

# STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

**Bar Year: 2013-2014**

**Section Name:** Appellate Practice

**Mission Statement:** To promote the skillfull, efficient and effective practice of appellate law; to advance the administration of justice in the appellate courts so that the Bench and Bar may better serve the public interest.

## **Officers and Council Members:**

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Jill M. Wheaton	Dykema, 2723 S. State St., Ste. 400, Ann Arbor MI 48104	734-214-7629	<a href="mailto:jwheaton@dykema.com">jwheaton@dykema.com</a>
Chair-Elect	Nancy Vayda Dembinski	<b>Landry Mazzeo &amp; Dembinski PC</b> 37000 Grand River Ave Ste 200 Farmington Hills, MI 48335	(248) 476- 6900	ndembinski@lmdlaw.com
Secretary	Beth A. Wittmann	<b>Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti &amp; Sherbrook</b> 1 Woodward Ave Ste 2400 Detroit, MI 48226	<b>(313) 965- 7405</b>	Beth.wittman@kitch.com
Treasurer	Stephanie Simon Morita	<b>Johnson Rosati Schultz &amp; Joppich PC</b> 27555 Executive Dr Ste 250 Farmington Hills, MI 48331	<b>(248) 489- 4100</b>	smorita@jrsjlaw.com

Member	Term	Member	Term
Geoffrey M. Brown	9/30/2014	Bridget Brown Peters	9/30/2015

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

Marilena David-Martin	9/30/2014	Larry J. Saylor	9/30/2015
Stuart G. Friedman	9/30/2014	Graham K. Crabtree	9/30/2016
Gaetan E. Gerville-Reache	9/30/2014	Lauren D. Donofrio	9/30/2016
Elizabeth L. Sokol	9/30/2014	Richard C. Kraus	9/30/2016
Victor S. Valenti	9/30/2014	Gerald F. Posner	9/30/2016
Anthony F. Caffrey, III	9/30/2015	Joanne Geha Swanson	9/30/2016
Judith A. Curtis	9/30/2015		
Barbara H. Goldman	9/30/2015		
Ronald S. Lederman	9/30/2015		

***Council Meeting Schedule:***

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Council meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Annual	9/19/13	Lansing
Monthly	10/18/13	Ann Arbor
Monthly	11/22/13	Detroit
Monthly	12/20/13	Conference call
Monthly	1/17/14	Detroit
Special	1/29/14	Conference call
Monthly	2/14/14	Lansing
Monthly	3/14/14	Southfield
Monthly	4/11/14	Detroit
Monthly	5/16/14	Grand Rapids

**General Budget Information:** The section's fund balance as of 4/30/14 is \$27,417.82. Revenue comes from section dues; regular expenses include maintenance of a ListServ, quarterly newsletter, and meeting expenses, special expenses include contributions/donations, and educational programs.

**Events and/or Seminars:**

Please attach any additional information needed regarding events and/or seminars as an addendum.

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Motions that move the Court of Appeals	9/19/13	Lansing (as part of State Bar annual meeting)
Presentation by, and Q & A with COA clerk Jerry Zimmer and MSC clerk Larry Royster	10/18/13	Ann Arbor
Same	5/16/14	Grand Rapids
Virtual law office	10/17/14 (scheduled)	Novi
Presentation re: new Court of Claims (by Chief Judge Talbot)	3/14/14	Southfield

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

E-filing training for Supreme Court	TBA	TBA
Appellate Practice Section Journal	3 editions have come out this bar year, 4 <sup>th</sup> edition is in process	

**Legislative issues:**

- Opposed SB 652 (to change the make-up of the Court of Claims)
- Opposed SB 743 (to make bar membership voluntary)
- Supported proposed changes to probate appeal rules
- Proposed change to court rule re: video deposition transcripts
- Opposed change to e-filing rules that would impose 5 PM deadline

**Recommendations for next Council:**

The Council enjoyed an excellent relationship this year with court staff and personnel. Inviting the chief clerks from the COA and MSC to each meeting, and asking them to extend the invite to their bench and clerk's office, resulted in judges and court and clerk staff attending many meetings, to everyone's benefit.

**Other Information:**

The committee reviewed requests for amicus brief participation; provided donations to the Just the Beginning; Pre-Law Summer Institute; and Wolverine Bar Judicial Externship Program; and the group performed 2 community service activities (soup kitchen and Ronald McDonald house).

The Council is currently reviewing proposed changes to the Michigan Court Rules governing practice in both the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, they aren't formal yet but we have been asked to consult in the original brainstorming and drafting sessions. We are also consulting on changes to the e-filing system and the initiation of e-filing in the Supreme Court.

**Reports must be submitted before May 31, 2014 to:**

Heather Anderson  
Sections & Committees Administrator  
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