

Minutes  
Public Service and Trust Commission  
Jury Committee  
Before Court Appearance Subcommittee  
February 6, 2009

The Public Service and Trust Commission Jury Committee, Before Court Appearance Subcommittee met via teleconference at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, CT in Room 133 at 8:30a.m.

Present: Attorney Karen Berris (chair), Attorney William Sadek (co-chair), Hon. Linda K. Lager (liaison), Hon. Robert Devlin, Hon. Julia DiCocco Dewey, and Attorney Jay Sandak

Not Present: Hon. Aaron Ment

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:32am.

1. The minutes from the meeting on January 8, 2009, upon motion and second were unanimously approved.
2. Attorney Berris provided the subcommittee with an update on the proposal to summon by zip code. Attorney Berris believes this project will require further study. She suggests presenting information to legal services and the auditors. The subcommittee is unsure whether summoning by zip code will affect the randomization of the summoning process or whether it will affect the diversity of the array. Judge Lager recommends that a study to find out if any other states currently summon this way be done. Attorney Berris will draft a template recommendation that further study be done and present it to the subcommittee.
3. Attorney Berris provided the subcommittee with an update on the project of having a permanent master file. The pros are: maintenance of data gathered from jurors, in some cases more current information than that provided by source list and better public relations. The cons are: a potential for disenfranchisement, increase in duplicate summonses, it may be costly to program the jury administration system. Attorney Berris will draft a template recommendation and the subcommittee will review this issue further.
4. Attorney Berris and Attorney Sadek provided the subcommittee with an update on the juror cancellations project. This year 550,000 summonses will be sent, versus the 610,000 that were sent last year. The new Jury Administration Management Information System (JAMIS) will allow for 100% of the courts' estimated needs to be met with jurors who postpone their service. Some court locations cancel about 80% and 90% of jurors summoned, this will be addressed in the recommendation. The national center for state courts recommends a 40% utilization rate. Summoning fewer jurors and canceling fewer jurors is cost

saving and more convenient to potential jurors. Judge Devlin will be working with Attorney Berris and Attorney Sadek on drafting a template recommendation.

5. Judge Dewey provided the subcommittee with an update on the proposed reminder notice and summons revisions. Judge Dewey made revisions that were previously sent to all subcommittee members. Judge Lager suggested that the summons and reminder notice be put into a column format so that current and proposed text may be compared. Attorney Berris will have this format sent to all subcommittee members.
6. Attorney Sandak provided the subcommittee with an update on the juror handbook. Attorney Sandak recommends that the handbooks be available at the court. Attorney Berris and Attorney Sandak will be reviewing the frequently asked questions on the website. Judge Lager suggests that a focus group be set up to receive feedback from jurors on the employment brochure currently provided to all jurors with the summons.
7. Attorney Berris provided the subcommittee with an update on the military brochure. A draft was sent to all subcommittee members. Suggestions were made to post the brochure online and to distribute it to schools and military recruiting offices in the state. The brochure was approved by all and will be sent to legal services as the first step toward getting it published.
8. Judge Devlin inquired about delinquent juror enforcement. Currently, about 27,000 jurors go delinquent every year in Connecticut. Jury Administration supplies the Office of the Chief State's Attorney (OCSA) with the names of delinquent jurors. At this time, it is the option of OCSA to enforce. Judge Lager suggests that the issue of enforcement be discussed in the future.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday March 3, 2009 via teleconference at 8:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.