

Judicial-Media Committee

Minutes of meeting on April 4, 2022

Members present: Co-chairs Eric Parker and Judge Joan Alexander; Judge Michael Albis, Judge Jim Abrams, Linda Cimino, Melissa Farley, William Fish Jr., Judge Susan Handy, Dennis House, Judge Barbara Jongbloed, Judge Vernon Oliver, Chris Powell, Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, Gary Roberge, and Judge Dawne Westbrook. Also in attendance were Joe Greelish, Director of the Performance Management, Quality Assurance and Judicial Branch Statistics Unit, Ralph Dagostine, Deputy Director of Criminal Matters, and Branch committee liaison Rhonda Hebert.

- I. Judge Alexander called the meeting to order at approximately 3 p.m.; the meeting was remote and livestreamed via the Branch's YouTube channel.
- II. Judge Handy moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on Sept. 27, 2021; Mr. Powell seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved them.
- III. A) Attorney Farley updated committee members on proposed rules to streamline the process by which the media may request to use electronic devices in court, i.e. video or still cameras. Currently, the process by which the media requests permission to electronically cover arraignments is different from the process that the media must use to request to electronically cover other types of court proceedings; the changes would result in one process for all requests. The Rules Committee voted to submit the proposed changes to a public hearing on May 9; the judges will vote on the recommendations at their annual meeting in June.

B) Committee members discussed the Events Subcommittee and its future; due to the pandemic, no programs for judges or journalists have been held since 2019. Judge Handy, who served as subcommittee co-chair, also announced that she will be retiring from the subcommittee, after 14 years in the position. Judge Handy also did much of the work to organize 12 alternating Law Schools for Journalists and Journalism Schools for Judges. Attorney Parker and Judge Alexander praised Judge Handy for all of her hard work over the years. Judge Handy added that she is happy to serve as an advisor until the subcommittee is up and running again.

Both Mr. House and Judge Westbrook volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, and the committee's hope is to have a program in 2023.
- IV. Mr. Greelish provided an excellent presentation on understanding Judicial Branch statistics.
- V. The meeting adjourned; the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2022.