

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

Bar Year: 2014-2015

Section Name: Criminal Law Section

Mission Statement: To study the criminal law and procedure of the State of Michigan, making recommendations to the State Bar of Michigan, the Executive, legislative and judicial branches of Michigan government and the general public of this State concerning alterations, innovations, and improvement therein so as to promote justice and the efficient administration of justice, and to protect the public and the rights of each individual; to promote means of reducing the volume of crime in the State of Michigan; and to promote in cooperation with other Sections or Committees of the State Bar of Michigan, the effective institutional and non-institutional correction and rehabilitation of individuals convicted of violating criminal laws of the State.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Charles H. Marr P 36289	302 West Main Northville	248-596-1599	tmattlaw@msn.com
Chair-Elect	Stephen J. Gobbo P56521	Lansing	517-241-2631	gobos@michigan.gov
Secretary	Hon. William J. Capra P 11596	Bay City	989-225-6407	bcapra@netscape.net
Treasurer	Stephanie E. Farkas P74227	Bloomfield Hills	248-636-2595	attorneyfarkas@gmail.com

Member	Term	Member	Term
Stephanie Farkas P 74227	2015	Michael J. Brady P 30410	2017
Opolla Brown P 57253	2015	Sherrie P. Guess P 34004	2017
Jonathon Sacks P 67389	2015	LaNira R. Haith P 38189	2017
Graham L. Teall P 40645	2015	Michael J. Nichols P 59391	2017
William J. Winters III P 35975	2015	Charles D. Sherman P 33045	2017
Joshua A. Blanchard P 72601	2016	Eric Gregory Scott P 63902	appt
Ward F. McDonough, Jr. P 17381	2016	Kenneth M. Malkin P 36547	appt
Matthew P. Smith P 38147	2016	Heather J. Garretson P 69552	appt
Stephen M. Taratuta P 46935	2016	Bruce A. Timmons P 21465	appt
Kimberly Reed Thompson P 33955	2016	Hon. Paula J. Manderfield P 34319	appt
		Michael J. Marutiak P 30104	appt
		Hon. David A. Hoot P 28492	ex-offic
		Shauna Dunnings P 43714	appt
		Elaine Spiliopoulos P 66674	Editor

Council Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Council Meeting	October 21, 2014	Copper, Lansing
Council Meeting	November 18, 2014	Copper, Lansing

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Council Meeting	December 16, 2014	Copper, Lansing
Council Meeting	January 20, 2015	Copper, Lansing
Council Meeting	February 17, 2015	Copper, Lansing ***
Council Meeting	March 24, 2015	Copper, Lansing
Council Meeting	April 21, 2015	Copper, Lansing
Council Meeting	May 19, 2015	Copper, Lansing
Council Meeting	June 28, 2015	Farmington Hills, Michigan ***
Annual Meeting	October 9, 2015	Novi, Michigan

General Budget Information: Our budget is very healthy this year, due in part to the postponement of the Policy Conference.

Events and/or Seminars:

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

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Annual Meeting	September 19, 2014	Grand Rapids, MI
Mid-Winter Ski Conference	February 14-16, 2014	Bellaire, MI
Annual Meeting	October 9, 2015	Novi, MI

Legislative issues: As a council, we reviewed countless bills and court rule amendments, taking positions, and advising the appropriate sponsor.

Recommendations for next Council: The Council should maintain efforts to appropriately influence proposed legislation based upon the collective experience of our members, and remain active in the legislative process.

Other Information: See Attached

LAW OFFICES OF
CHARLES H. MARR, P.L.L.C.
302 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48167

TELEPHONE (248) 596-1599
FACSIMILE (248) 596-1578

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 530037
LIVONIA, MI 48153-0037

CHARLES H. MARR

June 4, 2015

Jennifer Williams
Administrative Assistant
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933

**Re: Criminal Law Section
Annual Report, 2015**

Dear Ms. Williams:

On behalf of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, I am honored to present the attached Annual Report of Section activities.

It has been my privilege and honor to have served as Chair of the Section. In addition to the information in the template, I submit the following items. Beginning in July of 2014, our Section worked in collaboration with several other Sections of the Bar to prepare comprehensive recommendations on Voluntary Section Advocacy for consideration by the Supreme Court. The report was submitted in response to the Bar Task Force Recommendations on Advocacy submitted around mid May. We are awaiting final word from the Supreme Court, but are hopeful that as voluntary Sections of the Bar, we will be able to continue our efforts to promote specific causes, legislation, and regulations.

With the exception of the summer months, the Council generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Copper restaurant in Lansing. An agenda is circulated prior to the meeting, and the meetings are open to all of our members. If the Section has a scheduled conference or seminar, the scheduled Council meeting is generally moved to the conference itself for efficiency, and to allow members the opportunity to more conveniently attend one of our monthly meetings, if they choose.

We provide a seminar at the Annual Meeting each year, immediately following our general business meeting and elections. This year will be no exception, and the committee is hard at work choosing an appropriate topic and securing the necessary speakers and presenters.

Over presidents weekend, we hold a mid winter ski conference at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. We have enjoyed this venue for many years, and the last conference was extremely topical and informative. The conference provided an opportunity for our members to meet casually as well as in regular sessions. Speakers included an Assistant United States Attorney involved in the Kilpatrick case, as well as the defense counsel for a Detroit police

officer charged with the unfortunate death of a youngster during the execution of a search warrant.

Every odd numbered year, we convene a policy conference to address a topic of interest to our members, and one we feel will be timely for the legislature. This year, a number of factors prevented us from being able to properly conduct the seminar, and it has been postponed. In an effort to attract more members at a more reasonable cost, the committee researched alternate locations and chose to hold the conference in Traverse City, rather than on Mackinac Island. We anticipate rescheduling the conference shortly, and intend to address the issue of court funding, taking into consideration the anticipated impact of increased indigent defense costs.

Each conference or seminar requires the hard work and dedication of a committee. All committees are made up of volunteers, selected by the Chair. Because our members are committed to promoting the goals of our Section, we have had no shortage of volunteers.

Our policy conferences were the brainchild of one of our former Chairs, James Shonkwiler, who previously was the Editor of our Newsletter. Unfortunately, Mr. Shonkwiler passed away this year. The Section nominated him for the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award. We were joined in our nomination by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, and are confident that he will be chosen as the recipient. Due to his many years of service to the Section, I have appointed a committee to recommend an appropriate memorial in Jim's memory. We have discussed the possibility of an annual award, renaming a conference in his memory, or perhaps renaming our newsletter.

Largely because we postponed the Policy Conference, our financial position is solid. As a result of our sound fiscal position, we will not need a dues adjustment.

As our summer break begins, our final meeting is held at the residence of a former Chair, to provide a less formal atmosphere. Even though no additional meetings are scheduled over the summer months, the Officers and Council continue to monitor activities across the State in the event a topic needs our immediate attention.

Please feel free to contact me in the event you need any further information.

Very truly yours,

Charles H. Marr
CHARLES H. MARR
Chair,
Criminal Law Section -