

**Limited Jurisdiction and Traffic Law Committee**  
**Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes**  
**January 12, 2024**  
**via Microsoft Teams**

1. Attendance: The following members participated in the meeting: James Burns, Sam Conrad, Garland Graves, Steven Hagen, David Happe (chair), Kyle Noone, Steven Poore, Roman Ricker, and Travis Sandifur. The meeting was staffed by Mindy Pickett from IOCS.
2. Approval of Minutes: The committee reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the July 14, 2023, meeting.
3. City and Town Court Manual Updates: The committee reviewed and approved revisions to the manual including 2023 legislation and criminal rules changes. The committee tabled approving the revisions in the criminal rules regarding change of judge until the next meeting.
4. Updates to Benchbook: The committee reviewed and approved revisions to the Benchbook including 2023 legislation and case law updates on *Turner v. Knowles* and *Wang v. Sun*. The committee discussed eviction sealing best practices and automatic sealing after dismissal and opted to leave the guidance as is.
5. Weighted Caseload Study: The importance of accurately reflecting time regarding small claims and eviction case types in the upcoming weighted caseload study was discussed.
6. Potential Committee Projects: Mindy provided data from Odyssey on the amount of eviction hearing advisements vs. the number of cases that participated in the pre-eviction diversion program. The committee discussed their concerns with the mandated advisement and its impact on litigants. Mindy will get updated fourth quarter 2023 statistics and circulate via email. The committee agreed to communicate as a group their concerns and feedback with the Indiana Supreme Court. Discussions regarding other potential projects including creating a listserv for small claims questions and proceeding supplemental best practices were tabled until the next meeting.
7. Other business:
  - a. The committee reviewed and discussed five published cases: Piccadilly Mgt. v. Abney, 215 N.E.3d 1078 (Ind. App. 2023), Priest v. State, 215 N.E.3d 1099 (Ind. App. 2023), Murphy v. Cook, No. 23A-SC-1614, 2023 WL 8793287 (Ind. App. Dec. 20, 2023), Taft v. Piper, 222 N.E.3d 1070 (Ind. App. 2023), and Wenner v. Hensley, No. 23A-SC-973, 2023 WL 8361307 (Ind. App. Dec. 4, 2023). Judge Graves agreed to draft case law summaries on *Piccadilly* and *Taft*. Mag. Sandifur agreed to draft a summary of *Priest*.
  - b. Mindy reported that the 2024 Small Claims Manual has been posted to the website and that Indiana Legal Services reached out and wanted to provide feedback on the manual. At the time of the meeting no feedback had been received. The committee asked Mindy to follow-up with ILS and agreed to do a review of the manual during the third quarter of 2024.

**2024 Meeting Dates: April 12, July 12, and October 11**

The meetings will be held virtually at 11am (eastern) on Microsoft Teams.