

**Community Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
February 20, 2015**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met by conference call on February 20, 2015.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: Therese Hannah, Helen Marchal, Charles Todd, and Tiffany Vivo.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer and Elizabeth Osborn provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the October 2014 meeting were approved.
4. **Video Project.** The committee discussed the first cut of the video that was done by Justin Harter. The committee members liked what has been done so far and discussed the possibility of a voice-over at the beginning of the video to make the purpose of the video clear. The committee also discussed the need for edits on length, diversity and theme.
5. **Constitution Day.** Elizabeth Osborn reported that Constitution Day is on September 17<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the response to last year's jury duty curriculum was good, so the Supreme Court plans to expand the curriculum for younger grade school children. Ms. Osborn also stated that she hoped to have another preparatory class for judges at the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference.
6. **Proposal on Use of Electronic Devices in the Courtroom by Media.** The committee discussed a proposal from Steve Key of the Hoosier State Press Association on use of electronic devices by the media in the courtroom and reviewed a handout from Mr. Key. The committee requested that Mr. Key be invited to the next meeting for discussion.
7. **Law School for Journalists.** Jenny Bauer reported that she and Kathryn Dolan had discussed discontinuing the formal law school for journalists in response to the small turnout for the last two sessions. Ms. Bauer stated that Ms. Dolan suggested changing the format to a one morning or afternoon session on a single topic, with discussion directed by a law school professor.
8. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee is scheduled for April 29, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Staff Attorney  
Indiana Judicial Center

**Community Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
April 29, 2015**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Convention Center on April 29, 2015.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: Blaine Akers, Julie Cantrell, Therese Hannah, Helen Marchal, Charles Todd, Tiffany Vivo, and James Ahler, chair.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Guest.** Steve Key, Director of the Hoosier State Press Association, attended as a guest.
4. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the February 2015 meeting were approved.
5. **Proposal from Hoosier State Press Association.** The committee discussed a proposal from the Hoosier State Press Association on use of electronic devices by media in the courtroom. Steve Key informed the committee that some courts allow media to use electronic devices in the courtroom and some do not. He stated that the Hoosier State Press Association suggests a policy that would cut down on courtroom disturbances and allow regulated media use of devices. Mr. Key also stated that the policy would apply to credentialed media as defined by IC 34-46-4-1. The committee discussed the media rules related to Supreme Court oral arguments and will continue to work on the draft.
6. **Video Project.** Jenny Bauer reported that she is looking for a judge to do a voice-over to introduce the video. She also reported that Elizabeth Osborn suggested using Supreme Court's photo library to identify photos that might be good in the video.
7. **Constitution Day.** Jenny Bauer reported on behalf of Elizabeth Osborn for the Constitution Day update. Ms. Bauer reported that Constitution Day is September 17<sup>th</sup> and will have an expanded curriculum to include younger grade school children.
8. **IJA Awards.** The Committee discussed sending out the request for nominations in September to attract more nominations for the judge and journalist awards.
9. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee is scheduled for August 14, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Staff Attorney  
Indiana Judicial Center

**Community Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
August 14, 2015**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met by teleconference on August 14, 2015.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: Blaine Akers, Julie Cantrell, Douglas Fahl, Therese Hannah, Helen Marchal, Christopher Newton, Charles Todd, and Chair James Ahler.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer and Elizabeth Osborn provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the April 2015 meeting were approved.
4. **Constitution Day.** Elizabeth Osborn reported that 4000 students participated in Constitution Day activities led by judges last year. She stated that Chief Justice Rush is interested in a Colorado-based civics education program called “Judicially Speaking”. The program uses a philosophy of learning by doing—judges go to classrooms to interact with students to teach a deeper understanding about the role courts play in everyday life. The topic covers when children should be tried as adults. The committee liked the idea of promoting the Colorado model this year and also liked the idea of not just lecturing to the students. Ms. Osborn reported that the next steps are sending a letter to judges about the Constitution Day outreach opportunity from Judge Ahler and creating a webpage with the content.
5. **Ideas from Chief Justice.** Judge Ahler reported that he met with Chief Justice Rush on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the work of the committee. Judge Ahler said that Chief Justice Rush asked the committee to continue its work on promoting Constitution Day and to also promote National Adoption Day. The Chief Justice suggested writing a Court Times article on the work of the committee and reinstating the law school for journalists program. Judge Ahler also reported that Chief Justice Rush reviewed the electronic devices in the courtroom proposal and requested the committee to put the draft into rule form for submission to the Rules Committee.
6. **Use of Electronic Devices in Courtroom.** Jenny Bauer reported that she revised the draft proposal on use of electronic devices in the courtroom as suggested by Chief Justice Rush. She distributed a copy of the proposed rule and explained that the rule would give discretion to judges to permit members of the media to use electronic devices in the courtroom. The rule would also give judges

