

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

August 5, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Meeting was held via phone conference due to COVID-19 Virus.

Attendees:

Jeana Goosmann, chair, Judge Williams, Judge Roberts, Judge Mahoney, Tim Hill, Paul Gamez, Ethan Olson, Stu Cochrane, Mark Zaiger, Robert Phelps, Paul DeYoung and Kelly Kornegor.

1. Motion to approve May 6, 2020 minutes

The May 6, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

2. Update on CJA Second Chair Training from Federal Public Defender

Rob Phelps mentioned that the Federal Public Defender's office was in the process of putting together a program for Cedar Rapids and Sioux City. Rob asked if anyone had an update of the status of the programs after the appointment of Brad Hansen.

Judge Williams explained that he reminded Brad of the project and stressed the high importance of it. Judge Williams said that he has not been provided an update.

Rob Phelps will contact Brad Hansen for an update and report back to the committee.

3. CARES Act Training in 2020

Judge Williams updated committee members that, although the court was ready to conduct a jury trial in June, the first jury trial post pandemic will occur on August 10, 2020 in Sioux City. This is a civil trial concerning excessive use of force. Judge Williams said that the topics discussed during the one-hour Practicing in a Pandemic CLE held in May will be put into practice during the trial.

Judge Williams said that there will be another civil trial in Cedar Rapids the week of August 17, 2020 that also concerns the excessive use of force.

4. Future CLEs

Rob Phelps reminded committee members that the Northern District is responsible for coordinating a POWER Act presentation this year.

Paul DeYoung mentioned that he has been in contact with Brynn Howard from Iowa Legal Aid and Gia Aitkens from RISE of the Meskwaki Nation. Paul said both groups are on board to participate and help coordinate.

Paul DeYoung additionally mentioned that the event would include presentations from Judge Mahoney and Tribal Judge Maurice Johnson.

Tim Hill informed committee members that the ISBA is hosting a fundamentals seminar on October 6, 2020 that would provide a wider audience. Tim gave another option of combining the CLE presentation with the ISBA Federal Practice Seminar on December 11, 2020.

Judge Mahoney offered to provide Paul DeYoung with contact information to determine the possibility of combining the CLE with the other meetings because the POWER Act is a Northern District and Southern District event. Paul will confirm whether the agendas for the ISBA events are set and if we can participate in either of them.

Jeana Goosmann asked for input on having an additional CLE this year. This would be a virtual event as all in person CLEs have been suspended for 2020.

Tim Hill said that he has the outlines for the NDIA CLE originally planned for May where the presentation focus was legal and ethical issues that are faced in civil and criminal case practice areas. Tim suggested preparing the same presentation and including follow up from the one-hour CLE held in May, covering best practices during the pandemic, as well as the two civil trials in August. Previously, Tim had lined up Jeana Goosmann (moderator), Judge Roberts, Fran Haas, Justin Lightfoot and John Gray as speakers.

Judge Williams agreed to give an update on the jury trials, lessons learned, and changes made. Judge Roberts recommitted to participating. Tim will connect with the other speakers regarding criminal case presentation from Justin Lightfoot and panel discussion with Judge Roberts, John Gray, Fran Haas and Jeana Goosmann.

Committee members agreed to proceed with the event virtually. Committee members selected October 22, 2020 as the date to hold the CLE event.

5. Other Discussion

Jeana Goosmann inquired about filings during the pandemic.

Judge Williams said there have been a lot of pro se filings for compassionate release and criminal and civil proceedings have held steady.

6. Next meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned 12:25 PM.