

Minutes
Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters
April 27, 2010
2:00 PM
225 Spring Street
Wethersfield, Connecticut

The Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters met in the fourth floor conference room at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

Members in attendance: Justice Joette Katz (chair), Mr. Claude Albert, Hon. Marshall K. Berger, Jr., Atty. James Brawley, Atty. Scott Hartley, Ms. Caren Kittredge, Mr. James Maher, Atty. Richard O'Connor, Ms. Shirley Sambrook, Atty. Lauren Weisfeld and Atty. Harry Weller.

Guest speakers in attendance were Mr. John C. Brandon and Ms. Diana Huntington.

I. Justice Katz called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. The minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Justice Katz welcomed Mr. Brandon and Ms. Huntington, who were invited by Ms. Sambrook to address the issue of audio recording and the January 2010 position paper of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA). Mr. Brandon, a shorthand reporter who chairs the State Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters, addressed the Committee first. Mr. Brandon opined that court reporters "are not human tape recorders" and that digital audio recording is little more than a tape recorder. Mr. Brandon said the COSCA report was faulty and did not accurately or fairly represent the role that court reporters play in memorializing court proceedings. Ms. Huntington, a U.S. District Court court reporter, spoke next. Ms. Huntington is a certified real-time reporter, whose stenographic equipment allows her to create a "real-time" feed of proceedings as they happen. Ms. Huntington and Mr. Brandon took questions from the Committee about training, ownership of the court record, recording equipment, transcript costs and delivery times.

IV. The Committee next discussed the number of court cases disposed of and appeals filed between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2009. The information was provided by the Appellate Court Clerk's Office and a Judicial Branch statistician. This led to a discussion of the need for paper transcripts vs. audio or video memorialization of proceedings. Committee members differed in their opinions of the need for paper transcripts.

V. The Committee next considered a variety of ideas for pilot projects to determine the best way of memorializing the record. Justice Katz asked the members to submit three ideas to support staff prior to the next meeting.

VI. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.