

State Bar of Michigan | 2016-2017 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

Article VIII §1, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

Every Section and State Bar entity so directed by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year which shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before May 31. Annual reports may not exceed five 8 1/2" x 11" pages unless a waiver of this limitation is approved by the Executive Director.

Judicial Section

Chair

P32783 Hon. Susan L. Dobrich
Cass County Circuit Court Family Division
60296 M 62 Ste 26
Law & Courts Bldg
Cassopolis MI 49031-8716
Phone: (269) 445-4452
Fax: (269) 445-4485
e-mail: sued@cassco.org

Chair-Elect

P42275 Hon. Annette M. Jurkiewicz-Berry, Detroit

Vice Chair

P45659 Hon. Beth A. Gibson, Newberry

Secretary

P51265 Hon. Lisa Sullivan, Saint Johns

Treasurer

P48732 Hon. Monte J. Burmeister, Grayling

Council Member

Term Ending: 2017

P25732 Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr., Garden City
P36209 Hon. Timothy J. Kelly, Bay City
P47677 Hon. Pamela L. Lightvoet, Kalamazoo
P33915 Hon. Ronald W. Lowe, Plymouth
P34430 Hon. Patrick J. McGraw, Saginaw
P35026 Hon. David M. Murkowski, Grand Rapids
P35686 Hon. Lita Masini Popke, Detroit
P43334 Hon. Thomas D. Slagle, Iron Mountain
P32690 Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg, Grand Haven

Term Ending: 2018

P32468 Hon. Dorene S. Allen, Midland
P30180 Hon. Laura L. Baird, Lansing
P44720 Hon. Thomas P. Boyd, Mason
P48732 Hon. Monte J. Burmeister, Grayling
P34271 Hon. Robert J. Butts, Cheboygan
P53757 Hon. Pablo Cortes, Grand Rapids
P26933 Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz, Kalamazoo
P37145 Hon. Shelia R. Johnson, Southfield
P38377 Hon. Tracey A. Yokich, Mount Clemens

Term Ending: 2019

P23289 Hon. James M. Alexander, Pontiac
P32709 Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel, Oak Park
P34510 Hon. Theresa M. Brennan, Brighton
P32783 Hon. Susan L. Dobrich, Cassopolis
P45659 Hon. Beth A. Gibson, Newberry

P42275 Hon. Annette M. Jurkiewicz-Berry, Detroit
P45917 Hon. John Tomlinson, St. Clair County
P46810 Hon. Paul E. Statesman, Centreville
P51265 Hon. Lisa Sullivan, Saint Johns

Commissioner Liaison

NOT ASSIGNED, AT CURRENT TIME

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
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Council Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Section Meeting	9/23/2016	Grand Rapids, DeVos
Section Meeting	1/13/2017	Lansing, State Bar
Section Meeting	3/10/2017	Lansing, State Bar
Section Meeting	6/25/2017	Amway Grand
Annual Meeting	9/29/2017	Detroit Cobo Hall

Addendum Information: Please list any addendums attached.

Events and/or Seminars:

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

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
N/A		

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Legislative issues:

1. Maintain and improve compensation and benefits of Judges.
2. Continued support of legislation that improves the administration of justice.

Recommendations for next Council:

Support legal services for indigent and others in the justice system.

Other Information:

Judicial Section is in the process of expanding membership to include ex-officio members from Court of Appeals and up to three tribal judges to hold an ex officio position. Judicial Section is planning strategies to support Judges who have been improperly scrutinized by the public or media as a result of the misunderstanding of the role judges or misunderstanding of the law.

Reports must be submitted before May 31, 2016 to:

Jennifer Williams
Administrative Assistant
306 Townsend Street, Lansing MI 48933
Email: jwilliams@mail.michbar.org
Phone 517-367-6421 Fax: 517-482-6248

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e-mail form

Judicial Section Annual Report

All judges of Michigan courts of record are active members of the State Bar of Michigan and thus automatic members of Judicial Section. The Judicial Section by-laws provide for a 27 member executive board that consists of nine members from each of the judges associations, Michigan District Court Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, and Michigan Judges Association. In order to make the judicial conference more inclusive the Section is in the process of amending the by-laws to include no more than three sitting judges of Tribal Courts as ex-officio positions on the Judicial Section. The Chief Judge and/or Chief Judge designee from the Court of Appeals will also be designated as an ex-officio member of the Judicial Section.

The Judicial Section meets quarterly and coordinates among the members the activities of the judicial associations. The Judicial Section also works closely with the State Court Administrator and Chief Justice to ensure and establish efficiencies in court operations and to promote judicial achievements.

Supporting judges and assisting judges during critical times is a important issue for the Judicial Section this year. The Judicial Section is committed to work with the State Bar to provide a strategy to ensure a prompt response for judges if criticized publically in matters where they are required to act such as selling bonds. The Judicial Section is also actively establishing a committee structure which will work on pro-actively pursuing topics that are important to the courts.

The Judicial Section is engaged in exploring ways to provide for more effective communication among the members, including a better use of technologies such as website and introducing the role of Judicial Section to all Judges of Michigan Courts.

Finally it's always critical to review and promote appropriate compensation for Judges including retirement and health benefits. Judicial Section looks forward to continue the success between the bench and the bar to successfully promote the sections priorities.