

Minutes

Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters

July 6, 2010

2:00

Wethersfield, Connecticut

The Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, July 6, 2010.

Committee members in attendance: Justice Joette Katz (chair), Hon. Marshall K. Berger, Jr., Atty. Scott Hartley, Atty. James Brawley, Atty. Richard O'Connor, Atty. Lauren Weisfeld, Atty. Harry Weller, Atty. Peter Dreyer, and Caren Kittredge. Mr. James Maher was absent.

Judicial Branch Legal Services advisor Atty. Martin Libbin was also present.

1. Justice Katz called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. and welcomed the members of the Committee.
2. The minutes of the May 24, 2010 meeting were approved with all members present voting in favor.
3. Justice Katz then called for discussion on 15 separate motions related to the Committee charge, discussions at previous meetings, and materials provided to the Committee since its first meeting in November 2009. The Committee discussed separately each motion and approved 14 of the 15 motions. One, a motion that the Judicial Branch should make best use of its court reporters and court recording monitors by ensuring coverage for proceedings as applicable by statute and Practice Book rules, was rejected as redundant. The motions approved were as follows:
 1. The Judicial Branch should adopt this Committee's recommendation of the definition of the court record, which is the official memorialization of what occurs during official court proceedings.
 2. This Committee recommends that the court record belongs to the public, under the custody of the Judicial Branch, subject to applicable disclosure law.
 3. The Judicial Branch should adopt this Committee's recommendation that the Branch creates, maintains and administers the court record.
 4. The Judicial Branch should adopt digital audio-recording as the standard for recording proceedings.

5. The Judicial Branch should eliminate the practice of CU time by court reporters.
 6. The Judicial Branch should eliminate the practice of allowing court reporters and court recording monitors to produce transcripts for private parties on Judicial Branch time.
 7. The Judicial Branch should develop uniform standards for the type of work court reporters and court monitors may perform while on Branch time.
 8. The Judicial Branch should develop standard training for all court recording monitors and ensure compliance with those standards, to ensure uniformity of the memorialization of court proceedings.
 9. The Judicial Branch should own and provide all equipment used to memorialize court proceedings including, but not limited to, stenographic equipment, software and dictionaries.
 10. The Judicial Branch should maximize public access to the digital audio recordings of court proceedings, subject to applicable disclosure law.
 11. The Judicial Branch should adopt several pilot programs including but not limited to making the digital audio record available to attorneys in certain juvenile matters.
 12. The Judicial Branch should consider the use of the use of Real Time reporting in selected cases.
 13. The Judicial Branch should internally provide CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) as recommended by the Judicial Branch's Committee on Americans with Disabilities Act.
 14. The Judicial Branch should create a list of transcriptionists/companies whose transcripts meet Branch standards and are acceptable for use in all court proceedings.
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4. Justice Katz said the approved motions will form the basis for the Committee's report, which is due to the Chief Justice in the fall. A report will be written and circulated for discussion and a meeting will be held at a later day to discuss the report.
 5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.