

**STATE BAR COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES, LEGAL RESEARCH,  
& LEGAL PUBLICATIONS**

**Minutes of November 10, 2007 Meeting  
Ave Maria School of Law, Ann Arbor**

**Present:** Sharon Barnes, Randy Davidson, Randy Foreman, Barb Garavaglia, Barbara Goldman, Daniel Kopka, Marilyn Preston, Jennifer Schafer (teleconference), Ruth Stevens (teleconference).

**Absent:** Ann Baker, Jan Bissett, Barbara Bonge, Georgia Clark, Byron Cooper, Jane Edwards, Marjorie Gell, Jim Hogan, TeLisa Owens, Roger Peters, Janice Selberg, Jennifer Selby, Kathy Vance, Julie Sullivan, and Lance Werner.

Chair Randy Foreman called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

The Committee members present approved the minutes of the August 11, 2007 meeting.

**Chair's Report:**

Randy F. announced the resignation of Sue Adamczak, and thanked Jennifer Schafer, who has previously served as Representative Assembly liaison, for actively participating on our Committee.

Randy provided copies of the following recently published Michigan Bar Journal articles by Committee members: *ACES Internet Resources*, by TeLisa Owens (September 2007) and *Selected Online Sources for Valuing Estate Assets* by Jane Edwards (October 2007).

Randy Foreman distributed copies of a brochure from the AALL called *Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee*. These were mailed to the committee chair by committee member Jane Edwards, a member of this bar committee and a member of the AALL subcommittee that drafted the document. The document summarized the core values needed for public websites, which are: Accessibility, Reliability, Official Status, Comprehensiveness and Preservation.

Randy Foreman delivered a report summarizing the findings of the same sub committee that Jane Edwards is on concerning the Authentication issue for "official" online resources. The report indicated that online cases since 2001 are designated as "official", and online public acts appear to be at the point of being called "official." However none of the online sources are authenticated. In addition, the Michigan statutes and cases contain disclaimers about their reliability, timeliness and accuracy.

**Old Business:**

1) Randy Foreman reported that Sandra Barger had informed him that the Web hits report was inaccurate due to a web page error. The numbers showed about half of what they had been. Sandra indicated that the problem would be fixed soon.

2) Randy Foreman reported that links to the survey had been added to each web page as suggested by Ann Baker at the August meeting.

3) Sharon Barnes indicated that the Bar would not support Spanish language web pages, the reason being that translations are often disputed and that while Spanish is dominant in much of Michigan, in SE Michigan there is a very large Arabic community and a very small Spanish one. The State bar has chosen instead to provide links to Babelfish, an automatic translation page.

With that knowledge, the Committee agreed to no longer pursue Spanish translation of our web pages.

4) Jennifer Schafer indicated that she would be able to get some links for a debt relief page soon, and Randy Foreman reported that TeLisa Owens had indicated by email that she too would be able to provide some information for that page.

5) Randy Foreman and Ruth Stevens submitted a final version of a new "Immigration" web page. Randy removed links to commercial websites. Ruth agreed to add a link to translators and special interest bar associations prior to the final submission of the page.

6) Barb Bonge indicated by email that she had been unable to do further work on the paper bookmarks advertising the website. Barbara Goldman suggested that an attractive cover would make the bookmark more likely to be used. Sharon Barnes indicated that we need a shorter URL for the web address on the bookmark. She had talked to Sandra Barger who indicated that she could easily give us a new web address.

#### New Business:

Randy Davidson proposed that the committee draft a new rule for the Michigan Rules of Evidence in regards to electronic evidence, including the authentication of digital and online evidence. He offered as a model a rule from the Philippines. Randy Foreman offered to check Westlaw for other states that may be addressing this issue, although Randy Davidson indicated that he had already spent quite a bit of time checking U.S sources and had found nothing.

#### Round table on news and emerging issues:

Sharon Barnes informed us that SBM will work with our Committee on the bookmark project.

Barbara Goldman indicated that the State Bar Electronic Filing Task Force had been dissolved. She also had been appointed the Chair-elect of the Appellate Practice Section.

Barb Garavaglia reported that UM is now one of 15 national sites that will offer PACER for free to public patrons. She also noted that she has been appointed to be the new Assistant Library Director, and that Jennifer Selby is now the References Services Leader.

In spring 2008, at the University of Toledo College of Law, Marilyn Preston is teaching a class entitled Practice Preparation, focusing on writing skills necessary for law practice and that have been tested on the Multistate Performance Test of various state bars.

Daniel Kopka informed the Committee that ICLE Online Partnership access is now available to libraries.

Jennifer Schafer attended the September 2007 SBM Representative Assembly meeting.

Ruth Stevens told the committee that Cooley at Grand Rapids is seeking two dual-degreed law librarians. She also has been working on the AALL Public Libraries Toolkit for Michigan, a webpage at [www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/michigan.doc](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/michigan.doc).

Randy Davidson reported that Dawn Van Hoek is the new Chief Deputy Director of SADO and that Jonathan Sacks had been promoted to be the Deputy Director of the Detroit office.

Adjournment and scheduling next meeting:

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at the State Bar of Michigan Michael Franck Building in Lansing. Sharon Barnes will host.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., and we expressed our thanks to Janice Selberg and her staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Foreman, Chair