

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROGRAM

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
The Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estate in Middletown

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance:

Hon. Joan K. Alexander, Attorney Faith P. Arkin, Hon. Arnold W. Aronson, Attorney Livia D. Barndollar, Hon. Patrick J. Clifford, Attorney James O. Craven, Hon. William T. Cremins, Attorney Gregory T. D'Auria, Hon. Alexandra D. DiPentima, Attorney Anne C. Dranginis, Attorney Ronald S. Gold, Attorney Raymond Hassett, Hon. Katherine Y. Hutchinson, Hon. Frank A. Iannotti, Attorney David R. Jimenez, Attorney Kevin T. Kane, Hon. Joette Katz, Hon. Christine E. Keller, Hon. Aaron Ment, Attorney Louis R. Pepe, Senator Andrew W. Roraback, Hon. Robert B. Shapiro, Hon. Joseph M. Shortall, Attorney Richard Silver, Attorney Michael Thompson

Members absent:

Hon. William H. Bright, Jr., Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III, Hon. Thomas J. Corradino, Hon. Maureen D. Dennis, Attorney Anna M. Ficeto, Representative Gerald Fox, Attorney R. Bartley Halloran, Hon. Thomas V. O'Keefe, Jr., Dean Jeremy Paul, Hon. Ellen Ash Peters, Hon. Barbara M. Quinn, Hon. Antonio C. Robaina, Attorney Herman Woodard

I. Approval of Minutes

Judge DiPentima called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Judge Shortall noted that the proposed final minutes of the meeting held on December 3, 2008 were distributed to all committee members; the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

II. Discussion of Responses to Questions Raised at the First Meeting

In response to the data provided to members subsequent to questions raised at the first meeting, two additional questions were raised:

1. Are these instruments (feedback surveys) statistically reliable?
2. On page 1, in the first bullet, the statistic states "the rate of return for attorney questionnaires from the JD courts is 64%", but the overall rate of return listed under the second bullet is 55%. To what is this difference attributed?

There was a brief discussion of the data regarding statistical reliability and tracking methodologies. Judge Shortall indicated that the committee staff would look further into issues regarding the data presented.

III. Identification of Issues – Break-out Groups

The committee membership was divided into two groups; Judge Shortall and Judge DiPentima each facilitated one group. Four questions were presented to each group: (1) what are the goals of a judicial performance evaluation program, (2) what are the strengths of the present system, (3) what are the perceived weaknesses, and (4) what are suggested improvements. The groups brainstormed and then reconvened to review their findings.

IV. Committee Timetable

Judge Shortall noted that the goal of the committee is to make a report to the Chief Justice by mid-June. To this end, each subcommittee will begin meeting in early February to work toward producing recommendations by the end of May. At that time, the full committee will review the recommendations produced by the subcommittees and prepare a report for the Chief Justice. He noted that it is probable that the work of the committee will not be completed by the June deadline.

V. Formation of Subcommittees

Judge DiPentima requested that each committee member complete the prepared "Subcommittee Preference Form" to identify, in order of preference, the three subcommittees on which he or she would most want to work. She also indicated that some subcommittee chairs had already been selected and that others would be contacted.

Judge DiPentima announced that the next Public Service and Trust Commission meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009. At this meeting various committees will be presenting reports on the work that is being done to implement the Judicial Branch Strategic Plan.

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting of the full committee will be held in May or June.