

## **Federal Bench/Bar Committee**

**Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Jury Assembly Room**

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome. Pat Rocha welcomed members to the meeting and extended regrets from Pat Sullivan who had an unavoidable conflict. On behalf of Pat Sullivan and herself, Pat Rocha thanked everyone for attending the first meeting of the year and introductions were made by all in attendance. All parties look forward to a productive year working with Chief Judge Lisi and the Court staff. The next meeting dates of January 12, 2011 and May 4, 2011 were also announced.
2. Pat Rocha reported on the Bar Association's networking event scheduled for Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and asked for volunteers to man the Federal Bench/Bar Committee table. There was discussion regarding last year's successful networking session which resulted in several additional members to the Federal Bench/Bar Committee.
3. Final report on U.S.D.C. membership renewal/Annual Meeting Program. David DiMarzio reported on the success of the membership renewal program which includes approximately 2600 members. George Lieberman reported on the Annual Meeting program and offered to plan the Federal Bench/Bar Committee Seminar for the Annual Meeting in June, 2011. George asked for volunteers and proposed topics. There was discussion regarding a proposed Seminar to compare federal and state procedures.
4. Feedback on standardized notices and orders. Chief Judge Lisi and David DiMarzio spoke on the standardized notices and orders that are now in effect. Judge Lisi noted that there is a difference between her order and Judge Smith's regarding summary judgment procedures; however, the remaining provisions remain the same. Copies of the standardized notices and orders are available on the Court's website and will now be used in all cases in the federal court.
5. Local Rules. Jim Murphy reported on the status of the Local Rules Committee. The Committee has been busy reviewing proposed rule changes that will become effective in January 2011. Notices of the proposed changes will be circulated later this year.
6. Jury Instruction Project. Tony Traini discussed the criminal jury instruction project. Tony reported that several members of the committee have offered to assist in reviewing the jury instructions from criminal cases identified in the federal court to organize the instructions by category. The instructions will be uploaded into a database, catalogued, linked and organized so they are easily accessible in a program that will be available to the Court and bar. It is anticipated to have a preliminary roll out to get feedback from users this fall. Mike Levin also reported that he would be willing to chair a subcommittee to focus on the civil jury trial instructions, which will be a more comprehensive task in light of the variety of civil claims filed in the Court.

7. University Symposium. Brooks Magratten reported that the next University Symposium being planned is an event probably in November to focus on judicial privilege and free speech. In addition, additional symposia are in the planning stages. The University of Rhode Island is planning to focus on the American jury trial and Roger Williams University School of Law is considering a symposium focused on the Constitution.

8. 2011 District Conference. Work is beginning on the 2011 District Conference. A date has not yet been set, as the Committee is waiting on confirmation of a Supreme Court member to attend the Conference. The Conference will be planned upon the Justice's schedule.

9. Courthouse Technology Upgrade Project/Courthouse Renovation Project. David DiMarzio updated the Committee on the Technology Upgrade Project, as well as the Renovation Project. Work on both the Courthouse and the Post Office continues; however, the Courthouse renovation is anticipated to reach conclusion in the near future.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Rocha