

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
2009-2010 COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Article VI §6, Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan

No later than May 1 of each year, the chair of each committee and subentity of the Bar, with the assistance of the staff liaison, shall report to the Executive Director on a form provided by the State Bar on the activities and accomplishments of the committee or subentity.

Committee Name: Master Lawyers Section Planning Group

Jurisdiction: The Master Lawyers Section Planning Group shall:

- Assist with transition to a Master Lawyers Section as a new entity with a structure similar to the Young Lawyers Section, including automatic free section membership for all members who reach a threshold age, or years of practice, and optional paid membership for those with lower age and years of practice, and a budget for the programs and activities of the Master Lawyers Section provided in part by the State Bar of Michigan.
- Explore and recommend the jurisdiction of the Master Lawyers Section, including the key focus areas of its work for the next two years.
- Draft bylaws for the new section.

Chair(s) and Committee Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Ronald D. Keefe	128 W Spring St Marquette, MI 49855-4608	(906) 226-2543	keefe@kendrickslaw.com
	Gregory L. Ulrich	33900 Schoolcraft Rd Livonia, MI 48150-1314	(734) 261-2400	gulrich@cmda-law.com
Staff Liaison	Janet Welch	State Bar of Michigan 306 Townsend Lansing, MI 48933	(517) 346-6319	ccrowley@mail.michbar.org
	Martha Burkett Amy J. Castner Candace Crowley Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn Anne M. Vrooman Dionnie Wynter		(517) 346-6410	avrooman@mail.michbar.org
Commissioner Liaison	Gregory L. Ulrich			

Member/Advisor/Other	Member/Advisor/Other
Lori A. Buiteweg	Edgar W. Pugh, Jr.
Thomas F. Cavalier	Vincent Romano
Brian D. Einhorn	Asher N. Tilchin
Robert K. Fergan	Donald J. Walter
Miles C. Gerberding	Lynn P. Chard, Advisor
Roman S. Gribbs	Kate Birnbryer White, Non-Bar Member
Hon. Harold Hood	Austin G. Anderson, Emeritus Member
Donald Pailen	

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Committee Meeting Schedule:

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

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Description		
Regular committee meeting	December 17, 2009	Telephone
Regular committee meeting	February 18, 2010	State Bar Building
Regular committee meeting	March 23, 2010	State Bar Building

Resources provided by the State Bar of Michigan in support of committee work:

Staff support for planning and meeting, materials development, meeting rooms.

Committee Activities:

On June 12, 2009, the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners (BOC) approved the creation of the “Master Lawyers Section”, a new State Bar Section comprised of all Michigan lawyers who are either age 60 or older or have 30 years of practice. Membership will be automatic and without charge; those not wishing to be included may opt out. Lawyers over 50 or with 20 years of practice may join for a \$25 fee. When the Master Lawyers Section debuts in the Fall of 2010, it will replace the existing voluntary Senior Lawyers Section. The BOC’s action is significant in several respects, including its clear recognition that the experience and contributions of older lawyers are a valued resource that should be cultivated and used. The Board adopted a detailed work plan for the new section, focused on service to members, protection of the public, and contributions to community.

Since Board approval of the new section, the Master Lawyers Section Planning Committee has planned the implementation of the new section. Bylaws are drafted and will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners at its June meeting. A plan to transition from Senior Lawyers Section to Master Lawyers Section is in place. A branding, marketing and communications plan is proceeding, and an annual calendar of activities is being developed. The programs and activities of the new section will be conducted in partnership with ongoing efforts of State Bar staff and programs.

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Annual Meeting programs are being planned. Those include a display booth announcing the master lawyers Section and promoting the purpose, explaining demographics, challenges and opportunities. Information on pro bono activities for master will be available. A Practice management Resource Center program to occur later in 2010.

The committee agreed to adopt a proposed amendment to Rule 2 of the Supreme Court Rules Regarding the State Bar of Michigan to require all members of the Bar, except in-house and public service lawyers, to designate on the annual dues notice the name of an active member who has agreed to serve as inventory attorney in the event of the reporting member's death, disappearance or disability. This will be considered for further input and possible referral to the Representative Assembly.

The committee includes a liaison from the Bar's Pro Bono Initiative and he enlisted support from the committee for proposed revisions to Michigan Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 regarding pro bono service. That proposed was adopted by the Assembly at its April 2010 meeting.

Co-chairs Ron Keefe and Greg Ulrich submitted an article "Master Lawyers Section Created by State Bar of Michigan" for publication in the ABA Senior Lawyers Division (SLD) publication. The co-chairs asked member Miles Gerberding to attend the mid-year meeting of the SLD and report on those activities. Gerberding attended meetings on long range planning, elder law, focus group, and membership and branding and submitted a written report of those discussions.

Future Goals and Activities:

The committee will celebrate the launching of the new Section at the September 29-October 1 Annual Meeting and will disband after that time.

Other Information: