

# LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2023

Present: Dennis Drasco, Dennis Gleason, Edward Hartnett, Edward T. Kole, Elizabeth Sher, Jeffrey Greenbaum, Joel Schneider, John Basiak, John Hoffman, Justin Quinn, Karen Confoy, Karol Corbin Walker, Keith Miller, Lisa J. Rodriguez, Shirley Emehelu, Melissa E. Rhoads, Philip Sellinger, Susan Smalley, Steven M. Richman, Thomas R. Curtin, Victor Afanador, Wayne Fang

Chief Judge Bumb, Judge Quraishi, Judge O’Hearn, Judge Padin, Judge King, Judge Pascal, Judge Day, Judge Greenaway (Ret.), Judge Wolfson (Ret.), Judge Brown (Ret.)

The Lawyers Advisory Committee (LAC) met at the Park Chateau, where the meeting was convened by Chair. Thomas R. Curtin, at 6:00 p.m., and the following occurred:

1. The Chair, Tom Curtin, welcomed all members.
2. Judge Padin announced that Jeremy Farrell passed away.
3. The Chair invited a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2023, meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.
4. Chief Judge Bumb reported that Jamel Semper was sworn in as our new District Judge in Newark on December 1, 2023. She indicated that Judge Kiel is out of committee and hopes he is confirmed by the end of the year. Chief Judge Bumb informed the LAC that vacancies have been posted for Judge Arpert, who is retiring at the end of February and Judge Kiel, when he is elevated.

Melissa Rhoads reported the following updates regarding Local Rules and forms: 1) Appendix S, Confidentiality Order, updated; 2) Diversity Disclosure Form posted to website and 3) Appendix V, Applicability of Patent Rules on agenda for the December Board of Judges’ meeting.

5. Judge O’Hearn reported that the LAC recommendation regarding an Artificial Intelligence Local Rule is being considered at the December Board of Judges’ meeting.
6. Judge Padin reported Local Rule 104.1 regarding Attorney Discipline is being reviewed in conjunction with an LAC subcommittee chaired by Beth Sher.
7. Philip Sellinger reported Merrick Garland, U.S. Attorney General, met with his senior leadership team last week followed by a meeting with local, federal and state enforcement authorities and finally his entire office.

He reported that violent crimes continue to be down state-wide in our major cities, and added that, despite an increase in bias incidents due to the Gaza West Bank conflict, it has not translated to an increase in crime in New Jersey.

He also reported his office hired a company to conduct training on implicit bias in the life cycle of criminal prosecution and all AUSA's have completed the training.

8. It was announced that the Board of Judges approved the creation of an implicit bias video for jurors based on a New York State video adjusted for New Jersey. The goal is to have the video completed by summer.
9. Victor Afanador of the Association of the Federal Bar of NJ (AFBNJ) reported that the Judges, Law Clerks and Young Practicing lawyers' event in Newark on December 4, 2023 was a success and Chief Judge Bumb swore-in 3 new attorneys to the Federal Bar. He informed everyone the AFBNJ has been posting on LinkedIn to create exposure. The AFBNJ is collaborating with the NJ State Bar Association to create a one-day conference to educate state court practitioners on federal practices. He reported on events sponsored by the AFBNJ: December 5, 2023 – new attorney swearing-in ceremony at the War Memorial in Trenton; December 11, 2023 – a virtual bankruptcy event; December 18, 2023 – a virtual pro bono CLE event; January 25, 2024 – a virtual brown bag program “Cracking the AI Code”. Other upcoming events include a 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Breakfast, an in-person brown bag lunch event in Trenton and the annual Judicial Conference in March.
10. Keith Miller of the Historical Society (the Society) reported that at the September 14, 2023, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal Public Defenders office event, Chief Judge Bumb did an impromptu swearing-in for K. Anthony Thomas. Keith reported on events hosted by the Society including: September 27, 2023 – Portrait Ceremony for Judge Joel Rosen; December 11, 2023 – Bankruptcy historical timeline display; January 17, 2024 – Supreme court group admission trip. The Society is planning a “Great Trials” program in all three vicinages. The first event will be in Newark chaired by Judge Shwartz and Joe Hayden. The American College of Trial Lawyers may co-sponsor this event.
11. Justin Quinn reported on L.Civ.R 5.1 (c), 26.1(c)(3), 33.1(a), 36.1(a), and 65.1– Motion to refer all amendments to the Board of Judges' moved and seconded and will be placed on the agenda for their March meeting.
12. Chief Judge Bumb reminded everyone that Judge Farbiarz's investiture ceremony will be on January 18, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.
13. Shirley Emehelu, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General echoed positive sentiments regarding collaboration between federal, state and local entities.
14. The next LAC meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.