discretion to prohibit or limit the use of electronic devices by persons who are not members of the media. The committee discussed the draft proposed rule and decided to meet at the September conference to finalize the draft. Judge Ahler asked the committee members to send any proposed changes to Jenny Bauer for discussion at the September meeting. Jenny Bauer stated that she will schedule the meeting through an email poll of members.

7. **Retiring Members.** Jenny Bauer reported that Judge Dennis Carroll and Magistrate Meeks will be leaving the committee in September when their terms end. She thanked them for their service to the committee.
8. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee is scheduled for November 13, 2015 at 1 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Staff Attorney  
Indiana Judicial Center

**Community Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
September 9, 2015**

- 1. Members present:** Julie Cantrell, Douglas Fahl, Helen Marchal, Christopher Newton, Charles Todd, Tiffany Vivo, and James Ahler, chair.
  
- 2. Use of electronic devices in courtroom-draft rule.** Judge Ahler reminded the committee members that he presented the Hoosier State Press Association's draft on use of electronic devices in the courtroom to Chief Justice Rush in June and that she had asked the committee to put the proposal into "rule form". The committee members discussed the draft rule and Jenny Bauer explained changes that were made since the August meeting based on committee feedback. The committee discussed the changes and agreed that the rule is necessary because media no longer use pad and paper for reporting. The committee also discussed the discretionary nature of the rule and that it provides a template for judges to use.
  
- 3. Constitution Day.** Jenny Bauer reported that Constitution Day is September 17<sup>th</sup> and close to 50 judges have signed up to participate. The Supreme Court's Communication Team has asked that judges take photographs of their presentations in classrooms.
  
- 4. Announcement of New Members.** Jenny Bauer reported that the following judges are new members of the committee: Kathleen Lang as a senior judge, Sheila Moss, Greg Granger, Sheryl Lynch, Michael Morrissey.
  
- 5. Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee is Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Staff Attorney  
Indiana Judicial Center

**Community Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
November 13, 2015**

- 1. Members present:** Blaine Akers, Julie Cantrell, Greg Granger, Kathleen Lang, Sheryl Lynch, Michael Morrissey, Christopher Newton, Charles Todd, and James Ahler, chair.
- 2. Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the August 2015 meeting were approved with a correction to item #7. The September 2015 minutes were approved with a correction to item # 2 regarding the Chief Justice asking that the proposal be put into rule form.
- 3. Use of electronic devices in courtroom-draft rule.** The committee members continued their discussion on the draft rule for use of electronic devices in the courtroom. The committee members discussed the process for moving forward in rule form and whether media members should be required to wear identification in courtrooms. The committee also discussed whether the use of electronic devices in courtrooms should be left to local rule. The committee members asked Judge Ahler and Jenny Bauer to discuss the issue of media identification cards with Steve Key of the Hoosier State Press Association and bring information back to the next meeting.
- 4. Constitution Day.** Jenny Bauer reported that 40 judges and 1400 students participated in Constitution Day activities. Judge Lang, Judge Lynch, and Judge Ahler reported that they liked the new programming because it engaged the students more. Judge Cantrell reported that she used the old program because she spoke to 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- 5. Community Relations video.** Jenny Bauer reported that she distributed the most recent version of the video to committee members for their review prior to the meeting. She explained the recent edits to the video and that a working title is "From the Courthouse to the Schoolhouse—Judges in the Community". The committee members discussed the target audience for the video and decided that judges and teachers should be the primary target. Judge Ahler suggested that the final version of the video should be posted to the Supreme Court's website and asked if Kathryn Dolan might be able to help promote the video to the judiciary. The committee decided to continue working on a title for the video.

6. **2016 meeting dates.** The committee scheduled the following meeting dates for 2016: February 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m., April 27<sup>th</sup> at Noon (in conjunction with the Spring Judicial College); September 15 at 4 p.m. (in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana); and December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
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Indiana Judicial Center