

Public Policy Position
Michigan Trial Courts: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic of 2020-2021:
Findings, Best Practices, and Recommendations

The Negligence Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 1,809 members. The Negligence Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Negligence Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. The State Bar's position on this matter is to authorize the sections and committees to submit their positions to the State Court Administrative Office.

The Negligence Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 14 members. On July 20, 2021, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 9 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 1 member voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Support with Recommended Amendments

Explanation

The SBM Negligence Law Section has reviewed the Draft Report prepared by the State Court Administrative Office entitled: Michigan Trial Courts: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic of 2020-2021 Findings- Best Practices and Recommendations. A majority of the Section supports the recommendations in the Draft Report. Of interest to the Section are those provisions which specially address civil litigation and access to the courts in civil cases. The Section supports those recommendations concerning the administration of justice in an efficient, competent and timely manner using Zoom technology, while at the same time seeking to preserve robust in person civil proceedings for important matters, such as dispositive motions, evidentiary hearing and civil trials. The Section is prepared to assist the judiciary in further defining litigants rights to civil justice in a Zoom world.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important Report and Recommendations.

Contact Person: Thomas R. Behm

Email: trbehm@qmntp.com