

The Legislative and Court Proceedings Action Team (LCPAT) approved the following for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, and all proposals were approved by the ADR Section Council:

- When LCPAT recommends a major, substantive change to a statute, court rule, or to the Standards of Conduct for Mediators, subject to preliminary ADR Section Council approval, LCPAT will circulate the proposal to the full ADR Section for comment before submitting it to the Council for final approval. LCPAT will have discretion to determine, whether a change is major and substantive, how and whether to use comments received, and the language of proposals submitted to Council. LCPAT suggests using links in the ADR Journal, on the section website and through Constant Contact to disseminate proposals and receive comments. This proposal was approved by the ADR Section Council with the addition of the following: “LCPAT shall forward comments received in writing to council with the submitted proposal.”
- Forming a task force to recommend possible changes to Michigan requirements for mediation training to SCAO. LCPAT recommends that the task force include members of LCPAT, SAT, the Michigan Community Mediation Association, and members who were on the original mediation training standards committee. The ADR Section Council approved the following: “That a task force be formed to look at creating a common basic mediation training before specialized mediation training is given. This basic skills training could be 20-24 hours in length. It is recommended that Michigan Community Mediation Association (MCMA) be involved in the task force and ideally include trainers.”
- Amending MCR 3.602, regarding arbitration, to alleviate confusion between the time limits for seeking to vacate, modify, or correct an arbitration award in the court rule and those in the Michigan Uniform Arbitration Act, MCL 691.1681 et seq. (MUAA).
- Forming a sub-committee with other interested SBM sections to review proposed Eldercaring Coordination court forms and have a coordinated effort to get SCAO approval for the forms, and to support Zena Zumeta as chair of that committee.
- Sending a letter to the Michigan Judicial Council Task Force Chairs that takes the concerns that were submitted to the MJC, January 31, 2022, by the ADR Section, and explains how these concerns fit into the MJC’s 2022-2023 operational plan’s strategic goals and core values, with the hope that the concerns that we put forth will be incorporated into their plan going forward. The letter was drafted by the MJC subcommittee previously created by LCPAT. Ed Pappas, ADR Section chair, also attended the May 11, 2023 MJC forum in support of the ideas expressed in this letter, to express the ADR Section desire that the MJC consider court-connected mediation as the MJC continues working on its operational plan, and to convey the willingness of the ADR Section to help in that endeavor.
- Revising SCAO form MC 274 (Order for Mediation) to incorporate provisions for payment of mediators conducting multiple mediation sessions on an ongoing basis and to conform the form with MCR 2.411 and MCR 3.216.