

LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – December 3, 2025

Present: Alexandra Jacobs, Carlos M. Bollar, David M. White, Dennis Drasco, Dennis Gleason, Edward Hartnett, Edward Kole, Eric Abraham, Glenn Troublefield, James Birchmeier, Jeffrey Greenbaum, Jennifer A. Hradil, John T. O'Brien, Joseph Linares, Karol Corbin-Walker, Keith Miller, Kerri E. Chewning, Kevin Marino, Kevin Walsh, Lisa J. Rodriguez, Melissa Rhoads, Michael Galpern, Patricia A. Staiano, Peter C. Harvey, Philip Sellinger, Rebekah Conroy, Shoshanna Schiff, Steven M. Richman, Susan Smalley, Thomas R. Curtin, Victor Afanador, Vikas Khanna, Wayne Fang, William Cook

Chief Judge Bumb, Chief Judge Chagares, Judge Quraishi, Judge Hammer, Judge Wettre, Judge Brown (Ret.), 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 attendees. Tom asked all LAC members to submit a letter of interest for next year by January 5, 2026.
2. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025 meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Chief Judge Bumb announced the Court welcomed Judge Cari Fais in September as our newest magistrate judge in Newark. She announced Judge Donio and Judge Hammer are retiring June and August 2026, respectively, and, while the posting for the Camden position is closed, the Newark posting remains open. Chief Judge Bumb announced Judge Rodriguez left the bench at the end of September and discussed a wonderful tribute to him in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Chief Judge Bumb reviewed the Courts' standing orders since the last LAC meeting. She thanked the bar for their support during the government shutdown, providing gift cards for staff and continued contributions to Danny's Pantry. Chief Judge Bumb provided a status update on the U.S. Attorney and the Circuit's decision on disqualification.
4. Melissa Rhoads reported the Board of Judges adopted new local rules for bankruptcy appeals and acknowledged Shoshanna Shiff as the chair of the committee who drafted the rules. Melissa thanked everyone for their support during the shutdown which ended in mid-November and announced we are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that runs through January 30th so another shutdown is possible.

5. Chief Judge Chagares recognized Chief Judge Bumb for her leadership during these unprecedented times. He announced the Third Circuit (“Circuit”) is at a full complement of judges with Judge Bove filling the vacancy in Newark and Judge Mascott filling the vacancy in Delaware. He reported filings are up 1% but still lower than pre-covid and announced the Circuit is discussing changing the font and format of opinions. He invited all members to attend the Circuit’s Judicial Conference in Hershey, PA 5/6-5/8, 2026 and Judge Shwartz’s holiday party on December 18th at 3:00pm.
6. Rebekah Conroy reported on behalf of the AFBNJ. She announced the association continues to stock Danny’s Pantry and asked everyone to sign up for the angel wish list. She announced there will be NextGen events for federal judges and attorneys practicing 10 years or less in all three courthouses and attendees are asked to bring gift cards and/or goods for Danny’s Pantry. She announced the Federal Pro Bono Institute has been rescheduled for January 21, 2026, and Judge Chesler is receiving the Jerome B. Simandle award.
7. Keith Miller reported on behalf of the Historical Society and announced the following upcoming events:
 - March 26, 2026 – 100 Years of Probation celebration
 - TBD – Great Trials (Trenton)
 - Send ideas of significant trials to Keith.
 - TBD - 250th Anniversary of the United States
 - Looking to partner with other associations. Reach out to Keith with ideas.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Michael Galpern reported on behalf of the Federal Civil Practice Committee. He asked members to review the exhibit regarding arbitration for discussion at the next LAC meeting.
 - b. Kerri Chewing reported on behalf of the Local Civil Rule 7.1(i) Committee and reviewed proposed amendments to local rule 7.1(i). After discussion, the proposal will be sent to the District Court Rules Committee for consideration.
 - c. Kevin Marino reported on behalf of the Criminal Law Committee and presented a report on the use of mitigation reports. Chief Judge Bumb indicated she would present the information to the Board of Judges at their next meeting.
 - d. Members of the ESI Committee proposed adding language to two local rules 16.1 and 26.1. After discussion, the proposal will be sent to the District Court Rules Committee for consideration.

- e. William Cook reported on behalf of the Model Civil Jury Charges Committee. He indicated the committee has been soliciting input from the bench and bar and has received a robust response from the patent bar. A subcommittee was formed to consider creating model patent jury charges.
 - i. Judge Wettre noted, in the past, there was a patent rule subcommittee of judges. Chief Judge Bumb indicated when a recommendation is made, the judicial patent rule subcommittee be re-formed.
 - f. Professor Hartnett announced new federal rules went into effect December 1, 2025. He also announced a new set of criminal and appellate (no civil) federal rules will go into effect December 1, 2026 and there are 2027 amendments out for public comment now for appellate, criminal, civil, and evidence rules, including a new rule regarding machine-generated evidence (AI).
9. New Business:
- a. Chief Judge Bumb reported on behalf of Judge Quinn who proposed the creation of a new local rule regarding discovery and disclosure. The proposal was forwarded to Michael Galpern's committee for discussion.
 - b. Dennis Gleason proposed an AI amendment to appendix S. A subcommittee was formed to draft a proposal for consideration of the LAC.
 - c. Michael Galpern reported on an adult civics program run by the Camden County Bar Foundation, with much help from Judges Williams and Altenburg and other volunteer judges and lawyers. He commented on the benefits of the program and announced the intent is to expand the program to Trenton and Newark.
10. Upcoming events were reviewed.

The next meeting will be on March 3, 2026, at 6:00pm.