

*Draft Minutes from Sept. 10, 2007, Judicial-Media Committee*

Judicial-Media Committee members present: Judge Douglas Lavine, Mr. G. Claude Albert, Justice David Borden (ex-officio), Mr. Scott Brede, Attorney Joseph D'Alesio, Judge Nina Elgo, Mr. Paul Giguere, Attorney Charles Howard, Mr. Ken Margolfo, Mr. Morgan McGinley, Mr. Chris Powell, Judge Barbara Quinn, Mr. Patrick Sanders, Judge Barry Stevens, and Ms. Adriana Venegas. Absent: Judge Patrick Clifford, Judge Robert Holzberg, Ms. Dana Neves, Attorney Lou Pepe, Judge Michael Shay, and Attorney Stanley Twardy Jr.

Members of the Fire Brigade were invited to the meeting. Those who attended were: Judge David Gold, Heather Collins, Attorney Michael Kokoszka, Judge Barbara Jongbloed, Judge Patrick Carroll III, Erin Cox, Judge Susan Handy, and Ms. Lynne Tuohy.

*Agenda Item No. 1 – Call meeting to order*

Mr. Albert and Judge Lavine welcomed committee members. Judge Lavine next welcomed Justice David M. Borden in his role as the Judicial Branch's first public access liaison. Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers appointed Justice Borden to the position, and as such, he will be attending the meetings of the Judicial-Media Committee. Justice Borden said he was delighted to be at the meeting. Mr. Albert also welcomed Attorney Lou Pepe as a member of the full Judicial-Media Committee.

*Agenda Item No. 2 -- Approval of Minutes*

The committee approved the draft minutes of its meeting on June 10, 2007, meeting.

*Agenda Item No. 3 – Subcommittee reports by respective chairs*

A) **Survey Subcommittee** Co-Chairs Judge Barbara Bailey Jongbloed and Mr. Scott Brede spoke regarding the status of draft surveys that will go to judges and to journalists. Judge Jongbloed first thanked all of the members of the subcommittee who worked so hard on preparing the surveys. She then took the committee through the process that was used to develop the drafts that committee members received in advance of the meeting. She stressed that the surveys are drafts and urged any committee members with additions, or comments please send them to her or Mr. Brede. She added that the subcommittee would like to have the surveys out on Oct. 1, 2007, so that the subcommittee may report on the results at the full committee's meeting in December 2007. Judge Jongbloed also directed committee members to a draft cover letter that will accompany the surveys. The letter, she said, is to try to encourage as much participation as possible.

After the responses are tabulated, the subcommittee will present the findings to the Chief Justice, Judge Jongbloed said. She added that the subcommittee concluded that responders should have the option of being anonymous if they so choose, to encourage participation. Responders also may include their names if they want, she said, adding that all results will be public.

B) **Events Subcommittee** Co-Chair Lynne Tuohy informed the committee that the subcommittee plans to have an event planned for the end of March, opening with an education session for journalists. Sexual assault cases are a potential topic, according to Ms. Tuohy, as they pose multiple issues regarding access and sensitivity, and are becoming more prevalent. The subcommittee also wants to include a section for younger, less seasoned reporters regarding such matters as “What’s accelerated rehabilitation?” “What are the changes to the rules?” etc. The subcommittee has set a tentative meeting date of Oct. 16 in Middletown and welcomes any suggestions from committee members, Ms. Tuohy added.

C) **Fire Brigade** Co-Chair Judge David Gold mentioned that the training of criminal clerks regarding what’s accessible and what’s not has been completed, with the exception of about a dozen people. Judge Gold added that the full Fire Brigade is scheduled to meet in October, with the goals of developing a mission statement and deciding how to let people know what it is.

Judge Lavine added that the Fire Brigade may have a role in updating the Judicial Branch’s field guide, which outlines what court documents are and are not accessible. The current edition is outdated and a new edition would include the updated rules regarding accessibility.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Formation of Pilot Program Committee

Mr. Albert told the committee that two co-chairs, one a judge and the other from the media, will be appointed. The committee’s task will be a “highly visible” function of the committee, he added.

Judge Quinn announced to the group that the pilot program will be in Hartford. The program will start on Jan. 1, 2008, Judge Lavine said, and the job of evaluating the program falls to the Judicial-Media Committee.

Referring to the physical facility, Judge Carroll added that it will require a great deal of planning to make the courthouse at 101 Lafayette St. “user friendly.”

Judge Stevens asked whether any thought had been given to evaluating camera coverage in civil court, for those occasions every once in awhile when the media wants to cover a case there. Judge Quinn answered that discussions have started internally on how that could be done. Mr. Albert added that civil court is the most underreported section of state government.

Judge Stevens suggested that the pilot program committee also consider evaluating those civil cases where cameras are involved; perhaps a questionnaire could be developed, he added.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Role of Judicial-Media Committee in Branch’s strategic planning process

Attorney Joe D'Alesio invited members of the Judicial-Media Committee and the Fire Brigade to participate in a focus groups being conducted by the Branch's Public Service & Trust Commission. It's important, he added, that the group's media representatives participate.

Agenda Item No. IV – New business

The committee scheduled its next meeting for Dec. 10, 2007.

Agenda Item VII & VIII—Introduction of Dr. Mario Gaboury & presentation by Dr.

Gaboury on “The Impact of Crime on Victims: Insights for the Media and The Courts”

Judge Lavine introduced Dr. Gaboury to the group. Dr. Gaboury provided an overview of who is affected by crime, its immediate short- and long-term affects, and information on post-traumatic stress syndrome.