

MINUTES OF THE WDMO FEDERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

February 23, 2012—12:00 p.m.

Kansas City, Missouri (Office of Seyferth Blumenthal & Harris)

Present in person were: Julia Kitsmiller, Ann Thompson, Lisa Nouri, Willie Epps, Joe Whisler, Brian Gaddy and Travis Poindexter. Present via teleconference were: Andy Hirth, Larry Miller, Rodney Nichols, Jeff Ray and Lynnette Siegel.

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Julia Kitsmiller requested approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2012 meeting. Willie Epps moved for approval, and Travis Poindexter seconded the motion. With no opposition, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Old Business

Community Outreach Efforts. Ms. Kitsmiller reiterated the purpose of the Community Outreach program. Larry Miller indicated that he continued to work on a Jefferson City program with Judge Whitworth but that no final date had been set. There were no new requests for speakers.

EAP Update. The Committee reviewed the survey draft presented by the sub-committee and offered preliminary suggestions about the questions and the survey in general. Ms. Kitsmiller asked members to send specific comments to Ann Thompson via email. Discussion ensued about the objective of the survey and the subsequent focus groups. Emphasis was placed on keeping the survey short and to the point.

Criminal CLE Update. Lisa Nouri reported on discussions between herself and Brian Gaddy about this year's event and a potential list of speakers. The Committee discussed the program components and continuing to include a judges' panel on sentencing but also adding a presentation by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Further discussion ensued about the date, speakers to invite, providing lunch and whether to add an ethics segment. Ms. Nouri indicated she would follow-up on the suggestions to further refine a proposed agenda.

Discussion then turned to an item of new business - whether the Committee wanted to sponsor a separate CLE on ethics prior to the end of June. Members indicated a preference for a two hour program which would qualify for both Missouri and Kansas CLE. Mr. Whisler discussed materials released by the ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 and possible use of those themes for a program. Discussion also ensued about using war stories of actual ethical dilemmas as discussion points. Mr. Gaddy and Ms. Kitsmiller indicated they would give this additional thought and try to formulate a more defined game plan for FPC consideration.

FCAS Luncheon at KCMBA. There was nothing new to report on this April 19th event other than that the Federal Court Advocates Section of KCMBA continued to want to co-host with FPC and will need FPC members to cover a few tables. Ms. Kitsmiller was going to get further details from Perry Brandt but asked that FPC members be available as needed. Ms. Thompson reminded the Committee about membership opportunities with the FCAS.

Meetings with the Criminal Defense Bar. A meeting date is still pending based on Chief Gaitan's schedule. Ms. Thompson promised to pursue.

New Business

Ms. Kitsmiller indicated that the Committee needed to elect a Vice-Chair to conduct meetings in her absence and to become Chair in 2013. Mr. Gaddy and Mr. Poindexter nominated Ms. Nouri to serve as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded, and Ms. Nouri was elected unanimously.

Ms. Kitsmiller asked if there was any other business needing attention. Hearing none, Mr. Whisler moved to adjourn, and the Committee did so adjourn at 12:45 p.m. Members thanked Ms. Kitsmiller for hosting the luncheon at her firm's offices.