

CONFIDENTIAL

**Michigan State Bar Foundation
Legal Services Grants Committee
Summary of Virtual Meeting: November 4, 2025**

Present: Tom Cranmer, Craig Lubben, Michael Pitt. Staff Members: Jennifer Bentley, Mary Gladstone-Highland and Liz Sempsrott.

The LSGC met on November 4, 2025. There were several committee members with conflicts, so a summary was provided to all committee members for thoughts and questions.

1. The LSGC reviewed and discussed the goals for its funding recommendations:
 - a. Promote stability for grantees and the service delivery system in Michigan
 - b. Use grant conditions to require cooperation with the Michigan Legal Help Program
 - c. Continue conducting peer reviews to evaluate the efficiencies of the programs and overall delivery system
 - d. Support the operation of the statewide Counsel and Advocacy Law Line as an important component of the delivery system in Michigan

2. **MOVED, SUPPORTED AND CARRIED TO RECOMMEND LEGAL AID GRANTS AND GRANT CONDITIONS AS FOLLOWS:**
 - a. 2026 Annual IOLTA Legal Aid Grant amounts detailed on the 2026 Grant Award Chart and Map, totaling \$4,171,860, including \$2,821,860 of annual grants and an additional supplement of \$1,350,000 for CALL
 - b. 2026 Annual Legal Aid Grant amounts detailed on the 2026 Grant Award Chart and Map, totaling \$6,435,000 in Filing Fee Contracts
 - c. 2026 annual legal aid grant award letter content and grant conditions

3. Additional Comments/Notes

ANNUAL GRANT AMOUNTS FROM IOLTA AND FILING FEES

One of the goals for annual funding is to promote stability for grantees.

The FAC recommended and the Board approved a budget that includes a 25% increase annual grants in the amount of \$2,821,860 for 2026 (see attached chart). These grants will be paid with IOLTA revenue received in prior years.

Based on calculations and estimates provided by the State Court Administrative Office, filing fee estimates are based on a slight increase from projections for 2025. Grant conditions specify that grant amounts are subject to actual funds received

from Filing Fees.

COUNSEL AND ADVOCACY LAW LINE (CALL)

In FY26, MSBF is continuing its collaboration with CALL and the legal aid programs. MSBF completed a Business Process Analysis of CALL and is currently working with CALL and MLH to determine a new triage model. This process is a follow up and recommendation from the Justice for All Commission's *Independent Evaluation of Michigan's Intake and Referral Ecosystem for Civil Legal Needs*. The FAC recommended and the Board approved a budget that included a supplemental amount to CALL for \$1.35 million, which will alleviate the burden of the programs funding CALL while we complete the evaluation and modifications.