

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

November 6, 2019 at 12:00 PM

Attendees:

Tim Hill, Judge Williams, Judge Roberts, Judge Mahoney (via phone), Justin Lightfoot, Jeana Goosmann, chair (via phone), Paul Gamez (via phone), Paul De Young and Kelly Kornegor.

1. Welcome/Introduction

Jeana and the committee welcomed Justin Lightfoot, who introduced himself to other members.

2. Motion to approve August 7, 2019 minutes

The August 7, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Recap of October 17, 2019 CLE

Jeana's comments: event was well-attended, well-received and well-organized; it was very helpful to have the CLE number available for those who need to report for credit.

Judge Williams' comments: agreed that, from his perspective, the event was successful in Cedar Rapids and Sioux City; and the social reception afterwards was a great addition to the event.

Jeana agreed that the social reception was a good way to build comradery among the judges and attorneys who practice in front of them, and this should be included for future events.

Tim's comments: attendees appreciated hearing from the district judges on an important topic; food was wonderful. Tim asked for the number of attendees. Paul noted that there were approximately 25 to 30 in Cedar Rapids and 20 in Sioux City. Jeana concurred that there were between 50 and 60 total attendees.

4. CLE for ISBA Annual Meeting – FYI Litigation Track 2020 set for 6/24/2020

Regarding the Power Act, Tim informed committee members that the 2019 ISBA Annual Meeting featured a presentation from Magistrate Judge Bremer and a representative from the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Tim indicated that the June 24, 2020 ISBA Annual Meeting will include a litigation tract and NDIA's 2020 Power Act presentation would work well on that day/location.

Paul mentioned that the Eighth Circuit has guidance regarding the Power Act and the NDIA can modify or borrow from the 2019 presentation that the SDIA did this year.

Rob will provide guidance on lead speakers for the 2020 ISBA Annual Meeting.

Jeana said this item will be placed on the Federal Practice Committee agenda for February.

5. Next NDIA CLE – Topics and Timing

Jeana said there are normally two events, one in the spring and one in the fall. The last event was held in April 2019.

Judge Williams suggested having the next NDIA CLE in April 2020 to avoid weather-related issues.

Tim proposed a topic that explores what role local counsel should have, how to handle contentious cases or navigate tough situations and/or how to discharge duties as local counsel.

Judge Roberts asked whether that might appeal to a limited audience. Jenna mentioned that she frequently sends Judge Bennett's orders to out-of-state counsel.

Judge Williams suggested expanding on the topic to include: addressing client control, that is, a client who requests a nasty letter be sent to opposing counsel or asks to recuse the judge; and how to discharge a duty as an attorney in the NDIA while navigating the demands that a client is imposing.

Judge Williams talked about the possibility to expand the topic further into the criminal arena using the example of an attorney who faces a client that is going to take the stand and lie.

Judge Roberts volunteered to present at the 2020 NDIA CLE. Tim mentioned setting up a smaller group to work on planning for the next 2020 NDIA CLE. Jeana volunteered to help with the planning and said there will be a social gathering after the event.

More information will be provided during the next Federal Practice Committee meeting in February.

6. Federal Practice Committee Membership

Judge Strand is reaching out to extend invitations to join the Federal Practice Committee.

7. New Business

No new business was presented.

8. Next meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned 12:50 PM.