

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Michigan Bankers Association building in Lansing, Michigan. Remote access via Zoom was available for Commissioners and, upon request, for members of the public. The MIDC website and meeting notice included information for members of the public on how to contact the MIDC to obtain the Zoom link for participation. Commissioners were able to participate remotely if they qualified for an exemption under the Open Meetings Act or if they requested an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12131 *et. seq.*, and Rehabilitation Act, MCL 395.81 *et. seq.*, pursuant to Attorney General Opinion No. 7318.

August 20, 2024

Time: 9:30 am

Michigan Bankers Association
507 S. Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

Commission Members Participating

The following members participated in person:

- Acting Chair Tracey Brame
- Thomas Adams
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- James Krizan
- Debra Kubitskey
- Judge Paula Mathes
- Margaret McAvoy
- John Shea
- William Swor
- Rob VerHeulen

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Christine Green
- Joshua Blanchard
- Kimberly Buddin
- Paul Bullock
- Tom McMillin
- Alicia Moon

The following member requested an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate via Zoom:

- Gary Walker (Chocolay Township, Marquette County, Michigan)

Acting Chair Brame called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

Introduction of Commission members and guests

Acting Chair Brame invited guests to introduce themselves to the Commission.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Jill Recker
- Robin McCoy

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McAvoy moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the Consent Agenda containing the minutes from the June 25, 2024 meeting be approved. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Kristen Staley introduced Abraham Gonzales who is serving as the Regional Manager for Western Michigan. Ms. Staley provided an overview of the training and conferences attended by MIDC staff.

Budget Presentation

Ms. Staley provided an overview of the budget process and the MIDC's expenses for FY 2024, the anticipated budget for FY 2025, and the request submitted for FY 2026.

Commissioner Shea moved that the FY 2026 budget request including six additional FTEs be approved. Commissioner Adams seconded. Acting Chair Brame requested a roll call vote. The motion carried with 10 yeas (Adams, Brame, DeLeeuw, Fisher, Jones, Krizan, Shea, Swor, VerHeulen, Walker), 3 nays (Kubitskey, Mathes, McAvoy), and 5 absent members (Green, Blanchard, Buddin, Bullock, McMillin).

Fellowship Program Report

Senior Regional Manager Melissa Wangler facilitated a discussion about the fellowship program, which places law students and social work students at five sites around the State. The following people participated in the presentation: Dan Ellman and Athena Kheibari, Wayne State University; Cassidy Berlin, Marquette County Retention and Recruitment Specialist; Taylor Mikkelson and Chad Catalino, Allegan County; Logan Allen and David Makled, Calhoun County; and Renee Hysko and Theresa Cipponeri, Macomb County.

Special Assignment Unit Update

Michael Naughton and Barbara Klimaszewski provided an overview of the project, which addresses the rural attorney shortage.

Commission Business

Executive Committee

Acting Chair Brame provided an overview of the Executive Committee's August 2, 2024 meeting.

The Executive Committee chose to present the Frank Eaman Award for Excellence in Public Defense to co-recipients Michael Naughton and Barbara Klimaszewski. Acting Chair Brame presented the awards.

MIDC Standards Implementation

Deputy Director Marla McCowan provided an overview of FY 2024 submissions approved and the funding distributed to date. She updated the Commission on FY 2025 resubmissions from systems.

Acting Chair Brame adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

The next meeting will be October 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcela Westrate