

Minutes

Meeting of Events Subcommittee
Sept. 15, 2011

Present: Judge Susan Handy, Karen Florin & Atty. Stan Twardy (Atty. Twardy via phone), co-chairs; subcommittee members Claude Albert, Judge David Gold, Judge Robert Holzberg, and Eric Parker; and staff liaison Rhonda Stearley-Hebert.

- I. *Call meeting to order:* Ms. Florin called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

- II. *Begin planning for 2012 Law School for Journalists:* Judge Handy suggested that the next program for journalists be titled “Behind the Chambers Door: Negotiating a Criminal Plea Bargain.” Judges, prosecutors and public defenders would be enlisted as facilitators to assist with the program, and the program would be very interactive as described by Judge Handy.

At the beginning of the program, journalists also would receive an overview of the plea-bargaining process. In addition, Atty. Twardy would provide an overview of the plea-bargaining process in federal court.

Journalists, working with the facilitators, then would be provided a fact scenario. They would pre-try the case and come up with a plea agreement. Journalists also would watch videotapes of Judge Handy and Judge Gold doing a pretrial.

Since most criminal cases are resolved through plea bargains, committee members all thought that this would be an interesting and educational topic for journalists. Committee members scheduled the program for Thursday, March 1, 2012.

The subcommittee scheduled its next planning meeting for Nov. 3, 2011.

- III. *The subcommittee adjourned at 3:20 p.m.*