

FEDERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE
United States District Court, Northern District of Iowa
Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2018, at 4:30

Attendees:

Jeana Goosmann, chair, Fran Haas, John Gray (via phone), Rich Murphy (via phone), Mark Roberts, Pat Parry (via phone), Zachery Hindman (via phone), Robert Phelps, Paul De Young (via phone)

1. Introductions were made

2. Motion to approve March minutes

The May 16, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference (August 15-18, 2018 in Des Moines)

Fran Haas mentioned there will be a joint breakfast Friday morning with IAND and IASD committees and judges.

4. New district judge and magistrate judge in Cedar Rapids

Mark Roberts and Rob Phelps reported that the best hope is for Judge Williams to get Senate confirmation in September. Investitures will follow after Senate and President finalize nomination. In addition, Judge Bennett has started a new position with Drake Law School as director of the Institute for Justice Reform and Innovation. Judge Bennett will split his time between court duties and Drake Law School for a few months and anticipates fully retiring March 1, 2019. In other judge news, Zachery Hindman has been selected to be a state court judge and will start his duties September 7, 2018. Therefore, Zachery will be required to drop off the CJA panel and the Federal Practice Committee.

5. Other business

Jeana Goosmann agreed to continue as chair of the Federal Practice Committee for another year. Fran Haas announced she will be chair of the ISBA Federal Practice Committee for the coming year.

Jeana asked committee members to think about ideas for a future CLE on the CJA panel. Rob will coordinate with Judge Williams and Mike Lahammer on ideas. Jeana also asked members to consider the possibilities of a CLE coordinated with a county bar, such as the Linn County Bar Association or the Woodbury County Bar Association.

Jeana led a discussion on how to market the new magistrate consent program. The committee agreed that the best strategy would be word of mouth and the passage of time. Mark Roberts mentioned that Judge Williams and Judge Bremer did an excellent job of highlighting the consent program at a recent CLE event. Jeana said that having the judges speak gives lawyers a sense of the judge's disposition. It was suggested that Mark Roberts continue the public education effort when he comes on board as a magistrate judge. Mark indicated that attorneys who have not worked

together can be less likely to consent, and the request for consent comes very early. Mark suggested that consents would be encouraged at the scheduling conference as well.

Fran highlighted upcoming CLE events including Fall Fundamentals on October 4, 2018 and the Federal Practice Seminar on December 14, 2018.

6. Next meeting

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at Noon

Meeting Adjourned 5:00 PM