

**Minutes**  
Judicial-Media Committee  
October 26, 2011

Present: G. Claude Albert, Judge David Gold, co-chairs; Tom Appleby, Linda J. Cimino, Joseph D'Alesio, Melissa Farley, Karen Florin, Judge Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, Andrew Julien, Morgan McGinley, Attorney Alan Neigher, Eric Parker, Tom Scheffey, and Judge Dawne Westbrook. Also present: Staff liaison Rhonda Stearley-Hebert.

**I. Open meeting**

Judge Gold opened the meeting at 3 p.m. and reported that several court officials from Pskov, Russia were in attendance to watch the meeting and ask questions of American journalists and judges.

**II. Minutes**

Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from their meeting on May 9, 2011.

**III. Committee Reports**

Events Subcommittee: Judge Gold, Mr. Albert and Ms. Florin provided details regarding the upcoming 2012 "Law School for Journalists." The title of the program is "Behind the Chambers Door: Negotiating the Plea Agreement."

Court Reporters/Monitors: Joe D'Alesio gave a brief update on the Judicial Branch's efforts to make audiotapes of court proceedings available through the Internet, either for free or for a nominal cost.

Pilot Program: Committee members spoke briefly about changes to the camera rules that the Superior Court judges approved in June.

**IV. Suggestions for Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Albert proposed that the committee consider recommending a change to the court rules that would distinguish between the broadcasting of certain cases by the news media and the Judicial Branch providing a video feed of a proceeding to an overflow room.

By way of background, Mr. Albert explained that the media had requested an overflow room in a recent high-profile trial that involved sexual assault charges. With an overflow room, he said, a video feed of a trial is fed into an adjacent room; the video exists only in real time and does not create a court document. The judge in the case determined, however, that the court rules currently prohibit the broadcasting of sexual assault cases and that providing the video feed into an overflow room would constitute broadcasting.

Mr. Albert added that he would like to place on the next agenda a discussion of this issue, including whether the current rule should be clarified and modified.

V. Roundtable Discussion of the Relationship between the Media & Courts in Connecticut & Russia

The committee met with five court public information officers from Pskov, Russia to discuss various matters pertaining to the courts and to the media. Topics included what cases are covered in Pskov and Connecticut and the relationship between the courts & the media.

VI. Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m.