



WSBA

LOCAL RULES TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes September 23, 2009

Co-Chair Lish Whitson called the meeting to order at 12:20pm.

Members present: Chair Lish Whitson, Judge Mary Yu, Colleen Harrington, Jean Cotton (by phone), Judge Blaine Gibson (by phone), Lisa Hayden (by phone), and Gail Nunn (by phone). Also attending were Elizabeth Turner (WSBA staff liaison) and Anna Schmidt (WSBA Paralegal).

There isn't a quorum; however, the meeting will continue without any voting. There were no comments or changes to the minutes. Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes will not be approved.

BOG Meeting Minutes - Discussion

Ms. Turner explained that the BOG did vote and agree to submit the family law rules as proposed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will look at the proposed rules at their November meeting.

Ms. Cotton described the BOG as very receptive to the LRTF's ideas. They would like the Supreme Court to issue a timetable and methodology regarding the conformance to the proposed rules. Mr. Whitson thanked everyone, especially the members of the Local Rules Task Force Family Law Subcommittee. Ms. Turner explained that the BOG extended the LRTF Charter through 12/31/2010. Mr. Whitson explained that their hope is that the Supreme Court will have the counties around the state modify their local rules due to the family law rules, thereby decreasing the number of local rules that exist. If the counties state that they need help with conforming their local rules to the GR and CR, Mr. Whitson's hope is that we can help them conform their local rules to the statewide rules.

Judge Yu urged a meeting with the executive committee with the SCJA sooner than later. She is unsure of what position that body will take, and the Supreme Court will pay attention to SCJA. If the SCJA raises any issues, we will be able to deal with them ahead of time rather than be surprised. Judge Gibson agreed with Judge Yu. Mr. Whitson will approach Judge Eitson, who is the president of the SCJA. Judge Yu volunteered to go with Mr. Whitson if he gets an appointment with Judge Eitson. Judge

Yu suggested that the more information they give them, the better and suggested including the proposed rules with the initial contact and asking for a meeting and, ultimately, an early letter of support. She suggested asking to meet with the Board of Trustees rather than the Executive Committee because the Board of Trustees meets monthly.

After the meeting with the SCJA, and after Justice Johnson's group has reviewed the proposed rules, Mr. Whitson would like to have another meeting of this group. Ms. Cotton asked whether this contact with the SCJA is going to be regarding only the Family Law rules or will also include discussion regarding conforming all the local rules.

Judge Yu stated that she feels we should present the whole thing. She suggested that the group be put on the agenda for the Superior Court's Spring Conference. This occurs April 25-28, 2010 in Suncadia (Judge Craighead will more than likely be putting together the educational program for the conference). Judge Yu does not expect the fall conference to be well attended – this is the last Fall Conference as it has been cut out of their budget.

Ms. Harrington asked where we were with respect to funding. The family law section offered \$2,000 (but is struggling right now with their budget) and Ms Harrington is going to talk to the litigation section regarding \$2,500. Mr. Whitson spoke to both the Association for Justice and the WTDL representatives. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulties different groups are currently having financially. Ms. Turner suggested that if we don't get the response we want initially, we can always try to ask them again for the money later.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.