

**Minutes from Survey Subcommittee Meeting of July 17, 2007**

Present: Mr. Scott Brede and Judge Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, co-chairs; Attorney Joseph D'Alesio; Ms. Karen Florin, Mr. Paul Giguere; and Judge Carol Wolven.  
Absent: Mr. Patrick Sanders

Agenda Item No. I. Welcome by co-chairs – Judge Jongbloed and Mr. Brede started the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed members of the subcommittee.

Agenda Item No. II. Report from Joe D'Alesio regarding surveys done in other states – Attorney D'Alesio reported that he had received surveys from other states, but that the information was not very helpful for this subcommittee's purposes.

Agenda Item No. III—Report from subcommittees

Subcommittee members turned their discussion to the draft surveys prepared by journalists for journalists and by judges for judges. They also discussed whether responses should be anonymous. Mr. D'Alesio was going to check with Legal Services to determine whether judges' individual responses were required to be public, or whether the Judicial-Media Committee has the option of making them anonymous. Judge Jongbloed added that all participants should be informed that the tabulated results of the survey will be public.

Regarding the drafts, Mr. Giguere asked whether the subcommittee wanted to incorporate qualitative questions into the survey to gauge the level of problems in the field. Such questions also would help if trends start emerging through the responses, he said. In addition, Mr. Giguere suggested these two goals of the survey: to determine 1) What problems are we trying to solve; and 2) What do we need to solve? Judge Jongbloed responded that a cover letter attached to the survey would lay out the goals to participants.

Subcommittee members next discussed the draft survey for judges and redrafted it to read as follows:

**Judge's Media Survey (revised)**

- 1) How long have you served on the bench?
- 2) a) How many times have you been contacted by the media about a case?
  - Never
  - 1-5 times
  - 6-10 times
  - 10 or more
- b) What was the nature of the contact?

3) Do you have a practice about responding to media inquiries? If yes, what is the practice?

4) Have you ever contacted the media? If yes, what was the purpose and outcome of the contact?

5) a) Have you ever been contacted by the media to request a camera in your courtroom? b) If yes, how many times?

1-5

6-10

10 or more

6) Do you see potential issues regarding cameras in a courtroom? If yes, what are they?

7) a) Do you advise jurors about speaking to the media following a trial?

Never

Sometimes

Always

b) If sometimes or always, what advisement do you give?

8) Do you read stories about your cases or watch them on television?

Never

Sometimes

Often

9) What do you do if you see or read inaccurate information about judicial matters in the media?

10) What do you do if you see or read unfair criticism of yourself or another judge in the media?

11) a) Do you think it's important for the Branch to formulate guidelines for responding to unfair criticism?

b) If this would be helpful, what suggestions do you have?

12) a) Do you explain your decisions from the bench?

b) If you explain, under what circumstances?

13) a) Do you think reporters who cover the courts, in general, have sufficient knowledge about the court system?

b) If no, what should reporters do to learn more about the system?









