

**RHODE ISLAND BAR ASSOCIATION**

**Federal Bench/Bar Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Jury Assembly Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Welcome**

Pat Rocha welcomed members to the October, 2014 meeting.

**II. 2014 FBA Annual Meeting Recap**

Chief Judge Smith and J. Scott Kilpatrick, President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (“FBA”), gave a recap of the 2014 FBA annual meeting held in September, which was a success by all accounts. The CLE meetings were well attended and the Waterfire event was praised by all. Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan received the Elaine R. “Boots” Fisher Award at the Awards Luncheon.

**III. Litigation Academy**

Chief Judge Smith and Brooks Magratten discussed the inaugural Deposition Skills Training Program, scheduled to take place on November 13-15, 2014, presented jointly by the Court, the Roger Williams University School of Law, and the FBA. The Program will involve mock deposition settings with constructive comments by federal judges and experienced federal litigators. It will be limited to 24 participants and a second session may be given in the Spring.

**IV. Pro Bono Subcommittee**

In Magistrate Judge Sullivan’s absence, Chief Judge Smith reported on the *Pro Bono* Subcommittee. Chief Judge Smith gave an overview of the Court’s Civil Pro Bono program, and said that the Court had started to assign cases to Panel attorneys. Chief Judge Smith also summarized the recent survey of members of the Federal Bar regarding *pro bono* services as part of the Court’s bar registration renewal program, and said that approximately 100 responses had been received and, would be forward to the Pro Bono Subcommittee for review. Chief Judge Smith reported that he wants to expand the committee to a permanent one to look at the issue of *pro bono* services, services currently being provided, what services can be provided in the future, and what role the Court should take in encouraging/compelling *pro bono* services. Any members who are interested in serving on the committee were asked to contact David DiMarzio.

**V. Social Media Subcommittee**

Matthew Parker and Professor Niki Kuckes reported on the Social Media Subcommittee, which was planning a meeting in the near future to identify different social media issues for consideration by the Court, including reinstating the RSS Feed, Twitter and the like.

**VI. Local Rules**

Steven Richard, Co-Chair of the Local Rules Review Committee (“LRRC”), reviewed the status of the LRRC’s work. Mr. Richard reported that the public comment period on the most recent set of proposed amendments to the Local Rules began on October 17th, and would run through November 17th. .

**VII. Operations Update**

Frank Perry provided an Operations Update. He reported that 2,300 attorneys successfully renewed their bar registration through CM/ECF. Mr. Perry also noted that civil complaints and notices of removal are now being done on an electronic basis, and that electronic filing for civil complaints and notices of removal would become mandatory when the new local rules went into effect in December.

It was announced that the next FBA Luncheon is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> at which time Honorable William J. Kayatta, Jr. from the First Circuit Court of Appeals will be the featured speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Rocha  
Chair