Chair Contact Information:***

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## **PRO BONO INITIATIVE**

The Pro Bono Initiative is responsible for encouraging and coordinating the delivery of pro bono legal services.

### ***Officers and Membership:***

*Initiative Chairs:* Robert Fair Gillett; Margaret A. Costello, Vice-Chair

*Members:* Kathleen L. Conklin; Evanne L. Dietz; Kirsten A. Enstice; Mark P. Fancher; Mark J. A. Flory; Lawrence T. Garcia; Greta S. Gartner; Hon. Denise Page Hood; Joan Glanton Howard; Robert Ianni; Kathleen D. Kasiorek; Carol A. Martinelli; Karla M. McKanders; Michael K. Pope

### ***2004-06 Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

A joint meeting of the SCJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 14, 2004. Additional meetings occurred on November 18, 2004 (teleconference), January 27, 2005 (teleconference), March 24, 2005 (teleconference). Additional meetings are scheduled for May 26 and July 28, 2005.

### ***Committee Activities:***

- Tracked proposed changes to pro bono ethics rule and clarified State Bar's position through letter to Michigan Supreme Court;
- Assisted in convening immigration service providers; established immigration pro bono panel;
- Began discussion and review of pro bono survey efforts state and nationwide;
- Coordinated and staffed Domestic Violence Training Project in collaboration with the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;
- Assigned pro bono cases and tracked Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program (MI-LAPP) referral system with programs and large law firms;
- Administered application process and published 2004 Circle of Excellence;
- Developed Menu of Pro Bono Opportunities concept for state and presented topic at Equal Justice Conference;
- Participated in Macomb County Pro Bono Facilitation;
- Attendance by staff at Pro Bono Institute supporting corporate pro bono;
- Administered application process and recommended John W. Cumiskey Award for exemplary pro bono work; nominated past winner for ABA Pro Bono Publico Award;
- Reviewed pro bono donations reporting information and posted information on State Bar website;

- Partnered with the Access to Justice Campaign for Grand Rapids, Southeast Michigan, and Battle Creek Corporate Receptions;
- Lent advice and guidance on development of emeritus pro bono practice court rule.

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

Staff and operating budget

***Future Goals and Activities:*** These are under development.

Chair and Vice-Chair Contact Information:

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**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

The goal of the Access to Justice Development Campaign is to raise funds to improve access to justice for low-income people with civil legal needs in Michigan.

This Initiative is also responsible for the activities surrounding the American Bar Association “ABA Day” in Washington DC to support increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

***Officers and Membership:***

*Initiative Chairs:* Ronald D. Keefe, Chair; Nancy J. Diehl, ATJ Campaign Chair

*Members:* Jonathan W. Anderson; John T. Berry; Jon W. Bilstrom; Charles W. Borgsdorf; Scott S. Brinkmeyer; Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh; Kimberly M. Cahill; Thomas W. Cranmer; Candace A. Crowley; Robert F. Garvey; Robert E. Gilbert; George A. Googasian; James F. Graves; Nino E. Green; E. Christopher Johnson; Richard L. Manetta; Margaret J. Nichols; Randolph P. Piper; Thomas G. Plunkett; Harold D. Pope; Linda K. Rexer; Dennis E. Ross; Reginald M. Turner, Jr.; Janet K. Welch

***2004-07 Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

A joint meeting of the SCJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 14, 2004. The Resource Development Initiative is organized into two distinct activities (ATJ Campaign and ABA Day), and the Campaign is organized

into a Statewide Campaign with ten regions, two corporate committees, and a major gifts committee. An estimate of total meetings for all campaign committees is roughly twenty-five to thirty. The ABA activities were achieved with three to five meetings.

***Committee Activities:***

- Over \$731,000 in new cash and pledges was raised from 1,471 donors for the Access to Justice Fund in 2004;
- Cumulatively, the Fund has raised over \$5 million in cash, pledges and planned gifts. To help provide long-term stable funding for legal aid services into the future, donors are supporting the ATJ permanent endowment funds with over 38% (almost \$2 million) of their total gifts and pledges;
- In 2004, the Michigan State Bar Foundation distributed more than \$846,495 in cash contributions and payments on pledges designated for operations support for named programs. It awarded the fourth round of ATJ grants, providing \$35,000 of support to six ATJ programs. The Foundation also issued the first distributions from endowment funds designated for three particular programs. As of December 31, 2004, a fourth program achieved the \$25,000 threshold to establish its endowment fund.

A full report on all Campaign activities, including receptions, major gifts, letter appeals, program activities and cost per dollar raised can be seen at

[http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pdfs/2004\\_ATJ\\_Campaign\\_Report.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pdfs/2004_ATJ_Campaign_Report.pdf)

Additionally, a comprehensive plan was developed to inform Michigan legislators about the need for legal services and the role that LSC funding plays in meeting that need. Every legislator received a letter, fact sheet, and Justice For All publication from the State Bar President early in the year. A request for a meeting to discuss the issue was sent later. A four-member delegation was sent to Washington DC on April 27, 2005 to visit with twelve Michigan legislators. A follow up request for written support for increased LSC funding was sent to all sixteen legislators. LSC funded programs were encouraged to communicate their services to their legislators, and include them in local program/community activities.

