

MINUTES

Public Service and Trust Commission Committee on the Utilization of Judge Trial Referees

September 16, 2010
2:00 PM
225 Spring Street
Wethersfield, CT

The Committee on the Utilization of Judge Trial Referees met in the fourth floor conference room at 225 Spring Street in Wethersfield on Thursday September 16, 2010.

Committee members in attendance: Hon. James W. Abrams, Hon. Arnold W. Aronson, Hon. Salvatore C. Agati, Hon. Marshall K. Berger, Jr., Hon. William H. Bright, Jr., Hon. Bernadette Conway, Hon. Deborah Kochiss Frankel, Hon. John F. Kavanewsky, Jr., Hon. Linda K. Lager (co-chair), Hon. William J. Lavery (co-chair), Hon. Aaron Ment, Hon. Joseph H. Pellegrino, Hon. Joseph J. Purtill, Hon. William B. Rush, Hon. William L. Wollenberg

The meeting was called to order by Judge Lager at 2:05 PM

1. Judge Lager and Judge Lavery welcomed the members of the committee.
2. The minutes from the April 8, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Judge Agati, chair of the Allocation Subcommittee, provided a report on the work of the subcommittee. Judge Agati summarized the results of the surveys that were sent out to the current judge trial referees and those judges who will turn 70 by December 31, 2016. A discussion ensued regarding the recommendations that will be presented by the subcommittee. There was an agreement by the full committee to make recommendations revising the current Policy Concerning the Service of Judge Trial Referees. The Allocation Subcommittee will have a meeting to formalize recommendations.
4. Judge Kavanewsky, chair of the Training and Education Subcommittee, provided a report on the work of the subcommittee. Judge Kavanewsky summarized the information that was obtained by staff regarding the current training being provided by the Branch and the thoughts from the co-chairs of the Education Committee on the subcommittee's proposals. The committee voted unanimously to adopt the proposals of the subcommittee.

Judge Lager provided an update on the work of the Education Committee.

5. Judge Rush, chair of the Evaluation Subcommittee, provided a report on the work of the subcommittee. The consensus of the subcommittee, which was agreed to by the full committee, was that judge trial referees should be evaluated in the same manner as judges are evaluated.

6. Judge Berger, chair of the Policy Subcommittee, provided a report on the work of the subcommittee. Judge Berger put forth the two proposals of the subcommittee. The first proposal is to create a policy and process when a JTR is not being recommended for redsignation by the Administrative Judge. The proposal establishes a Judge Trial Referee Advisory Committee for the purposes of reviewing an Administrative Judge's decision not to recommend a judge trial referee for redesignation. Following discussion, the proposal passed 14-1, with Judge Wollenberg opposed. The second proposal would establish a policy in which the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, an Administrative Judge or a Presiding Judge would be obligated to present any substantiated complaints received about a judge trial referee to that judge trial referee. Following discussion, the proposed policy was unanimously approved.

7. Judge Berger stated that the judge trial referee redesignation form needs to be revised. This will be addressed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator and not this committee.

8. The next meeting of the full committee will be on November 4, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM