

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Jury Committee
Before Court Appearance Subcommittee
March 3, 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, Hon. Aaron Ment and Attorney Jay Sandak

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:35 a.m.

1. The minutes from the meeting on February 6, 2009, upon motion and second were unanimously approved.
2. Judge Devlin recommends using the term “jury service” instead of “jury duty” as currently used. Judge Devlin will put the recommendation into template format to present to the subcommittee. Judge Lager suggested that the National Center for State Courts be contacted to see what other states use this term.
3. The subcommittee discussed the draft template that Attorney Berris presented on the Permanent Master File. Judge Lager recommended that some language regarding further study of additional technology be added. The subcommittee agreed that it could be presented after the new language is added.
4. The subcommittee discussed the draft template that Attorney Berris presented on how to Improve Juror Utilization. Suggestions for changes to the template were to attach current statistics to the template, to clarify the role of the Chief Clerk in the recommendation, to add that all courts use a standard formula to estimate the number of jurors they request to be summoned, to add that a location by location study be conducted to review the roles that the Chief Clerk, Case Flow and Presiding Criminal and Civil Judges have in estimating the number of jurors needed and to add that no jurors be summoned during Judge’s Institute, the annual CBA meeting, and between the Christmas and New Year’s Day holiday.
5. The subcommittee discussed the template that Attorney Berris presented on how to Improve Employment Information provided to jurors. The subcommittee agreed that it could be presented as is.

6. The subcommittee reviewed the changes suggested by Attorney Sandak on the Frequently Asked Questions about Jury Duty on the website. Judge Lager suggested that the changes be put into a side by side comparison chart and asks that everyone look at the website to suggest changes. Judge Dewey suggested that a question about military personnel be added.
7. A mock version of the suggested changes will be made of the summons and reminder notice for final review by the subcommittee. The suggested changes for the Jury Handbook will be put into template format.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 14, 2009 via teleconference at 8:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.