

Judicial-Media Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Sept. 8, 2014

Members present: Co-chairs Claude Albert and Judge Robert Devlin; Judge James Bentivegna; Judge Trial Referee David Borden; Linda J. Cimino; Joe D'Alesio; Melissa Farley; Karen Florin; Paul Giguere; Judge David Gold; Judge Susan Handy; Judge Barbara Bailey Jongbloed; Attorney Dan Klau; Morgan McGinley; Pam Meotti; Eric Parker, Chris Powell; Nancy Schoeffler; and Judge Dawne Westbrook.

- I. *Open meeting:* Judge Devlin opened the meeting shortly after 3 p.m. As this was his first meeting as chair, he thanked Judge David Gold for his service as the previous chair. Judge Devlin provided updates on the overall membership of the committee.
- II. *Approval of minutes:* Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of April 9, 2014.
- III. *Guest presentation by Aida Mansoor, president of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut* – Ms. Mansoor gave a very informative presentation regarding how the Muslim community views its portrayal in the media and its treatment by the courts. She then took several questions from committee members.
- IV. *Access discussion:* Committee members discussed general questions regarding access and updates in this area. Attorney Meotti informed the group that Supreme and Appellate court briefs are now available to the public online. Attorney Farley then thanked Attorney Klau for making those briefs publicly available on his *Supreme Court Briefs Online* site, up until the time that they became available on the Judicial Branch website.

Mr. Albert asked whether criminal documents would be available online any time soon. Attorney D'Alesio responded that at a minimum, the Branch is two to three years away from posting criminal documents online. Mr. Albert then asked whether the setup would be similar to the federal courts' PACER system; Attorney D'Alesio answered that it would be more similar to the Judicial Branch's civil case lookup system.

Justice Borden asked about the status of webcasting Supreme Court arguments, and Mr. Giguere (of CT-N) provided an update. The goal, he said, is to not just videotape appellate arguments, but other court hearings and/or meetings as well.

The committee also discussed a recent decision by the Supreme Court regarding police reports and its impact.

- V. *Schedule next meeting and adjourn:* The committee scheduled its next meeting for Monday, Jan. 12, 2015. It adjourned at about 4:30 p.m.