

MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION CODE OF ETHICS

The mission of the Michigan State Bar Foundation is to provide leadership and funding to improve the justice system by:

Improving access to justice for all, particularly through civil legal aid for the poor and through expansion of the provider system and the resources to improve that system, and

Improving public understanding about the law, the importance of the rule of law, and peaceful resolution of disputes through education, research and publicity.

The Foundation is committed to the public good, accountability, responsible stewardship of resources, excellence and adherence to the highest ethical standards. To fulfill these obligations the Board of Directors and Staff of the Michigan State Bar Foundation will:

- Act in manner to enhance personal and professional honesty and integrity, uphold the dignity of the profession and inspire confidence and trust in our activities.
- Strive to include a range of perspectives and experiences and collaborate with and support other professionals in carrying out Michigan State Bar Foundation's mission.
- Treat all persons with respect and expect our actions to demonstrate care for others and the community as a whole.
- Operate within industry standards for fundraising, administration and all activities and review program effectiveness regularly and have mechanisms to incorporate lessons learned into future efforts.
- Ensure that its members have the skills and experience to carry out their duties and that all Board of Directors understand and fulfill their governance duties acting for the benefit of the Michigan State Bar Foundation and its public purposes.
- Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, competence and compassion.
- Be accessible by having basic grantmaking information readily available regarding funding priorities and application requirements.
- Recognize that the chief function of the Michigan State Bar Foundation at all times is to serve the best interest of our constituencies, being responsive to their needs and changes in the field.
- Have a conflict-of-interest policy that ensures that any conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof are avoided or appropriately managed through disclosure, recusal, or other means.
- Ensure that policies of the Michigan State Bar Foundation are in writing, clearly articulated, and formally adopted by vote of the Board of Directors.

No document, code or set of standards can address all areas, but they can help ensure that all of our efforts exemplify the very highest professional and ethical standards. If you have any questions about something being proper or ethical, contact our Executive Director, Jennifer Bentley.

Adopted by the MSBF Board of Directors, June 15, 2011
Amended June 15, 2022