

MINUTES OF THE WDMO FEDERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

January 9, 2014 - Noon Luncheon Kansas City, Missouri and Via Teleconference

Present in person: Julia Kitsmiller, David Ketchmark, Joe Whisler, Jeff Simon, Ann Thompson and Travis Poindexter

Present via teleconference: Willie Epps, Doug Harpool, Andy Hirth and Erica Mynarich

Chair Travis Poindexter called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Ann Thompson agreed to take the minutes for the meeting.

As the first order of business, the Chair asked new FPC member Jeff Simon to introduce himself. Mr. Simon shared his back ground as a former WDMO law clerk to Judge Sachs and indicated he is currently a partner at Husch Blackwell.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the September 26, 2013 meeting was tabled as the draft minutes were not distributed for review in advance.

Old Business

Recap of Joint Ethics CLE with FCAS

Members discussed the event and commented on the good judicial participation and the large criminal bar attendance and expansion of the criminal topic tables. The approach of having a table leader and a person to take notes pre-assigned to each table was successful, and the Committee endorsed consideration of future collaboration with FCAS. Joe Whisler reminded members about the FCAS social event at Manny's on January 30th.

Recap of November Lunch with the Judges

Mr. Poindexter commented on Lisa Nouri's thoughtful comments and thank you to Chief Judge Gaitan, and Ms. Thompson noted that Judge Kays becomes chief effective January 4, 2014. She will invite him to attend one of the future in-person FPC meetings.

New Business

Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Kitsmiller moved to nominate Christine Blegen as FPC Vice-Chair, and Mr. Epps seconded the motion. Ms. Blegen accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.

Schedule of Meetings for 2014

Before discussion on the proposed meeting dates for 2014, Ms. Kitsmiller advised the Committee of her new address and the need to update the FPC roster. The members approved the suggested meeting dates subject to finalization of any planned special events or CLE programming.

Event Ideas for 2014

The Committee commenced with general brainstorming on CLE offerings at divisional locations and coordination with other Court events or receptions. Members believed that it would be beneficial to take the sentencing panel program to Jefferson City with Judges Phillips and Wimes who currently have the criminal draw there. Mr. Hirth noted that the Attorney General's office has a retreat in early September and that the Missouri Bar meetings are September 10-12th. He advised against scheduling a program that might conflict with those dates and suggested an October time frame.

Additional discussion ensued about a potential ethics CLE in Springfield, and the need to discuss any potential plans for Jefferson City with Judge Laughrey and Judge Whitworth. Ms. Thompson indicated she would investigate date options before the next meeting.

Other New Business

In relation to Community Outreach programming, Ms. Blegen said she would follow-up on the Lee's Summit Rotary. Mr. Ketchmark suggested that a program might be presented at the FBI Citizen's Academy which meets on Wednesday evening, and he agreed to check with organizers about interest and a specific date.

Mr. Harpool reported on the status of his judicial nomination.

The Chair opened discussion on how to educate the bar on the purpose of the FPC and how to invite attorneys to contact Committee members with comments or concerns about practicing in the Western District. Prior solicitations to the bar were discussed, including educational emails and surveys. Ms. Thompson indicated that the Court could include an article about the role of the FPC and a list of members in the next Courthouse Connection newsletter.

On a final note of old business, Ms. Thompson reminded the criminal bar committee members that video access to clients housed at CCA is now available. Mr. Poindexter promised to test the technology, i.e. videoconferencing with CCA from his office.

Mr. Poindexter also referred Committee members to the copy of the FPC By-laws that had been distributed and asked them to be mindful of the attendance requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.