

*Minutes from January 5, 2009, meeting of Pilot Program Committee*

Present: Co-chairs, Tom Appleby and Judge Patrick Clifford; Judge Marshall Berger, Jr., Sara Bernstein, Scott Brede (sitting in for Paul Giguere), Larry Callahan, Linda Cimino, Attorney Melissa Farley, Judge David Gold, Rhonda Stearley Hebert, John Long and Ken Margolfo.

Absent: Paul Giguere, Gail Hardy, Michael St. Peter, Patrick Sanders, Robyn Smith, Judge Elliot Solomon, Kirk Varner and Dave Ward.

*I. Open Meeting*

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

*II. Approval of minutes from meeting of September 15, 2008*

The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

*III. Update on camera requests*

Rhonda Stearley Hebert reported on the number of camera requests for 2008: (numbers weren't yet finalized)

- o There were approximately 379 camera requests.
- o Of the 379 requests received, about 234 were granted.
- o Camera coverage of 277 arraignments was requested and about 196 arraignments were granted.

Twenty-eight requests were received under the pilot program for 2008. Of this number, 19 requests were granted (The remaining 9 cases weren't photographed/videotaped because of continuances, cases folding, etc.) Two full trials were covered for the Avon Mountain and Cipriani cases.

Rhonda reported that the Deputy Chief Clerks and Judicial Marshals have been very helpful throughout the pilot program. In addition, newspapers appear to be putting in requests more frequently than they did before.

*IIIa. Evaluations*

Judge Patrick Clifford reported that the majority of judges and prosecutors think that things are going smoothly with the pilot program. From the defense side, a number of attorneys have complained that there hasn't been enough notice given when a request to photograph or broadcast a proceeding has been made.

From the press side, the evaluations have been positive. A discussion ensued as to why some judges won't allow the shackles worn by the defendants to be shown. Another discussion occurred as to why the media can't film or photograph an unexpected news event that happens in the courtroom. The committee thought that it would be helpful to research the experience of other

state courts that televise trials. Rhonda agreed to contact her fellow PIO's in other state judicial branches to obtain this information.

Judge Gold noted that new criminal instructions will need to be written and then recommended to the Judges.

IV. Discussion regarding mechanisms to report to Rules Committee

The mechanism for reporting the Pilot Committee's recommendations to the Rules Committee was discussed. Pursuant to the Practice Book, the Pilot Committee will make recommendations to the Judicial Media Committee. The Judicial Media Committee will make recommendations to the Rules Committee.

The Committee thought it would be helpful to determine if any arraignments that televised went to trial and whether any issues arose as a result of the electronic media coverage of the arraignment. Judge Clifford offered to send out an e-mail to the judges asking whether they have presided over an arraignment that was electronically covered by the media and then subsequently went to trial.

It appears from the survey that a number of public defenders are not getting notice. Judge Clifford will send an e-mail to the judges and request that they contact the states attorney and public defender about the requests at the earliest possible time.

As a lot of information has been provided to the committee already about the arraignments, the Committee considered whether to stop sending out surveys for the arraignments. The members agreed to review the last batch of evaluations and to make the decision of whether to discontinue sending out the surveys for the arraignments at that time.

It was suggested that there should be some follow-up with victims and with jurors about the electronic coverage of proceedings.

V. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.