

LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – December 4, 2024

Present: Alexandra Jacobs, Carlos M. Bollar, Dennis Drasco, Dennis Gleason, Edward Hartnett, Edward T. Kole, Glenn Troublefield, Jeffrey Greenbaum, John Basiak, John T. O'Brien, Joseph L. Linares, K. Anthony Thomas, Karen Confoy, Keith Miller, Kelly Crawford, Kerri E. Chewning, Lisa J. Rodriguez, Michael Galpern, Patricia A. Staiano, Philip Sellinger, Susan Smalley, Steven M. Richman, Thomas R. Curtin, Victor Afanador, Wayne Fang, William Cook, Sue Leming, Angela Cai, Melissa E. Rhoads

Chief Judge Bumb, Judge Quraishi, Judge O'Hearn, Judge Gordon, Judge Hammer, Judge Wettre, Judge King, Judge Day, Judge Quinn, Judge Brown (Ret.), Judge Linares (Ret.), Judge Hillman (Ret.), Judge Wolfson (Ret.), Judge Kugler (Ret.)

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 Sue Leming, President of the Association of the Federal Bar New Jersey ("AFBNJ"), and Angela Cai, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General ("AG").
2. The Chair invited a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024 meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.
3. Chief Judge Bumb introduced Judge Gordon and announced that he is on designation to our Court from the Court of International Trade. Chief Judge Bumb announced Susan Smalley will retire from the Court on December 31, 2024 after being the Chief for the past 6 years. She invited everyone to a farewell celebration in Trenton on December 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Chief Judge Bumb also announced Philip Sellinger will be stepping down near the end of the year.
4. K. Anthony Thomas thanked everyone who celebrated Judge Bergman at her investiture ceremony. K. Anthony announced the Public Defender's office will be having a joint seminar with AFBNJ on forensic evidence. He also announced that the annual CJA seminar will be held virtually on February 1, 2025.
5. Angela Cai thanked Philip Sellinger on the collaboration with the AG's office over the last 4 years. She briefed members on an office restructuring along with upcoming training initiatives.

Angela discussed a recent federal case in which the constitutionality of Daniel's Law was upheld. There is a similar challenge pending in the New Jersey Supreme Court in which the AG intends to file an amicus brief.

6. U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger reported Vikas Khanna will become the acting U.S. Attorney in early January until the president nominates a new U.S. Attorney for the District. He announced John Basiak as the new Civil Division Chief and briefed members on several noteworthy cases pending in his office.
7. Judge Quraishi reported the district is piloting a Veterans Court in Trenton in 2025.
8. Sue Leming thanked everyone on behalf of the AFBNJ for working with them to help Reentry/ POP participants with meals, gift cards, winter coats, and Danny's Pantry items. She announced the Judicial Conference will be held on March 12, 2025 at Marigold in Somerset. She also announced the Bench Bar Symposium with NJSBA will be held on April 10, 2025 at the Law Center.
9. Judge O'Hearn reported that Camden's Danny's Pantry is open. She indicated there have been law firms hosting food drives to help maintain the pantry and reported that anyone under pretrial or probation supervision may utilize the pantry.
10. Keith Miller reported on behalf of the Historical Society, the Celebration of Life service for Don Robinson was a success. He announced the next Great Trials event will be held on February 25, 2025 in Camden and the Society is working on a 100th Anniversary of Probation event in 2025, date to be determined.
11. Susan Smalley provided closing remarks and provided statistics from her office.
12. William Cook provided a report on behalf of the Model Civil Jury Charge subcommittee.
13. Judge Wettre announced the rules subcommittee report is tabled and reviewed the process for recommending local rule amendments which includes a review by the Court Rules Committee followed by Board of Judges' approval.
14. New Business
 - a. Chief Judge Bumb discussed an increase of mitigation reports being presented prior to sentencings and asked members to consider the issue for the next meeting. Chief Judge Bumb also indicated that additional members who specialize in criminal defense may be warranted.
 - b. Jeff Greenbaum inquired about the mediation rule amendments. Judge Wettre announced the public comment period closed and the effective target date of amendments to L.Civ.R. 301.1 and appendix Q is January 1, 2025.
 - c. Tom Curtin invited all members to the Holiday Luncheon on December 11, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Park Chateau.

15. The next LAC meeting will be on March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.