

Minutes of the WDMO Federal Practice Committee  
January 21, 2010

Present in person: Brian Gaddy, Willie Epps, Denise Henning, Julia Kitsmiller, Jeff Ray, Todd Bartels, Aldo Dominguez, Lisa Nouri, Tom Bender.

Present by phone: Marsha Fischer, Michael Berry, Rodney Nichols.

The Federal Practice Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri (the "Committee") convened at noon on January 21, 2010.

Brian Gaddy opened the meeting by welcoming new member Lisa Nouri, and the first item on the agenda was approval of the October 15, 2009 minutes. Discussion ensued about reviving the practice of posting Committee minutes on the Court's website but only after approval. The minutes from October 15<sup>th</sup> were approved by consensus, and the Court was asked to post the same.

Next, the Committee reviewed its meeting dates for the year with in person meetings slated for noon on April 22, August 19 and November 17 (lunch with judges). Discussion ensued about telephonic meetings in between these dates, and possible meeting dates were identified as March 3, July 8 and September 30. The telephonic meetings were subject to change based on availability, judicial requests to the Committee and issues that need immediate attention.

The next item of business was follow-up discussion on the Community Outreach presentation on Federal Courts and the impending trial run with a Government class at Park University. The Committee discussed the ability for the Court to provide a laptop and other audio visual equipment as needed. Further discussion ensued about making sure that the presentation schedule includes divisional locations. The Committee noted that Judge Whitworth may be able to use the presentation as a way to make contact with citizens in Jefferson City.

The Committee then moved on to a discussion of the WDMO Local Rules. Julia Kitsmiller and Jeff Ray reported reviewing the changes proposed in relation to time computation and the recent amendments to the Federal Rules. Discussion ensued about a follow-up meeting with the Judges comprising the district's Local Rules Committee to answer any questions about Jeff Ray's written comparison with other districts. The Committee also seeks guidance from the Judges about whether a similar review of the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit criminal rules in comparison to WDMO would be helpful. The Clerk's office will work with Mr. Ray to schedule the meeting with the Local Rules Committee.

Mr. Gaddy then asked for an update from those FPC volunteers working to compare the different Scheduling Orders in use district-wide. To date, all of the Scheduling Order forms

have been distributed, but the sub-committee of Epps, Gaddy and Berry had yet to meet. The sub-committee intends to work toward a preliminary review and comments by the next FPC meeting.

As a final order of new business, the Committee discussed meeting with Judge Whitworth to let him know who the representatives were in Mid-Missouri and to offer the FPC as a resource to him as a new judge. Michael Berry was designated to make contact.

The business meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm, and members moved to Courtroom 7C to provide input and guidance to court staff on audio visual upgrades and practitioner requirements or preferences for the new courthouse in Jefferson City.