

LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – June 2, 2026

Present: Arnold Calmann, Charles M. Lizza, David M. White, Dennis Drasco, Dennis Gleason, Edward T. Kole, Elizabeth Sher, Eric Moran, James R. Birchmeier, Jeffrey Greenbaum, Jennifer A. Hradil, Jenny Chung Quraishi, John Basiak, John T. O'Brien, Joseph Braunreuther, k. Anthony Thomas, Karol Corbin-Walker, Keith Miller, Kevin Marino, Kevin Walsh, Lee Cortes, Lisa J. Rodriguez, Melissa Rhoads, Michael Galpern, Peter C. Harvey, Phil Lamparielo, Rebekah Conroy, Robert Frazer, Shoshanna Schiff, Steven M. Richman, Sue Leming, Susan M. Smalley, Thomas R. Curtin, Victor Afanador, Wayne Fang, William Cook

Chief Judge Bumb, Judge Quraishi, Judge Hammer, Judge Wettre, Judge Adams, Judge Wolfson (Ret.), Judge Hillman (Ret.), Judge Schneider (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 members and provided a quick overview of the LAC process.
2. Chief Judge Bumb - Chief Judge Bumb asked everyone to introduce themselves and recognized Robert Frazer as the District's new U.S. Attorney. She reminded everyone that Judges Donio and Hammer are retiring and their backfills have been selected with background checks ongoing. She announced our civil filings continue to increase, particularly immigration habeas filings and the Court has implemented protocols to help with the increased filings. She discussed the LAC committees and asked members to review the list and email any updates to her, Melissa or Tom.
3. Melissa Rhoads outlined reporting rules for committees to follow and discussed the Court's 250th anniversary events.
4. A motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. Federal Public Defender – K. Anthony Thomas announced the office hiring freeze is over and 8 new employees have recently been hired.
6. United States Attorney – Robert Frazer introduced himself and announced the office is hiring again after losing several attorneys in recent years. He announced his executive team has been selected, including Joyce Malliet as his First Assistant. He echoed Chief Judge Bumb's remarks regarding the influx of immigration habeas cases and announced the following case types are their top priority: violent crime, fraud, and national security.

Robert Frazer announced his office is doing an event on June 10th benefiting Danny's Pantry. He announced the defense bar working group has been reinstated and to contact Sam Fasanello if interested in joining.

7. AFBNJ – Rebekah Conroy thanked everyone for her year as president and announced the following events:
 - a. Lunch & Learn in Newark on June 3rd;
 - b. Brennan Reception on June 9th, J.D. Marino will be sworn in as new president;
 - c. Farewell Breakfast for Judge Donio on June 16th;
 - d. 4-part Hatch-Waxman series continues.
8. Historical Society – Keith Miller congratulated Tom Curtin for receiving the 2026 Professionalism Award at the Third Circuit Judicial Conference and announced the following events:
 - a. 3rd Great Trials program in Trenton on October 14th with Judge Wolfson serving as moderator;
 - b. A semi-quincentennial celebration planned for September, date and location TBD;
 - c. Board meeting June 4th at 2pm.
9. Old Business:
 - a. Judge Wettre, on behalf of the Rules Committee, announced the following Local Rules were discussed by the Board of Judges and it was determined no amendments are needed: 7.1(i), 16.1, and 26.1.
 - b. Report from Federal Civil Practice Committee – Michael Galpern reported on the following:
 - i. the creation of a Local Rule that incorporates some or all of the language from Local Patent Rule 2.2. A formal recommendation will be provided to the Court's Rules Committee for consideration;
 - ii. the Committee reached out to the FJC for statistics on motion practice, but this is not a reportable statistic;
 - iii. the Board of Judges will address the Berk v. Choy decision at their next meeting to determine if any action needs to be taken;
 - iv. the Committee hopes to have a draft of a local rule with regard to motions to dismiss at the next meeting;
 - v. Updates on Clerk's office use of AI and QC messages.
 - c. Report from Appendix S Committee – Dennis Gleason reported on the following:
 - i. the Committee recommends to the Court's Rules Committee an amendment to Appendix S to incorporate AI provisions;

- ii. the Committee suggests the creation of a working group to monitor AI initiatives in the law. Chief Judge Bumb announced the Court's IT Committee is already looking at AI initiatives.
 - d. Report from Model Civil Jury Charges Committee – William Cook reported there are no Committee recommendations at this time. Model patent jury charges are still under consideration.
 - e. Report from Criminal Law Committee - Peter Harvey reported the Committee submits for consideration that future Merit Selection Panels be diverse in experience.
 - f. Mike Galpern updated LAC members on the civics education program offered in conjunction with the Camden County Bar Foundation.
 - g. Report from Pro Se Civil Litigation Committee – Eric Moran reported there are no formal recommendations at this time but reviewed initiatives under consideration in light of the increase in non-prisoner, pro se filings throughout the district.
10. Tom Curtin thanked the Committees and announced the next meeting will be on September 1, 2026, at 6:00pm.