

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
LOCAL RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Minutes of March 25, 2008 Meeting**

A meeting of the Local Rules Review Committee (“Committee”) was held on March 25, 2008, at the Courthouse. Co-Chairs Jeffrey C. Schreck and Patricia A. Sullivan presided. The following Committee members were present:

Jeffrey Schreck  
Patricia Sullivan

Edward Bertozzi  
Marc DeSisto  
Paul Goodale  
Anthony Muri  
Dan Presentiss  
Sara Rapport  
Craig Scott  
Gerard B. Sullivan

Also present were Chief Judge Mary Lisi, Clerk of Court David DiMarzio and Paulette Dube.

**Welcome from Judge Lisi**

Judge Mary Lisi opened the meeting with thanks to the Committee members for their service in 2007 and introduced the themes for the work of the Committee for 2008. She emphasized, and the Committee agreed, that a goal for 2008 is to limit to the extent possible the number of changes so that the Local Rules will be consistent and easy for use by the bench and the bar.

**Review of Amendments**

After Paul Goodale distributed the annotated copy of the 2007 report of the Committee, there was extensive discussion of the implemented amendments. The Committee raised a concern regarding two specific changes that may come as surprise to members of the bar:

- (1) LR Gen 204 (c) – Attorneys in the same law firm of PHV counsel who are in good standing are not permitted to conduct depositions.
- (2) LRCV 26 (c) – The alteration of the meaning of the close of discovery from local practice to a provision that makes clear that all discovery must be completed by the discovery closure date.

The Committee agreed that these changes merit attention to bring them to the attention of the members of the bar. It was recommended that the Court bring up the rule change with respect to the close of discovery in the initial pre-trial conference and perhaps in the initial pre-trial order so that practitioners are aware of it. In addition, the Committee will coordinate with the Federal Bar Association and the Federal Bench Bar Committee to ensure that the Bar is aware of these changes.

### **Formulation of Work Plan for 2008**

It was agreed that it is extremely important for the 2008 work to be limited in scope to proposed amendments necessitated by a change of circumstances in the law, technology or practice. Such a limited review is important to provide consistency and regularity for the Rules. Accordingly, it was determined that the Committee's work will proceed as follows:

- A solicitation e-mail to the bar will be prepared and sent asking for comments to be received no later than April 21, 2008<sup>1</sup>, and including emphasis on the goal of limited review.
- Each of the subcommittees will meet to discuss whether any recommendations are required and to consider any suggestions received as a result of these solicitations. The subcommittee will report to the full Committee by May 16, 2008.
- The full Committee will review the reports from the subcommittees and convene a meeting to discuss them before May 30, 2008.
- The final report will be compiled for submission to the Court by the deadline of June 30, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm

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<sup>1</sup> The date for the submission of comments was subsequently changed to April 25

LOCAL RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND  
2008 Work Plan

<u>Date</u>	<u>What Happens on the Date</u>
April 21, 2008	Deadline in solicitation e-mail to the bar (which will ask for comments, will emphasize the goal of limited review.
May 16, 2008	Deadline for Subcommittees to submit reports regarding whether recommendations are required as a result of suggestions received from the solicitation.
May 30, 2008	The <b>Full Committee</b> will review the reports from the subcommittees and convene a meeting to discuss them before May 30, 2008
June 30, 2008	The final report will be compiled for submission to the Court.