

Application: Law and Policing: Community Outreach and Engagement

Wayne State University Law School Clinic Program
Administration of Justice Grant Program

Summary

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Administration of Justice Grant Application

Completed - May 8 2026

Administration of Justice Grant Application

Organizational Overview

1. Describe how you learned of this grant opportunity:

We previously received grants to support our expungement and Navigator programs.

2. If you are not an annual grantee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, please briefly describe your organization's mission:

As part of Wayne State University and Wayne State University Law School we create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities.

3. If you are not an annual grantee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, please briefly describe your organization's history:

Wayne State Law School joined the ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium in January 2022. As part of this Wayne Law developed two courses in policing- one a seminar and one a practice policy course. We also developed an official collaboration with the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners. Our students review, analyze, research and provide recommendations related to Detroit Police Department policies. In February 2025 Wayne Law became the home (for two years) of the ABA Consortium allowing for a Faculty Director and post-graduate fellow to work on policing issues at both a national and local level. This project seeks to move full time into local level work.

4. If you are not an annual grantee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, please briefly describe your organization's major achievements:

Please see attached Wayne State University organizational documents. Also attached is a newsletter we published regarding our work with the Consortium.

5. List the dates, purposes and outcomes of any prior applications for Michigan State Bar Foundation funds submitted within the last six years. (Date, Title of Project/Purpose, Approved/Denied/Pending)

(1) December 11, 2023 we received a grant for Wayne State University Law School Clinic Program Expungement Fair. This was the inaugural expungement fair which has now become an annual event serving 200-250 people. In addition it inspired law students to organize and host an expungement fair in Northern Michigan in summer 2024 and a planned one in summer 2025.

(2) November 25, 2024 Wayne State University Law School Expungement Fair award to support development of the Navigators program. This resulted in a guide and development of curriculum for non-JDs working in expungement. This was developed prior to the State Supreme Court exploring a limited licensure pilot program. The goal is to update this as the State Supreme Court (hopefully) announces a pilot limited licensure program.

(3) Declined to fund a request for a position to further develop the Navigators program.

Project Overview

1. Title of project:

Law and Policing Community Outreach and Engagement

2. Amount Requested:

\$ 124000.00

3. Anticipated beginning date (mm/dd/yyyy):

06/01/2027

4. Anticipated completion date (mm/dd/yyyy):

06/01/2028

5. In 125 words or less, describe a brief summary of the grant request covering the needs to be addressed, methods, target audience and anticipated outcomes.

Community Outreach Attorney will lead a Detroit-centered education and engagement strategy on policing. Before entering the criminal justice system, individuals – particularly those in low-income and over-policed communities – encounter law enforcement. Thousands of Michiganders experience police-initiated stops/arrests that cascade into civil legal consequences, including housing, employment, family law and long-term financial strain. Improving the fairness, transparency and community understanding of policing practices is essential to strengthening the administration of justice.

Key activities:

- Building partnerships with community organizations, neighborhood groups and the Board of Police Commissioners.
- Leading Wayne Law fellows in researching policing policies, civilian oversight and community-identified concerns.
- Developing accessible materials and workshops on policing, residents' rights and oversight.
- Hosting convening at Wayne Law for community, legal practitioners/scholars to share findings and identify priorities.

6. List names/titles and describe the qualifications of key staff members or volunteers responsible for the project.

	Name/Title of Key Staff or Volunteer	Function/Qualifications
1	Molly Moening, Community Outreach and Engagement Attorney	Molly is a licensed attorney in Michigan who currently is in her second year as the American Bar Association Post-Graduate Fellowship in Legal Education and Police Practices. In this role Molly coordinates national research, policy analysis and a year-long law school fellowship program.
2	Rebecca Robichaud, Supervisor	Rebecca currently is a faculty member at Wayne State Law School, a licensed attorney in Michigan, and the Faculty Director of the American Bar Association Legal Education Police Practices Consortium.
3		
4		

