

# **RHODE ISLAND BAR ASSOCIATION**

## **Federal Bench/Bar Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.  
Jury Assembly Room**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Welcome**

Pat Rocha welcomed members to the Fall meeting of the Federal Bench/Bar Committee.

- Chief Judge William Smith reported that Judge Mary Lisi had taken senior status and was not receiving any more criminal cases; however, she still has a full complement of civil cases.
- Chief Judge William Smith also reported that Judge Ronald Lagueux is now fully retired and it was anticipated that all pending matters would be addressed by the end of 2015.

#### **II. Litigation Academy**

Chief Judge Smith reported that the Litigation Academy presented jointly by the Court, the Roger Williams University School of Law and the Rhode Island Chapter of the Federal Bar Association continues to be well received. A Training Program on Direct and Cross Examination is scheduled for October 28-October 31 and includes lectures on direct and cross examination techniques, as well as hands-on sessions in which the participants conduct mock direct and cross examinations. Faculty members include judges from the federal and state courts, as well as practicing attorneys. The co-directors of the program are Brooks Magratten of Pierce Atwood, LLP and Professor Niki Kuckes of Roger Williams University School of Law. The training sessions continue to be reasonably priced and include a good cross section of participants from big firms and small firms, as well as the public sector.

#### **III. Social Media Subcommittee**

Matt Parker reported that the subcommittee is waiting for direction from the Court after submission of its report that addressed overriding principles regarding social media. Frank Perry discussed the status of the gov.delivery system roll-out. The Social Media Subcommittee remains available to the Court on a “standing basis” to provide additional consultation and feedback to the Court as it continues to grow its on-line presence. Chief Judge Smith thanked all the members of the subcommittee for their hard work and insightful comments.

#### **IV. Local Rules**

Matt Oliverio reported that the proposed amendments to the Local Rules will be published in October 2015 for public comment with a target date of December 1 for implementation.

#### **V. ESI Subcommittee**

Steve Richard reported that the committee will meet to address e-discovery issues in light of the December 1, 2015 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

#### **VI. 2016 District Conference**

Tim Bliss reported that the committee co-chaired by Nicole Benjamin and him are waiting for an announcement regarding a keynote speaker from the United States Supreme Court. The Conference date will be scheduled once confirmation is received regarding the availability of the Justice from the Supreme Court.

#### **VII. Pro Bono Subcommittee**

Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan reported that the subcommittee includes 15 mentors and 9 mentees. Any attorneys seeking to join the *pro bono* panel may submit an application that is available on the Court's website.

#### **VIII. The Hope Court**

Magistrate Judge Sullivan updated the Committee on the status and success of The Hope Court, which is celebrating its one-year anniversary in November. It is the goal of the program to reduce the number of revocation proceedings before District Judges, assist participants with conditions of supervision, facilitate rehabilitation and decrease recidivism. Participation in the program lasts for a total of 12 months of satisfactory performance and participants' performance will be reviewed for each two-week period of the 12-month participation.

#### **IX. Open Discussion**

David DiMarzio reported on the Court history project, which is being updated on the Court's website and is a work-in-progress. The historical and educational website was created to promote an understanding of the history of the Court and the role the federal judiciary, both past and present, within the framework of our system of government. The project includes the collecting, preserving and exhibiting historical information, including noteworthy case information, documents, videos and photos of events, as well as educational materials and programs. It is hoped that a presentation of the website will be introduced at the next Federal Bench/Bar Committee meeting.

Judge McConnell also referenced the amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that go into effect on December 1, 2015. It was agreed that the Committee would sponsor a lunch seminar to review the changes. The seminar occurred on November 18, 2015 and was well received at a standing-room only event.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Rocha  
Chair