

Virtual Court Proceedings Committee

Minutes – July 24, 2020

Present – Chief Judge St. Peter, Chief Judge Berens, Judge Torline, Judge Rush, Judge Roush, Judge Weingart, Marilyn Targos, Stephanie Gerken, Ellen House, Jen Olsen, Jennie Leach, Amanda Truan

Staff – Amber Smith, Sarah Hoskinson, John Houston, Cayce Good

The committee approved the minutes from the July 10, 2020 meeting.

Judge St. Peter invited the subcommittee chairs to report on the progress of their subcommittees.

Data Gathering Subcommittee

Ellen House reported that the attorney survey has been distributed to all attorneys who are registered with eFiling system. She indicated that the subcommittee had already received 547 responses, representing 104 counties. The subcommittee planned to keep the survey open for another week. Ellen said the majority of attorneys who had responded indicated they did not favor the use of AVC for jury trials or evidentiary hearings. A significant number of the initial responses came from civil attorneys who said AVC is good for routine matters, as it saves a lot of time because they do not have to travel to different counties for hearings.

Ellen informed the committee that a report on the attorney survey might be ready in time for the next meeting.

Guidelines Subcommittee

Judge Berens reported that the guidelines subcommittee met by BlueJeans earlier in the day on July 24. He said the subcommittee has a rough draft of standards and guidelines and plans to meet again within the next two weeks to discuss further revisions. The subcommittee intends to submit the final draft to the larger committee for review and discussion about how to move forward.

Cayce Good gave a report on his research to date regarding confrontation clause issues.

Other Business

Judge St. Peter provided the committee with a compiled list of equipment that courts may need to establish a virtual courtroom. He solicited any additions to the list; the committee had no additions. Judge Berens noted that having multiple inputs in a courtroom can sometimes cause delays due to greater demands on bandwidth. The committee agreed to provide the equipment list to OJA with the caveats that 1) the list is not all-inclusive, 2) not every court will need every item on the list, and 3) courts should consider how new and expanded technology may affect bandwidth.

The next committee meeting will be held on August 7, 2020 at noon. *[Update: The August 7, 2020 committee meeting was subsequently cancelled. The next committee meeting will be held August 21, 2020 at noon.]*