



REPRESENTATIVE
ASSEMBLY

Special Outreach Publishing

April 2016

WHO?

Adopted a proposal to authorize a study of appellate representation of indigent defendants.

WHO?

Defeated a proposal which would have prohibited attorneys from making financial contributions to the campaign funds of candidates for judicial office.

WHO?

Approved a recommendation that the prevailing party in civil cases should under certain limited circumstances be entitled to reasonable fees at the discretion of the trial court, under guidelines and limitations provided by Rule.

WHO?

Supported in principle a system of merit selection of all Michigan judges and recommended the formation of a Citizens Committee on Michigan's Judiciary.

Although the RA is the ultimate policy making body of the SBM, section chairs and others within the Bar do not think of the RA in suggesting policy changes or even knowing where to turn for support

CHALLENGE

To increase the visibility of the RA within the State Bar of Michigan and expand its' influence as a policy making body.

OUR GOAL

What we looked at:

- Survey results from last year on methods of communications.
- The RA “history” document
- The final RA ‘response’ to the Task Force Rpt.
- RA Communications Strategy
- RA Brochure

1. Provide better tools for members to communicate with their constituents.
2. Work harder at linking the RA with SBM sections and committees.
- 3. Raise the profile of the RA; Make Bar membership aware of what the RA does via PR and Marketing**
4. Communications between members of the RA (between leadership and the circuits)

WHERE WE FOCUSED

Update & Simplify RA website

Revise Orientation Material

Provide RA members with the tools and resources to communicate with key constituencies

- Background on issues we will debate
- Meeting summaries

WHAT CAN WE DO – SHORT TERM

Increase the Assembly's profile in SBM media
and at SBM events

Re-establish a connection with the SBM Sections
+ Specialty Bars

Evaluate the RA's role and how other state bars
have similar positions

WHAT CAN WE DO – SHORT TERM

Engage Bar members (+ others) in conversations about The Assembly

Invest in better tool to communicate with stakeholder groups

Define and simplify a process to bring issues to the RA

WHAT CAN WE DO – LONG TERM

WHO?

Approved a recommendation to the Supreme Court that all attorneys actively engaged in private practice be required to maintain a minimum malpractice insurance policy.

WHO?

Rejected a proposal that the State Bar of Michigan endorse a rule mandating the use of letter-size paper in all Michigan Courts.

WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT?

THANK YOU

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Richard Cunningham

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