



Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association

Public Policy Forum & Institute

***Transforming Ideas into
Sustainable Action***



**Getting to Know
Our Process**

We welcome you
to a world
turning new
ideas into reality
by our inclusive,
problem-solving
process.

*– the officers, directors
and staff of Detroit
Metropolitan Bar
Association*

[A Brief Statement of the History of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association]

True to its roots as the oldest bar association in Michigan and one of the three oldest in the country, the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association serves Detroit's legal community through networking, practice development and community service.

The Detroit Bar was organized in 1836 when Andrew Jackson was President and before Michigan was a state. It was formally incorporated in 1881. A group of prominent Detroit attorneys established the Bar to "promote the due administration of justice, maintain the dignity of the profession and cultivate social intercourse among its members." It was originally referred to as the Bar of the City of Detroit before changing its name to the Detroit Bar Association in 1881 and then to the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association in 1996. The Bar's commitment to its members, relationships with the judiciary and dedication to community service have remained constants. Thanks to the law library at the University of Stanford, a copy of the original 1881 Articles of Association with amended Bylaws and List of Members as of 1906 is available to us today.

For more information on the DMBA, visit <http://www.detroitlawyer.org> or call Darlene Trudell, our Executive Director at 313-965-0842.



[Our Process]

This booklet is designed to give you a sense of our process and, importantly, our commitment to you.

As a matter of process, the DMBA Public Policy Forum & DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute identifies subjects for consideration that we call *Initiatives*. Individuals are invited to serve as volunteers to examine an Initiative within the context of a workgroup referred to as a *Symposium*.

Usually attendees represent a diverse range of expertise and perspectives. Attendees serve as individuals and not as representatives of organizations or interest groups. Each is selected based upon his or her good judgment, experience, and expertise and is asked to disclose any potential sources of bias or conflict of interest that might prejudice the work of the DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute. To this end, we request that all attendees identify any professional, consulting, financial, or other connections or relationships that might adversely reflect on the integrity of the DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute and those engaged in this process.



[Our Symposium]

A Symposium usually occurs through a facilitative process modeled upon the National Academy of Sciences.

An internal DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute committee made up of the Directors and assigned staff of the DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute, a select group of DMBA Board members, and occasional representatives of outside organizations frames the issues through a summary of the Initiative, facilitates the work of the Symposium, and acts as a reporter for the Symposium.

A Symposium usually begins in closed session in which each attendee provides an introductory statement of his or her background and experience. Our expectation is that attendees will learn from each other and grow during the process. Subgroups are sometimes formed with internal committee members divided into issue-specific groups to promote creativity and the frank and candid exchange of ideas to further the work of the Symposium. The goal is to achieve a level of trust and candor that results in a movement from conflicting or disparate views to unity, focus, and choices that can be implemented for the betterment of society. For this reason, the work of a Symposium is confidential and may not be disclosed without the prior written approval of the DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute.



[Our Published Report]

Often the work product of a Symposium takes the form of a published report that represents a novel synthesis of ideas from those participating in the Symposium. A report of the findings or recommendations of the Symposium may then be shared with the public in order to advance an understanding of potential solutions to problems relating to an initiative. The DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute's goal is to provide a meaningful and effective contribution geared to the application of new ideas that can then be considered and implemented by policymakers.

While attendees should strive for consensus regarding a report, it is not a requirement nor should it be at the cost of weakening the analysis or conclusions reached during the Symposium. Accordingly, at times it may then be more valuable to explain the rationale behind areas of disagreement than to issue unanimous conclusions that are so limited they fail to contribute to a better understanding of the issues presented by an initiative. At the conclusion of a Symposium, the names and affiliations of all participants are released upon publication of any report of the Symposium.

[Our Commitment]

It is important to note that the role of the DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute is to maintain the independence, objectivity, and integrity of the process and not to advance a specific outcome or result. Any report is the collective work product of those attending the Symposium. Your contribution may be used by us without restriction or obligation. Individual submissions or contributions are generally not recognized. The DMBA Public Policy Forum & Institute reserves the right to use and publish or not any deliberate idea, process, contribution, or report as determined by its Board of Directors.



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**DMBA Executive Director:
Darlene Trudell
dtrudell@detroitlawyer.org
313-961-6120 x 201**

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