

RHODE ISLAND BAR ASSOCIATION

Federal Bench/Bar Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Jury Assembly Room

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

Chief Judge Lisi welcomed Committee Members to the final meeting of the 2011/2012 year. She commented on the Committee's accomplishments for the year and thanked members for their contributions. Co-chairs Pat Rocha and Pat Sullivan echoed the welcome.

II. Magistrate Judge Appointment/Re-Appointment

Chief Judge Lisi reported that the Magistrate Judge Appointment/Re-Appointment process has concluded with the re-appointment of Magistrate Judge Lincoln Almond and the selection (subject to FBI background check) of Pat Sullivan as the new Magistrate Judge, to step into the position upon the retirement of Magistrate Judge Martin. Judge Lisi also reported on other developments, including that the Bankruptcy Judge selection process is well underway, that Paul Goodale has been selected to become a Social Security administrative law judge, and that the process to fill his position of pro se clerk is also underway.

III. Annual Meeting Program

George Lieberman reported that planning is well along for a presentation sponsored by the Federal Bench/Bar Committee at the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Bar Association to be held on June 14, 2012. The program will include presentations on recent developments in federal law, coupled with an opportunity to "Ask the Judge." Judges Smith and McConnell have agreed to participate on the panel. In addition, George Lieberman, Mike Levin, Gordon Cleary and Tim Bliss all are committed to assisting with the program.

IV. Local Rules

David Wollin, Co-chair of the Local Rules Review Committee, reported that the committee has nearly completed its work for the 2012 season. The committee has scheduled a final meeting to resolve all remaining issues for June 6, 2012. The committee expects to complete its work on schedule for delivery of a report to the Court by the end of June 2012.

V. Jury Instruction Project

Mike Levin reported that work is continuing on the development of coding/digesting to categorize the civil jury instructions. Several local law firms are participating in the work.

VI. University Symposium

Pat Sullivan reported for Brooks Magratten that the University Symposium Series will continue in the 2012/2013 season. Leadership of the committee will be changing and a final determination had not yet been made regarding who the new committee chair(s) will be. However, the Bench/Bar Committee and the Court remain committed to continuing this important series. The goal is a presentation at the University of Rhode Island in the Fall of 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Rocha
Patricia A. Sullivan