

Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
Jury Committee
December 4, 2008

Present: Hon. Linda K. Lager, Hon. Frank M. D'Addabbo, Jr., Attorney Mathew Auger, Hon. Barbara Bellis, Attorney Karen A. Berris, Attorney Timothy Patrick Brady, Attorney Michael R. Corsello, Hon. J. Robert Devlin, Jr., Attorney Kyle Harrell, Hon. Maureen M. Keegan, Attorney Ernest J. Mattei, Hon. Aaron Ment, Attorney Ralph Monaco, Attorney Cesar A. Noble, Attorney Daniel E. Ryan, III, Attorney Jay H. Sandak, Attorney William Sadek, Dean Brad Saxton, Hon. Carl J. Schuman, Hon. Dan Shaban, Hon. Michael R. Sheldon, Attorney Richard A. Silver, Attorney Jessica Torres, Attorney Lawrence Tytla, and Attorney Michael Walsh.

Absent: Hon. Julia DiCocco Dewey, Hon. Nicola E. Rubinow, and David Ward.

The Jury Committee was called to order at approximately 2:10 p.m. by the Hon. Frank M. D'Addabbo, Jr., Jury Committee Co-Chair.

Judge D'Addabbo welcomed committee members to the New Britain JD Courthouse and introduced Committee Chairperson, the Hon. Linda K. Lager.

Judge Lager asked all members present to introduce themselves.

Joseph D. D'Alesio, Executive Director Superior Court Operations, provided a summary of: (a) Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers' formation of the Public Service and Trust Commission; (b) the Strategic Plan that arose from the Commission; (c) the Implementation Committees that have been created as a result of the Strategic Plan; (d) the Jury Committee's role in putting into effect several key components of the Strategic Plan.

Karen (Kay) Berris, Deputy Director/Jury Administrator, presented an overview of the current state jury system.

Judge Lager introduced a video titled, "Order in the Classroom", which was then shown.

At the conclusion of the video, Judge Lager read the mission statement of the Jury Committee: "To determine whether the Judicial Branch uses best practices for summoning, notification, management and utilization of jurors and to recommend new approaches and initiatives."

Judge Lager explained that the committee's work will focus on four major areas covering what is known as the "life cycle" of a juror's contact with the Judicial Branch. The Jury Committee will have four subcommittees based on the life cycle concept. Judge Lager also presented examples of areas of review within the specific cycle. The subcommittees and the examples were described by Judge Lager as follows:

1. Before Court Appearance
 - Summons and notification
 - Qualification

- Juror Publications
 - Juror Questionnaire
 - Scheduling Issues
 - ADA Issues
2. Arrival
- Reporting Excuses
 - Facilities and Logistics
 - Orientations Issues
 - Commencement of Voir Dire
3. Voir Dire
- Civil vs. Criminal Procedure
 - Facilities and Accommodations
 - Management
 - Utilization
 - Selected vs. Not Selected
4. Selected Juror
- Notification of Trial Schedule
 - Procedure For Trial Day
 - Expectations of Transparency vs. Security Concerns
 - Innovative Practices
 - Accommodations
 - Post Verdict Issues
 - Feedback and Evaluations

Judge Lager indicated that related areas of concern such as juror pay, outreach program, training of staff and lawyers, and confidentiality issues should also be undertaken by the Jury Committee.

Judge Lager asked all members to select two subcommittees they would be willing to serve on and indicate whether they would be willing to chair a committee. Members were instructed to forward committee selections to Kay Berris. Subcommittees will be formed by December 12, 2008.

Judge D'Addabbo discussed possible future dates for committee activity including:

- January 22, 2009 for a meeting between the committee co-chairs and sub-committee chairs
- March 26, 2009 for a meeting of the full committee
- April 20, 2009 for recommendations of the sub-committees
- May 14, 2009 for a meeting of the full committee
- June 1, 2009 for recommendations of the committee to the Public Service and Trust Commission.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

