

LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2024

Present: Carlos M. Bollar, Charles M. Lizza, Dennis Drasco, Dennis Gleason, Edward T. Kole, Glenn Troublefield, Jennifer A. Hradil, John Basiak, John Hoffman, Joseph L. Linares, K. Anthony Thomas, Karol Corbin Walker, Keith Miller, Kelly Crawford, Kevin G. Walsh, Lisa J. Rodriguez, Matthew J. Platkin, Melissa E. Rhoads, Patricia A. Staiano, Peter C. Harvey, Philip Sellinger, Shoshanna Schiff, Susan M. Smalley, Steven M. Richman, Thomas R. Curtin, Victor Afanador, Wayne Fang, and William Cook

Chief Judge Bumb, Judge Quraishi, Judge Padin, Judge King, Judge Almonte, Judge Day, Judge Quinn, Judge Arpert (Ret.), Judge Wolfson (Ret.), and 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. Tom Curtin, Chair, welcomed members and invited everyone to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair invited a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024, meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.
3. Chief Judge Bumb congratulated Justin Quinn, as our new magistrate judge. She announced John Hoffman will soon be Justice Hoffman having been nominated to the NJ Supreme Court. Chief Judge Bumb reported she gave the state of the judiciary at the state bar conference. She informed everyone our filings are the second highest in the nation and first in the Circuit. She also noted that Judge Neals is assigned the new Apple MDL.
4. Philip Sellinger, U.S. Attorney, reported on the recent leadership changes within his office. He also relayed the number of trials have increased as they work through the COVID backlog.

He indicated his office and the U.S. Marshal Service (USMS) are working together on developing new protocols involving judicial security. When threats are received and referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office, the office is evaluating if charges should be brought.

He announced violent crimes are down nationally including in New Jersey, both statewide and in most major cities. However, since October 7, 2023, violence against Muslim and Jewish communities has increased.

5. K. Anthony Thomas, Public Defender – no report.

6. Matthew Platkin, Attorney General, congratulated John Hoffman in advance and extended his congratulations to the newest judges on the federal bench. He indicated his office wants to actively address judicial security issues and he added that when U.S. Attorney General Garland visited, he saw firsthand the collaboration between our state and federal entities.
7. Tom Curtin, invited members to ask questions of those who had provided reports. After discussion, the following action items will be addressed:
 - a. Oral arguments – attorneys should do more than just request oral argument on their submission. They should articulate why it's important on a particular motion (eg – young attorney needs experience, issue at hand is novel, etc.);
 - b. Pre-motion letters – Board of Judges will be asked to rule on pre-motion conference letters in as timely a fashion as possible so attorneys will know whether they can move forward with filing a motion;
 - c. Remote conferences – Magistrate Judges' meeting agenda will include a request that when a large amount of attorneys are participating in a remote conference, it take place by video-conference, not telephone conference;
 - d. Pending motions – Tom Curtin will poll LAC members to gather more information and how to address pending motions beyond a certain time frame.
8. Victor Afanador, Association of the Federal Bar of NJ (AFBNJ) President, announced LAC members Lisa Rodriguez and Karol Corbin Walker were honored as award recipients at the Brennan reception on June 4, 2024. A plaque was presented to the USMS at the reception to thank them for their service.

He informed everyone that the AFBNJ is working to help the district court on their civics learning center initiative which is named Federal Court, Civics and You. An LAC sub-committee will likely be formed to assist with fundraising efforts, as well as serving as speakers for student groups visiting the center.

The AFBNJ is working with the court to launch a food pantry aimed at assisting reentry court participants. Newark is piloting Danny's Pantry, named after Judge Salas' son, however the goal is to ultimately have a pantry in each vicinage. A soft opening is slated for July.

Victor thanked both Chief Judge Bumb and former Chief Judge Wolfson for their support during his presidency.

9. Keith Miller, President of the Historical Society (the Society), congratulated Victor Afanador on his presidency. He reported the criminal trials program held in Newark in March was a success and the goal is to hold the next one in Trenton followed by Camden. He added the Society is also on board with helping out with the food pantry.

The Society is working on several initiatives in the coming months including:

- a. a program in 2025 to celebrate 100 years since the inception of the U.S. Probation Act;
 - b. working with Peter Harvey to secure mementos of Judge Debevoise to display in the Newark jury assembly room;
 - c. adding plaques to all judicial portraits;
 - d. assisting with the civics learning center with the court;
 - e. working with Judge Hedges on a program regarding the history of the 14th amendment.
10. Susan Smalley, Chief of Probation, announced the office is hiring. Candidates must be under 37 years of age with a college degree. She reported on the statistics of the office and confirmed the July target date of opening the food pantry for reentry and POP court participants.
 11. LAC member, Dennis Gleason, submitted a local rule proposal regarding Electronically Stored Information. Any member interested in serving on the subcommittee, email Tom.
 12. New Business:
 - a. Chief Judge Bumb congratulated Victor on the planning and coordination of the State/Federal Bar Symposium and announced the next one will take place on April 9, 2025.
 - b. Chief Judge Bumb invited members to Judge Sheridan's farewell breakfast on June 26th and the district-wide PRIDE program on June 27th;
 - c. Chief Judge Bumb announced an LAC subcommittee is working on proposed local rules regarding bankruptcy appeals;
 - d. Chief Judge Bumb announced she serves on a Circuit-wide jury committee and LAC members were asked to review and send input to Chief Judge Bumb and Judge O'Hearn regarding civil jury instructions. If interested in serving on such a subcommittee, email Tom.
 13. The next LAC meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.