

**DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE
BENCH - BAR FORECLOSURE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007**

The first meeting of the Bench - Bar Foreclosure Committee was held in the Supreme Court Attorneys' Conference Room at 231 Capitol Avenue in Hartford on Thursday October 25, 2007 from 2:00 to 4:05 p.m.

Members in attendance: Hon. Douglas C. Mintz, Hon. Salvatore C. Agati, Attorney Ronald M. Bender, Attorney Jessica L. Braus, Attorney Denis R. Caron, Attorney Thomas J. Farrell, Attorney Robert F. Frankel, Hon. Samuel Freed, Attorney Keith K. Fuller, Attorney Peggy George, Hon. Robert G. Gilligan, Hon. Arthur A. Hiller, Catherine Lapollo, Attorney Leanne M. Larson, Attorney Richard M. Leibert, Attorney Geoffrey Kent Milne, Hon. Patty Jenkins Pittman, Attorney Raphael L. Podolsky, Attorney Sarah Poriss, Hon. Richard A. Robinson, Attorney Therese Servas, Hon. Theodore R. Tyma, Attorney Thomas W. Witherspoon and Attorney Louis C. Zowine

1. Welcome

The Hon. Douglas C. Mintz welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Committee at 2:06 p.m. and presented statistics illustrating the increasing number of foreclosure cases filed statewide. He explained that the increase in the number of cases puts pressure on the courts and extends beyond the courtroom to town offices. He further indicated the importance of protecting the property title.

2. Introduction of Members

The members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. Discussion of Mission of the Committee

Judge Mintz informed the members that the mission of the Committee is to review the procedures and practices in foreclosure cases in order to provide uniformity so that parties are aware of what will occur when they appear in court. The committee is not charged with looking at substantive law, only procedures. The following

documents were distributed for review by the committee: Number of Foreclosures Added By Location – Three Court Years, Draft Order and Standing Order Versions without Webpost Info., Foreclosure By Sale Standing Orders (present version) – form JD-CV-79, and Proposal for Advertising Foreclosure Sales on the Judicial Branch Website.

4. Review of Proposed Standing Orders

Copies of the current standing orders and the proposed changes were given to the members. Judge Tyma explained that these changes were arrived at through discussions with various people who saw a need for uniformity with regard to the procedures for foreclosures by sale. Judge Mintz stated that the aim is to try to keep the costs down.

A discussion of the proposed changes to the standing orders ensued. As a result it was decided that further discussion was necessary on such items as the amount of deposit by bidder at sale, what to do if there is a federal tax lien, advertising in newspaper, title search, and amount allowed for committee fees.

5. Advertising Demonstration

Cathy Lapollo presented a PowerPoint presentation on the concept outlined in Judge Pittman's document entitled *Proposal for Advertising Foreclosure Sales on the Judicial Branch Website*.

Members were generally receptive to the idea of advertising in this manner; some members expressed concerns while others offered suggestions for further discussion.

6. Future Topics

Judge Mintz inquired of the Committee as to areas requiring discussion. It was agreed that further meetings are necessary and should be scheduled frequently. Judge Mintz requested that any suggestions for the standing orders be submitted to him.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in conference room 4 B, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, CT.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.