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

During calendar year 2004, total State Bar direct costs for the Campaign were \$157,279, including 1.85 FTE staff. Under Campaign policy, the net direct costs of \$142,454 (after \$14,825 of off-setting revenue) are added to the \$731,144 funds raised, for total revenue of \$873,598; total direct costs are then divided by total revenue for a State Bar cost per dollar raised of \$0.18. Not only is the cost per dollar raised ratio within the Campaign's own policy limits, it is also well within fundraising industry standards. As important, no ATJ Fund charitable contributions were used for campaign expenses, so that 100% of each dollar contributed by donors in 2004 was directed to support the ATJ mission.

***Future Goals and Activities:*** These are under development.

***Chair Contact Information:***

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**LEGAL AID INITIATIVE**

It shall represent the interest of persons who are unable to afford counsel in civil matters and the legal aid programs servicing such persons.

***Officers and Membership:***

*Initiative Chair:* Terri L. Stangl

*Members:* Miriam J. Aukerman; Michael J. Blau; Lorrain S. C. Brown; Frank D. Eaman; Mark J. A. Flory; Pamela R. Galloway; Joan Glanton Howard; Amanda L. Howe; David M. Huntley; Frank C. Kerr; Kyle R. Kitt; Martin P. Krohner; Kenneth C. Penokie; Melinda A. Pitman; Joelyn T. Stokes; Thomas A. Stotz; Thomas K. Thornburg; Karen M. Tjapkes; Curtis C. Warner

***2004-08 Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

A joint meeting of the SCJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 14, 2004. Additional meetings occurred on January 13, 2005 (teleconference), March 10, 2005 (teleconference), and May 12, 2005 (teleconference). An additional meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2005.

***Committee Activities:*** The Legal Aid Initiative serves primarily as a policy review body. During the past bar year, it reviewed numerous legislative and court rule proposals and submitted policy positions to the Standing Committee on issues including:

- Emeritus practice under court rule
- Guardianship changes to court rule
- Bank account garnishment legislation
- De novo review of family matters court rule
- Electronic filing amendment to federal court rule
- Small claims suit recovery legislation
- Civil procedure transcript fee increase legislation
- Required jury service legislation
- Juvenile competency legislation package
- Uttering and publishing pre trial legislation

- Family law court forms court rule
- Appellate filing timelines court rule
- Paternity legislation
- Corporate practice of law legislation

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

Support staff and meeting tools.

***Future Goals and Activities:*** These are under development.

***Chair Contact Information:***

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**PLANNING WORKGROUP**

The Planning Workgroup was asked to forge a three to five year Justice Initiatives master plan for submission to the Board of Commissioners. The plan was prepared in collaboration with the Initiatives members and others both within the SBM and the broader community. It examines, among other things, the extent to which the work of entities such as the State Planning Body and other bar entities should be incorporated into the SCJI, and how the structure, mission and work of the SCJI should evolve to maximize the positive impact on the quality of justice within the state. A plan was prepared in collaboration with the Initiatives members and others both within the State Bar of Michigan and the broader community. The plan produced criteria and an annual process to assess justice initiatives work, obtain internal and external input, and determine which projects should be undertaken and prioritized. The plan also contained structural recommendations and suggested that an abbreviated process be implemented for the coming fiscal year.

***Officers and Membership:***

*Initiative Chair:* Linda K. Rexer

*Members:* William M. Brodhead; Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh; Julie I. Fershtman; Robert Fair Gillett; Debra A. Gutierrez-McGuire; Leslie A. Hagen; Abed E. Hammoud; Joan Glanton Howard; Charlotte H. Johnson; Ronald D. Keefe; Hon. Beverley Nettles Nickerson; James R. Neuhard; Weldon H. Schwartz; Lisa M. Stadig Elliott; Terri L. Stangl; Norris J. Thomas

*Consultant:* Anne Vrooman

*Liaisons:* Hon. Cynthia D. Stephens, SCJI Liaison; Candace A. Crowley, Staff Liaison

***2004-09 Meeting Schedule (date and location):***

A joint meeting of the SCJI and all of its initiatives was held at the State Bar Building in Lansing, Michigan on October 14, 2004. Additional meetings occurred on February 14,



2005 (Lansing), March 2, 2005 (Lansing), April 21, 2005 (Lansing), April 28, 2005 (Detroit). There were many telephone meetings of subgroups throughout the 2004-05 Bar year.

***Committee Activities:*** The Planning Workgroup presented its draft Report to the Standing Committee on May 24, 2005.

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

Staff support, consultant and operating budget.

***Future Goals and Activities:*** The Planning Workgroup was established for one year only. Its work will be completed before the end of the 2004-05 Bar year.

***Chair Contact Information:***

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