

LAWYERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES - FEBRUARY 7, 2008 MEETING

The Lawyers' Advisory Committee met at the U.S. Courthouse-Post Office Building at Newark, New Jersey on February 7, 2008. The meeting was opened by Chair Thomas R. Curtin at 3:00 p.m. and thereafter the following occurred:

1. The minutes of October 4, 2007 meeting were approved.
2. Judge Cooper reported on behalf of Chief Judge Garret E. Brown, Jr. :

Judge Cooper provided statistics from the Court's Annual Report of 2007.

Intellectual Property causes of action have risen by 12 percent
Civil Filings increased 6.1%
Number of pending six month motions decreased by 8%.
Jury utilization improved to 34.9% from 39.2%
Total bench time for all three vicinages 8,615 hours

3. Thomas Curtin reported on the Resolution approved by the Lawyers' Advisory Committee to encourage employers in general and law firms in particular to provide compensation to their employees during state and federal court jury service.
4. Judge Hughes discussed a proposed standard form of order for confidentiality agreements regarding discovery materials and sealing of documents. A subcommittee consisting of the following members was appointed by the Chair to consider this matter: Donald Robinson, Chair, Judge Tonia Bongianni, Ronald Hedges, Steven Richman, Bruce Goldstein, Jack O'Brien and James Murphy.
5. Doug Arpert reported on behalf of the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. The Society presented an event and art exhibition at the Trenton Courthouse commemorating murals and paintings by the artist Charles W. Ward. A reception was held at the opening of the exhibition on October 11, 2007. The art exhibition ran from October 11 through November 30, 2007.

The Society is presenting an event on today's date honoring the Magistrate Judges in the district immediately after the LAC meeting.

6. Thomas Curtin read the Resolution submitted by the Association of the Federal Bar urging that parties be afforded the benefit of oral argument on substantive motions before the court. The Resolution stated the following:

RESOLVED that the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey is in favor of encouraging more frequent oral argument on substantive motions in the federal court for the reasons stated in the attached statement and looks forward to a dialogue with the Court regarding the frequency of oral argument on substantive motions.

Peter Perlman discussed the Resolution on behalf of the Association and highlighted the reasons for the Resolution. Thomas Curtin stated that this issue will be taken up by the LAC at a future meeting.

7. Thomas Curtin discussed a proposal by William O'Shaughnessy for a new Local Rule concerning under what circumstances a witness may confer with counsel once cross examination has begun. A subcommittee was formed and the following individuals were appointed: Philip Sellinger, Michael Himmel, Judge Sheridan and Peter Pearlman.
8. Philip Sellinger, past chair, presented a gift on behalf of the Lawyers' Advisory Committee to the Honorable Dickinson R. Debevoise to offer gratitude for his many years of service to the LAC.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. O'Brien