

LAWYERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – March 5, 2014 MEETING

The Lawyers' Advisory Committee met at the Hilton in East Brunswick. The meeting was opened by Chair Thomas R. Curtin at 6:00 p.m. and thereafter the following occurred:

1. The minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting were approved without changes.
2. Chief Judge Jerome B. Simandle reported on Hurricane Sandy litigation in the district. A public meeting was scheduled for the following day, March 6, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Trenton Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for attorneys, the public and interested groups to share their views regarding this type of litigation.

Chief Judge Simandle reported the passing of Judge Stanley S. Brotman on February 21, 2014. The Chief Judge noted Judge Brotman's significant contributions to the District of New Jersey, to the Virgin Islands, and to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court from 1998 to 2005. He remarked that Judge Brotman was the longest serving federal judge in the history of the District of New Jersey.

Chief Judge Simandle reported that the Court held a patent seminar for judicial officers and their law clerks at the Trenton Courthouse on December 5, 2013. Members of the patent bar and Peter S. Menell, Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, contributed to the seminar.

The Chief Judge also announced that the Court has one vacancy, due to Judge Cavanaugh's retirement in January, and indicated that as of the date of the LAC meeting, no nominations for the vacancy had been made.

3. Thomas Curtin and Chief Judge Simandle reported the retirement of Bankruptcy Judge Judith Wismur and the passing of Bankruptcy Judge Morris "Mickey" Stern on February 12, 2014.
4. Ronald Hedges discussed possible amendments to the federal rules on ediscovery.
5. Professor Hartnett reported on proposed amendments to Local Civil Rule 79.2. Members of the LAC recommended the insertion of certain text in the proposed amendment. Thomas Curtin suggested that the discussion on the proposed amendment be carried to the next meeting and that additional comments be submitted to Professor Harnett.
6. Leda Wettre proposed updating certain provisions of the CM/ECF Policies and Procedures. It was noted that an updated version of the CM/ECF Policies and Procedures will be posted soon on the Court's website.
7. Dennis Gleason reported on behalf of the subcommittee on individual judges' preferences and practices. The goal of the subcommittee is to provide a standard template to inform

attorneys of each judge's particular preferences and to publish those preferences on the Court's website. The subcommittee organized the requested information into five categories: 1) Means of Communication with the Court; 2) Motions and Orders; 3) Conferences; 4) Trial; and 5) Miscellaneous Preferences.

Chief Judge Simandle indicated that he would present the proposed recommendation and proposed questionnaire to the Board of Judges. The Chief Judge thanked the members of the subcommittee for their work on this project. Thomas Curtin requested that all comments be submitted to Dennis Gleason by March 14.

8. Thomas Curtin announced that the Third Circuit Conference will be held from May 7 to 9 at the Hershey Hotel. He also disclosed the planning of a session at the conference whereby lawyers' advisory committees throughout the Third Circuit can meet and compare notes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Thomas Curtin will notify the members of the date of the next LAC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. O'Brien