7. Describe how this project furthers the mission of your organization

Wayne State University Law School has been deeply engaged in policing work on a national level. From 2025-2027, Wayne Law is hosting the American Bar Association's Legal Education Police Practices Consortium. Under the leadership of Faculty Director Rebecca Robichaud and Post-Graduate Fellow Molly Moening, the Consortium coordinates national research, policy analysis and a year-long law school fellowship program. This work has made clear that Michigan communities need sustained, locally grounded engagement on policing practices – not only national research, but community-centered education, policy transparency and pathways for residents to influence the systems that shape their daily lives.

To meet this need, Wayne Law created a Local Policy course in which J.D. students review, analyze and propose revisions to Detroit Police Department policies. This course has two goals: (1) preparing future lawyers to understand and influence policing policy, and (2) strengthening Wayne Law's partnerships with community organizations and the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, the civilian oversight body responsible for reviewing police practices. This work has demonstrated both the appetite and the need for deeper, more accessible public education on policing and civilian oversight.

8. Describe how this project advances the stated priorities of the Michigan State Bar Foundation

Wayne Law seeks support from the Michigan State Bar Foundation to launch a Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) program focused on improving public understanding of policing practices, strengthening civilian oversight and expanding community-driven pathways for justice reform. This project directly aligns with MSBF's "Improvements in the Administration of Justice" priority by:

- Increasing transparency and public understanding of legal processes related to policing.
- Expanding access to law-related education for communities disproportionately impacted by the justice system.
- Supporting community participation in oversight and accountability structures.
- Building a statewide capacity for fairer, more effective policing practices.

The COE program will begin after Wayne Law concludes its hosting of the ABA Consortium in February 2027, ensuring a smooth transition from national-level work to Michigan-focused community engagement. Applying now allows us to use the coming year to plan strategically for this one year project.

9. What will happen to this project if the Michigan State Bar Foundation denies the grant request?

We will continue to search for funding. If we are unable to find any funding to support this position then the programming will not continue.

Needs to be Addressed

1. What are the needs to be addressed?

Mass incarceration remains one of the most persistent challenges in the United States, and in Michigan, the pathway into the criminal legal system overwhelmingly begins with a police encounter. Before arraignments, public defender engagement, or plea negotiations, individuals – particularly those in low-income and over-policed communities – first meet the justice system through law enforcement. In Michigan, thousands of residents each year experience police-initiated stops or arrests that later cascade into civil legal consequences, including housing stability, employment barriers, family law complications and long-term financial strain. Improving the fairness, transparency and community understanding of policing practices is therefore essential to strengthening the administration of justice and addressing the mass incarceration issues that impact individuals, families and communities.

2. What is the target audience?

For this one year program there are two target audiences. The first and primary is the Detroit community. One of the anticipated outcomes of this project is improving community understanding of policing practices and the communities ability to influence those practices. The second audience is law students, and engaging them in key issues that intersect law and policing and public policy. It is also an opportunity to encourage law students to make their work accessible to an audience outside of legal academia and lawyers.

3. What outreach will be undertaken to inform the audience of this project?

Our outreach will include developing educational materials and workshops to share throughout Detroit. In addition, the first annual convening will be held at Wayne Law. To advertise and encourage engagement with these opportunities the Community Outreach and Engagement Attorney will immerse themselves in the Detroit community through attendance at grassroots level community meetings, Board of Police Commissioners meetings, and other opportunities.

4. List the counties in which services will be provided or indicate statewide.

For the first year the focus will be on Detroit in Wayne County. The goal is to develop a program and approach that can be duplicated state wide to grow engagement, education and understanding of police practices.

Project Activities

1. How many people will be served?

650,000 Every resident of Detroit is impacted by policing policies. This role will serve all residents, with the hope of touching 1000 people.

