

MINUTES OF THE WDMO FEDERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

August 14, 2014 – Noon Meeting Kansas City, MO and via Teleconference

Present: Ann Thompson, Travis Poindexter, Christine Blegen, Lisa Nouri, David Ketchmark, Willie Epps, Tina Fowler, Julia Kitsmiller, Andy Hirth, Jeff Simon, and Laine Cardarella.

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

Christine Blegen agreed to take the minutes for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Lisa Nouri moved for approval of the minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting. Julia Kitsmiller seconded the motion. The Committee approved the minutes unanimously.

Old Business

Tina Fowler of Baird, Lightner & Milsap introduced herself to the Committee. Tina replaces Doug Harpool on the Committee.

Travis Poindexter introduced the new Federal Public Defender for the WDMO, Laine Cardarella. Ms. Cardarella discussed the current composition of her office and explained that in addition to an annual CLE, her office is now offering CLEs every other month for defense attorneys. These luncheon CLEs will rotate among the three WDMO courthouses. Ms. Cardarella also explained her understanding of how the new 2-level sentencing reduction in drug cases will be implemented when the revised Guidelines go into effect in November. Steve Moss has been designated to handle the retroactive cases within the Federal Public Defender's Office. Any defense attorneys who are contacted by clients inquiring about the Guidelines amendment may direct them to Mr. Moss.

The Committee discussed a proposed local rule addition at the request of the Court en banc. The proposed rule would require attorneys to seek leave of court for any post-trial contact with jurors. After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was that no new rule was needed in this regard.

The June 23, 2014 CLE in Springfield was discussed. It was very well attended with over 60 attorneys present. Committee members Erica Mynarich and Mike Oliver did a great job of locating and coordinating strong table leaders. Judge Harpool gave practice pointers and his attendance and presentation was appreciated and well received. Judge Rush also participated. Travis Poindexter raised the idea of having a social hour in connection with a future CLE program in Springfield. The Committee will need to seek input from the local bar members and the judges involved in order to plan such an event next year.

The upcoming October 16, 2014 CLE in Jefferson City was also discussed. There will be a Magistrate Judge panel moderated by Larry Miller, a District Judge panel moderated by Christine Blegen, and Andy Hirth will be the event moderator. Judges Phillips and Wimes will definitely participate on the District Court panel. Magistrate Judge Whitworth has also arranged an ethics component covering the ethics of e-discovery and social media.

Jeff Simon updated the Committee on a New Attorney Orientation program to be held in early November. Alexandra Francis created an agenda and is coordinating court employees to speak on various topics of benefit to new attorneys. The Committee felt the proposed agenda was strong and suggested coverage of unique local rules. Julia Kitsmiller and Christine Blegen agreed to prepare a handout on other resources for new attorneys in the Kansas City area.

New Business

The Committee was asked to consider and suggest program topics for a Spring 2015 CLE in Springfield.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.