

# **RHODE ISLAND BAR ASSOCIATION**

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

**Thursday, October 3, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.  
Jury Assembly Room**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Welcome**

Leslie Parker welcomed members to the Fall meeting of the Federal Bench/Bar Committee. She reported that she was substituting for Patricia Rocha, the Chair. The members introduced themselves.

#### **II. Local Rules**

Mike Daley and Kate Sabatini reported that the proposed amendments to the Local Rules were published in October 2017 for public comment with a target date of December 1 for implementation. Mr. Daley highlighted the change in LR Cv 7 that will eliminate the requirement for the filing of a separate memo. Instead, argument may be incorporated into the actual motion filed with the court. Judge McConnell noted that Mike Daley's term as co-chair of the Local Rules Committee is coming to an end and thanked him for his service. Ms. Sabatini will continue as co-chair through the next year.

#### **III. 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. The Training Program on Direct and Cross Examination concluded on October 30. It included 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. The participants now come from across the country with representation from numerous other Districts. Additionally, other Districts, such as Hawaii, have created similar programs.

#### **III. Status of Nomination of Vacant Judgeship**

Chief Judge Smith and Judge McConnell reported that there is no substantive update regarding the vacant judgeship. Both Chief Judge Smith and Judge McConnell, along with the entire Court staff, are working to ensure that all cases receive Rule 16 conferences and other

dates in an efficient manner despite the vacant judgeship. Chief Judge Smith addressed that litigants should not wait for notice of a Rule 16 conference to serve initial disclosures and discovery. Discussion ensued as to possible means to encourage the service of initial disclosures and discovery before the notice of a Rule 16 conference. Chief Judge Smith suggested that the Local Rules Committee discuss whether an amendment to the Local Rules may be helpful to address the issue. Chief Judge Smith and Judge McConnell encouraged attorneys to contact their chambers if they need to have a conference scheduled or a matter addressed.

### **VIII. Operations Update**

Frank Perry reported that bi-annual attorney renewal is upcoming and will cost \$25 per attorney. It will be payable via pay.gov. An email will be distributed at the beginning of the renewal period, as well as reminder emails. The *pro hac vice* fee will increase from \$50.00 to \$100.00. The new attorney registration fee will decrease from \$236.00 to \$200.00.

### **IX. Open Discussion**

There were no matters for open discussion

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie D. Parker

For

Patricia K. Rocha  
Chair