

MINUTES

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

December 17, 2009

2:00 PM

Supreme Court - Attorney Conference Room

The Committee on the Utilization of Judge Trial Referees met in the Supreme Court attorney conference room, located at 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, on Thursday December 17, 2009.

Committee members in attendance: Hon. James W. Abrams, Hon. Salvatore C. Agati, Hon. Arnold W. Aronson, 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 (ex-officio), Hon. Joseph H. Pellegrino, Hon. Joseph J. Purtill, Hon. William B. Rush, Hon. William L. Wollenberg

Also in attendance: Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers, Hon. Barbara M. Quinn, Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III

The meeting was called to order by Judge Lager at 2:01 PM

1. Judge Lager and Judge Lavery welcomed the members of the committee and asked the members to introduce themselves. Judge Lager also asked support staff and the Legal Services advisor to introduce themselves.
2. Attorney Joseph D'Alesio provided an overview of the strategic planning process that led to the formation of the Public Service and Trust Commission by Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers. The Public Service and Trust Commission developed a strategic plan that was accepted by the Chief Justice. Upon accepting the strategic plan, the Chief Court Administrator was tasked with developing an implementation plan. The implementation plan consisted of 36 initiatives to be addressed. During the initial phase of implementation, the Judicial Branch addressed 27 initiatives. The Branch is now addressing the remaining initiatives in the second phase of implementation.
3. Judge Lager and Judge Lavery developed a mission statement for the committee, which was read by Judge Lager.
4. Judge Lager and Judge Lavery stressed the importance of including judge trial referees in the process of the committee's work. They want the process to be transparent and will ensure that all judge trial referees are kept informed of the committee's work. All information distributed during the meetings is also to be distributed to all current judge trial referees and to those judges turning 70 before 2014.

5. A discussion ensued regarding the current number of judge trial referees and the number of judges that will reach the age of 70 in the next several years. It will be part of the committee's work to develop recommendations on how to best allocate those resources.

6. Judge Lager informed the committee that four subcommittees will be created: survey, evaluation, training/education and allocation of JTR resources. Judge Lager and Judge Lavery discussed the tasks of each subcommittee. A discussion ensued regarding the work of each subcommittee. Judge Lager asked each member to complete a "Subcommittee Preference Form," which the co-chairs will utilize in developing the membership of each subcommittee.

7. Chief Justice Rogers addressed the committee, thanking them for their participation. Chief Justice Rogers stressed the importance of judge trial referees to the Judicial Branch.

8. Judge Lager reviewed the applicability of the Freedom of Information Act on the work of the committee.

9. The next meeting of the full committee will be at 2:00 PM on April 8, 2010 at 225 Spring Street in Wethersfield. In the interim, the four subcommittees will be meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM