

Michigan Defense Trial Counsel Public Policy Committee

POLICY AND PROCEDURES – PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Michigan Defense Trial Counsel strives to advance the interests of civil defense litigators while promoting the fair and efficient administration of justice for their clients. To serve these goals, the Public Policy Committee educates MDTC members and may on occasion, offer educational information to governmental policy makers regarding issues of importance to civil defense practice, and promotes the adoption of beneficial changes in the law.

Purposes and Obligations

- The MDTC and each and every member thereof, or any 3rd party nonmembers, who on behalf of the MDTC and its members engages in Lobbying as defined in 1978 PA 472 (“*communicating directly with an official in the executive branch of state government or an official in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action*”) or otherwise addressed in 1976 PA 388, and exceeding the statutory financial thresholds, should assess their potential need to register as a “Lobbyist” or “Lobbyist agent”, as those terms and requirements are defined in the Acts. See current thresholds here: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/LobbyThresholds_508882_7.pdf
- 2021 Thresholds for **lobbyists** is **expenditures** exceeding \$2,575.00 during any 12-month period for lobbying, or expenditure of more than \$650.00 during any 12-month period to lobby a single public official. Thresholds will be reviewed annually for compliance needs.
- 2021 Thresholds for **lobbyist agents** is **reimbursement** of more than \$650.00 during any 12-month period. Thresholds will be reviewed annually for compliance needs.
- Given these thresholds, it is unlikely that registration is necessary under MDTC present and historical activities. However, these rules should be acknowledged and monitored for application when communicating with legislative and administrative branches of government, particularly in light of the broad definition of “Lobbying”.
- All referenced Public Policy Committee work will be supported by MDTC staff.
- The Committee Chair(s) will communicate with the Executive Committee regarding Bills and other laws or enactments affecting Public Policy, of potential interest to MDTC’s membership.
- The Committee may on occasion, offer educational information to the Governor, Legislators, and other key policy makers and staff within the executive, legislative and, where permitted, judicial branches of government regarding legislation or rules of interest

to MDTC and its members as needed and directed by the MDTC Board or Executive Committee.

- Committee members, or other MDTC members appointed by the Committee with MDTC Board or Executive Committee approval, will represent MDTC at legislative hearings for relevant matters.
- The Committee will determine and communicate positions to the MDTC membership on proposed legislation, court rules and administrative rules, as appropriate to advance the interests of civil defense litigators while promoting the fair and efficient administration of justice for their clients.
- The Committee/Section will invite legislative leaders to events and board meetings.
- The Committee/Section will ensure distribution of the MDTC Quarterly and E-news to “lawyer legislators” and other key governmental policy makers.
- The Committee and anyone acting on behalf of the committee, in pursuing the above purposes and obligations, will abide by the MDTC Public Policy Advocacy Conflict of Interest Policy as applicable.

Committee Members

MDTC Executive Committee
At least one Committee Chair, and
At least two (2) MDTC members at large

Adopted at Board Meeting on September 23, 2021