2. Described any services in this project that will be provided by pro bono attorneys.

There will not be individual legal representation. However, it is possible pro bono attorney will collaborate in policy review and general legal advice, as currently occurs with the ABA Police Practices program.

3. Describe any services to be done by other volunteers.

For hosting community level meetings, there will be community volunteers assisting in communications, logistics, and general support.

4. Describe the timeline for major activities in this project.

June 1, 2027 Project begins with strategic planning for policies to be addressed, how and when to gather community needs, and planning of community meetings. Note: the project must be flexible as the Detroit Police Department and Board of Commissioners chose which policies and issues to address throughout the year.

July 2027 Begin community meetings. These will continue throughout the year.

August 2027 Student fellows selected and begin policy review projects.

May 2028 First Annual Convening

June 1, 2028 Project ends.

5. Describe any technology used to undertake this project.

The Community Outreach and Engagement attorney will use a computer, social media, adobe acrobat, Canva, and any other available resources to make the materials accessible and ensure announcements and meeting opportunities reach the most people possible. Through the Wayne State Experiential Education program there would be access to various legal technology resources.

6. Describe supervision for the project.

(No response)

7. If applicable, list up to three materials that will result from this project.

1. Multiple policy memos. These include background research, review of other jurisdictions approaches and recommendations.
2. Zine. To be used to communicate key issues to community members in an accessible way.
3. Other educational materials. These may include videos, social media posts, fliers, and other communications.

8. If applicable, how many people will be served? Complete chart below. (Enter numbers without punctuation: 1000 rather than 1,000.00)

Type of legal problem	Cases closed after limited service	Cases closed after extended service	Total projected cases closed
Consumer/finance			
Education			
Employment			
Family			
Juvenile			
Health			
Housing			
Income maintenance			
Individual rights			
Other*			
Total Cases	0	0	0

Collaboration/Coordination

1. Describe the support this project has from other individuals or organizations in your community.

	Organization/Individual	Describe Support	Upload Letter of Support
1	Wayne State Law School	As the organization hiring the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Wayne State Law School will provide office space, legal resources, community meeting space, general support, and offer a policing practices course to compliment the work of the attorney.	✘
2	Victoria 4 Your Voice	This community level organization will collaborate with the Attorney. See letter for more detailed information. Neither Victoria Camille nor Victoria 4 Your Voice will receive any of the grant funds; and 2) Victoria Camille and Victoria 4 Your Voice will not engage in any activity which is forbidden by or conflicts with her role as a Commissioner, such as lobbying the Board or taking an adversarial position toward the Board.	✔
3			✘
4			✘
5			✘

2. If other organizations in your area perform services or meet needs in a way similar to those you have proposed, describe how your proposed project avoids duplication with other organizations.

Victoria 4 Your Voice is the only community level organization we are aware of engaged in police policy engagement and education in Detroit and we will collaborate with this organization to enhance efforts. The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners is the civilian oversight board for the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners. The Board of Police of Commissioners was created in 1974 by City Charter, which was adopted by the vote of the people. The 2012 Charter vests broad supervisory authority over the Police Department in the 11-member civilian Board of Police Commissioners. Thus their primary role is supervision of DPD and addressing community complaints. The Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability (CPTA) is a coalition including Wayne Law's policing program, Detroit Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership, Detroit ACLU, Detroit and MI chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, Riverwise Magazine and other local organizations. CPTA stated mission is to expose police misconduct in all of its forms and thereby demand police transparency and accountability as well as garner community support for this effort. The Attorney will collaborate with CPTA but the mission of CPTA is focused on police misconduct. The Attorney position is focused on education, engagement, and empowerment and policy reform.

3. Describe how you will coordinate activities with other organizations.

Attend meetings of these organizations, continue fostering relationships, and support their activities that are consistent with this project.

4. Have you researched and utilized the information from other similar projects in developing this project? If so, describe.

