

## **Federal Practice Committee Meeting Minutes August 20, 2008**

A meeting of the Federal Practice Committee was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at 12 Noon in the Charles Evans Whittaker U.S. Courthouse in Kansas City, Missouri. Attending the meeting were Marsha B. Fischer, Michael G. Berry, Thomas V. Bender, Todd H. Bartels, Brian Gaddy, Jeffrey P. Ray, Willie J. Epps, Jr, Denise Drake, Denise Henning, Aldo Dominguez, Mike Oliver, Chief Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., Judge Ortrie D. Smith, Judge Nanette K. Laughrey, Judge Greg Kays, Judge Howard F. Sachs, Judge Scott O. Wright, Judge Dean Whipple, Magistrate Judge John T. Maughmer, Magistrate Judge Sarah W. Hays, Bankruptcy Judge Arthur B. Federman, Court Executive Pat Brune, Chief of Operations John Cisternino, and Chief of Administrative Services Paige Wymore-Wynn.

While sharing lunch, introductions were made by everyone in the room with a general introduction made by Chief Judge Gaitan outlining the purpose of this Committee and describing a new group being organized by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association to be called the Federal Court Advocates. This committee works for the entire Western District of Missouri while the newly formed group will focus on the Kansas City metropolitan area working across state lines with the District of Kansas attorneys as well.

Chief Judge Gaitan also announced that the 8th Circuit Judicial Conference meetings for 2010 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri.

After the luncheon, Chief Judge Gaitan and Judge Sachs met with the Committee and received the report that Denise Henning had accepted the position of Chair of the group with Brian Gaddy accepting the position as Chair-elect. A general conversation followed with Chief Judge Gaitan asking the group to work toward a year long agenda from the Committee to outline how best to gather input from the WDMo bar members and how best to share that information with the Court en banc.

Suggestions included:

- Participation by the Federal Practice Committee in The Courthouse Connection quarterly newsletter.

- Review of the notes of previous committee meetings on the external web site of the Court.

- The Clerk will confirm that Scheduling Orders from all WDMo Judges have been posted on the same web site

- Discussion of how best to poll all members of the WDMo bar for input, including

- Posting a request for comments similar to what is done during Magistrate Judge reappointments

- Hosting a forum in conjunction with the Missouri Bar meetings scheduled for KC the week of September 15th

- Scheduling regular conference calls for the Committee

- Continue the discussion of practice preference for the Judges and how to share that information

- Consideration of a local rules review across the two Missouri Districts

- Educational outreach for new CJA attorneys

Paige Wymore-Wynn will generate a press release from the Court announcing the new members of the committee along with the Chair and Chair-elect names.

Denise Henning will send Pat Brune draft language to use for a posting inviting comments and suggestions to be emailed to all members of the WDMo bar.

The meeting adjourned at 2 PM.