

Judicial-Media Committee

Minutes of the meeting on October 18, 2010

Members Present: Judge Douglas Lavine and Claude Albert, co-chairs; Tom Appleby; Melissa Bailey, Judge Patrick Clifford; Joe D'Alesio; Melissa Farley; Karen Florin; Judge David Gold; Judge Barbara Bailey Jongbloed; Ken Margolfo, Morgan McGinley; Chris Powell, Tom Scheffey; Judge Barry Stevens, Adriana Venegas.

Also present: Judge Barbara Quinn, Attorney Alan Neigher

I. Open meeting

Judge Doug Lavine opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the meetings of February 8, 2010, and June 7, 2010, were approved by consensus.

III. Presentation by Attorney Alan Neigher

Attorney Neigher talked about access. He discussed cameras in courtrooms; who is considered a public official for purposes of defamation lawsuits; and the balance between the right of free (anonymous) speech and the right to one's reputation.

IV. Committee Reports

Events Subcommittee- Karen Florin reported that the committee met last week and that a program will be created on the topic of twittering in the courtroom and blogging. It will be held on March 8th at the CBA Headquarters. The committee is working on the agenda and the speakers.

Pilot Program Update - Camera rules - Judge Quinn reported that there were some concerns expressed by Rules Committee members that the data collected by the Pilot Program Committee was not complete. She added that she will determine if additional data is necessary.

V. Implementation of Recommendations

Joe D'Alesio reported on the following items:

Facilities:

Plans for new facilities do include accommodations for the media; however, but the Judicial Branch won't be building new courthouses for some time.

Public Service:

A public service/customer service incentive program has been developed for clerks and other front-line employees.

In addition, a program has been developed where Judicial Branch employees disguised as members of the public visit courthouses and evaluate how they are treated and if the signage in the courthouse is adequate. Eighty to 85 percent of the results are favorable. Training programs have been revised to concentrate on areas of deficiency.

A vehicle is being created to collect feedback on the website.

The cost for copies of court documents should be reduced but that will require a statutory change.

Recommendations were made that audio recordings should be available at cost and a committee is looking at revamping the process of transcript production. The recommendations of the committee were discussed.

Melissa Farley reported on the following items:

Outreach & Education

The frequently asked questions section of the website has been expanded to include additional topics of concern. In addition, a media resource center has been developed that includes information specifically geared to members of the media.

The Law School for Journalists is continuing as is the Journalism School for Judges. The next Journalism School for Judges is scheduled to take place on March 8, 2011.

External Affairs staff is available to court reporters on a daily basis, to provide information about the court processes.

The Judicial Branch's Speaker's Bureau has been expanded to include judges willing to speak to media organizations.

The *Guide to Court Information* was published several years ago. Since then, the information has been updated and most of it posted on the Judicial Branch website; there are no plans to publish an updated paper copy since the information is online. Access guidelines that were included in the booklet will be posted online as well.

VI. Schedule next meeting

The meeting adjourned; the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2011, at 3 p.m.