Through the two year American Bar Association project we have learned about the dire need for education on policing issues within communities. For five years Wayne Law has had policing fellows working on policy in Detroit. It is only in past year that the post-graduate fellow has increased capacity for community engagement. This led to more robust policy discussions both within community and at the Board of Police Commissioners.

Evaluation of Project

1. List three anticipated outcomes of the project.

1	Increase community knowledge of legal rights, police policies, and oversight processes related to policing.
2	Improve public participation in civilian oversight.
3	Support more equitable policing practices.

2. Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the project and include how you will measure the number of people impacted.

1. Through community meetings and communications via various sources we will increase knowledge of legal rights, police policies, and oversight processes related to policing. We will measure this through surveys following community meetings, measuring engagement at Board of Police Commissioner meetings through number and substance of public comments.
2. Improving public participation in civilian oversight will be measured through engagement at Board of Police Commissioner meetings through number and substance of public comments.
3. Support of more equitable policing practices will be measured by the production of policy memos and speaking engagements by the attorney, both in community and at the BOPC.

3. Describe to whom dissemination of project information or results will be made and how such dissemination will occur.

A report will be created containing the information noted above and shared with community partners, Wayne Law administration, Wayne State University Administration, the State Bar Foundation, media sources, and anyone who may request the information.

4. If this project can be replicated, describe the ways you will assist others in the process.

The hope is to engage student and faculty from other Michigan law schools to begin similar projects. In addition, if funding can be procured for a long term project the Attorney would seek to build relationships in other Michigan jurisdictions to grow police policy work at the community level.

Administration of Justice Grant Financial Information

Completed - May 8 2026

Form for "Administration of Justice Grant Financial Information"

1. Describe how the project will be funded after these grant funds are spent.

During the year of the project we will seek ongoing funding from outside sources as well as Wayne State Law School. In addition our hope is not to hold this work and project within Wayne Law, but to find ways to expand to other law schools and jurisdictions within Michigan.

2. Describe any matching funds requirements from other sources for this project.

Development of this project began with the ABA Police Practice Consortium which funded two years of national level policing work at Wayne Law. In addition, Wayne State Law School provides support in the form of office and meeting space, access to legal resources, and general office support.

3. Complete the chart below to reflect the project's estimated budget detailed by major line items. Include only what you are requesting for this project under the MSBF funds column. (Enter numbers without punctuation – for example, 1000 rather than \$1,000.00. In addition, you will need to manually total rows, but columns will total)

Category	MSBF Funds	Other Funds	In-kind Support	Total
Personnel - Existing				
Personnel - New	80000			
Employee benefits	24000			
Consultant fees	5000			
Travel				
Space				
Equipment				
Supplies	5000			
Telephone				
Postage				
Printing/copies				
Audit				
Other	10000			
Total	124000.0	0	0	0

4. Please describe the personnel costs above, including positions, whether or not it is a new position and projected percentage of time that the staff will spend on this project.

The Community Outreach and Engagement is a new position. Previously Molly Moening served as the post-graduate ABA fellow. This position will be different in that it will focus on Detroit and local policy issues. Currently as the ABA post graduate fellow Molly must spend a significant part of her time on issues outside of Detroit. With this proposed project 100% of Molly's time will be focused on the proposed projects work.

5. If you requested funding for consultant fees, space, equipment or other expenses, please describe.

We listed \$5000.00 for a consultant. This is a small stipend for the supervisory role Rebecca Robichaud will hold in this project. In addition we requested \$5000.00 in supplies to purchase a tablet, computer and any other necessary technology to ensure a mobile attorney who can spend more time out in the community than in the law school. The \$10,000.00 listed is to support the Annual Convening and any related community meeting costs such as renting space, light refreshments, interpreters.

6. Please list any funding sources that have changed in the last year, including source of funding and amount.

N/A

7. List the other anticipated funding sources for this project by name and amount.

	Source	Amount Requested	Amount Committed
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

8. Comments

Please add any comments you wish to provide.

(No response)