

LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

The Lawyers Advisory Committee (LAC) met at the Park Chateau, where the meeting was convened by Chair. Thomas R. Curtin, at 6:00 p.m., and the following occurred:

1. The Chair, Tom Curtin, welcomed all members. Tom announced the following upcoming events: Judge Rodriguez is being honored at the 2023 Equal Justice Awards Reception on October 10, 2023, the Daniel Anderl Love is Light Golf Outing will be on October 5, 2023 and Rutgers Law School is honoring Chief Judge Bumb on October 24, 2023 at the Rutgers Alumni Recognition Gala. On behalf of Chief Judge Chagares, Tom let the committee know, the week of November 13th the Third Circuit will sit in Newark and all are invited to attend. Tom invited anyone interested in obtaining a transcript of the Historical Society's tribute to the Magistrate Judges to reach out to him for a copy.
2. The Chair invited a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.
3. Chief Judge Bumb reminded the LAC of the Oath of Office Ceremony for Clerk of Court taking place on September 7, 2023. Chief Judge Bumb reported that Judge Vazquez's last day is September 8, 2023 and Judge McNulty will be retiring at the end of October. There are two nominees for District Judge positions, Judge Kiel and Jamel Semper, AUSA. Chief Judge Bumb announced that Judge Martinotti is being honored at the Red Mass on September 29, 2023 at the Basilica in Newark. She announced that civil case filings have increased, primarily from the Johnson and Johnson Talc MDL.
4. Tom Curtin asked Beth Scher to chair a sub-committee to look at L.Civ.R 104.1 to determine if it needs amending in two areas: 1) should discipline be imposed at guilty plea or upon conviction and 2) if an attorney is suspended for more than 3 months, should the rule be amended to allow a judge to consider reinstatement on the papers without holding a hearing. Judge Padin announced a link of disciplined attorneys will be placed on the court website.
5. Tom Curtin followed up on a prior discussion regarding seeking permission to file motions to dismiss. The Board of Judges considered, and Judge O'Hearn reported, no changes are needed and judges' preferences remain.
6. U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger reported his office continues to hire. He announced while there is an explosion of violent crimes across the country, in New Jersey numbers are down because of a number of crime initiatives involving federal, state and local law enforcement collaboration. He also announced security enforcement cases are rising with former Attorney General Gurbir Grewal appointed as the director of the SECs division of enforcement.

7. K. Anthony Thomas, Federal Public Defender, and Keith Miller, announced the Historical Society will host a Federal Public Defenders 50th Anniversary celebration on September 14th in the Newark Courthouse.
8. Justin Quinn proposed amending L.Civ.R. 5.1(e) to remove the requirement of providing 4 paper copies to the Clerk's office of complaints and notices of removals. Proposed amendments to the local rules should be sent to the Rules Committee for consideration.
9. Steven Richman, on behalf of the Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Committee, suggested there should be further review of whether a new rule or an amendment is needed to address the use of A.I. in court filings. A request was made that no judge adopt a certification regarding A.I until a determination is made on the rules.
10. Lisa Rodriguez proposed amending L.Civ.R. 10.1 to remove the requirement that the first paper filed in any civil action include the address of the named party. Proposed amendments to the local rules should be sent to the Rules Committee for consideration.
11. U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger, on behalf of the Implicit Bias Sub-Committee, proposed the creation of an implicit bias video for jurors. After reviewing three proposals, the Sub-Committee selected Option 1, which is the adoption of the New York State video updated for the District of New Jersey. A motion was made and seconded that the LAC will recommend to the Board of Judges to adopt Option 1.
12. Tom Curtin informed LAC members whose terms expire at the end of this year, to write to him within the next month requesting reappointment or indicating their intention to not be reappointed. He requested if anyone has suggestions for potential new members to let him and Chief Judge Bumb know and include reasons for nomination. Tom Curtin thanked the Court Staff and Alex Rufolo for all their help and announced the Court Holiday luncheon will be held on December 12, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
13. The next LAC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:00pm.