

Minutes
Judges' Committee/Survey Subcommittee
Of the Judicial-Media Committee
Meeting of July 2, 2007

Present: Judge Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, Judge Carol Wolven, and Attorney Joseph D'Alesio.

Agenda Item No. 1 – Open Meeting

Judge Jongbloed opened the meeting at 3 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 2—Present Information Re: Other State's Surveys

Attorney D'Alesio reported that the information received so far through the National Center for State Courts is not very helpful for this subcommittee's purposes, although it may be useful for the Chief Justice's Public Service & Trust Commission.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Discuss & Formulate Rough Draft of Questionnaire for Judges

Based on a review of a survey conducted several years ago by Massachusetts' Bench-Media Committee and discussion, the judges' committee developed an initial list of possible questions. Judge Jongbloed and Judge Wolven said they also wanted to send out an email to the judges to see if they had suggestions for other questions.

The initial list of questions is:

- 1) Have you ever been contacted by the media? If yes, how often and what was the nature of the inquiry?
- 2) If the contact is made by phone, do you have a policy about returning the call? If yes, what is the policy?
- 3) Have you ever been contacted by the media to request a camera in your courtroom? If yes, have you ever denied access? If you have either granted or denied access, please explain why.
- 4) What potential issues do you foresee regarding cameras in a courtroom?
- 5) Do you advise jurors about speaking to the media following a trial?
- 6) Do you read stories about your cases or watch them on television?
- 7) What do you do if you see or read inaccurate information about a court story?
- 8) What do you do if you see or read unfair criticism of yourself or another judge in a court story?

- 9) In making a ruling or imposing a sentence, do you think it necessary to explain your decision from the bench? If yes, under what circumstances?
- 10) Do you think reporters who cover the courts, in general, have sufficient knowledge about the court system? If not, what should reporters do to learn more about the system?
- 11) Do you think the media could benefit from educational programs about the courts? If yes, what topics would you like to have covered?
- 12) Do you think judges could benefit from educational programs about interacting with the media? If yes, what topics would you like to see covered?
- 13) Do you wish to make any comments regarding your dealings with the media?

Agenda Item No. IV: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.