



Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee Meeting (LRCC)

In-Person Meeting: September 30, 2022

James R. Browning United States Courthouse
San Francisco, CA

MINUTES

Participants: Misty Perry Isaacson, CAC, Chair, Roger Townsend, WAW, Chair Elect, Cynthia Jones, WAW, Vice Chair, Michelle Nesbett, AK, Amy Chang and Alexander W. Samuels, AZ, Robert S. Marticello, CAC, Jerome Price, CAE, Kathleen Hartnett, CAN, Janet Cabral and Gary Osborne, CAS, Cynthia Ecube, GU, Katie Ball (ID), Dominic Cossi, MT, Lydia Anderson Dana and Susan Wilk (OR), Brett Uhrich, WAE, Mohammed Ali Hamoudi (WAW), and Brian Goldman, Chair, Appellate Lawyer Representatives

Unable to Participate: Maile S. Miller (HI), Holly Parker and Lindsay Ager, (NV)

Staff: Susan Y. Soong, Circuit Executive, Renée S. Lorda, Asst. Circuit Executive, Jeanette Hrnyak, Conference and Education Asst., Pamela O'Neill, Conference Administrator

I. Welcome and Introductions

Misty Perry Isaacson (CAC), LRCC Chair

Misty Perry Isaacson brought the first “live” LRCC meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She welcomed all participants and expressed appreciation for everyone’s contributions of topic ideas for the 2023 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. She also acknowledged the importance of resuming the meeting with the Conference Executive Committee in order to broaden the participation of lawyers in the development of Conference programs.

II. Remarks by the Circuit Executive

Susan Y. Soong, Circuit Executive

Susan Soong welcomed the LRCC and described her background and career with the Ninth Circuit. She has been circuit executive for one year and was Clerk of Court for the Northern District of California for five years. Prior to that, she was Chief Deputy of Operations for the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals where she first started as a staff attorney after graduating

from law school. Ms. Soong explained that the Circuit benefits tremendously from the expertise and the special energy and involvement the lawyer representatives bring to the projects they are involved in. She discussed various experiences she has had with lawyer representatives as a clerk. Unlike other circuits, the lawyers contribute to a variety of projects in addition to the circuit conference. Ms. Soong concluded her remarks with appreciation for the LRCC's willingness to be involved.

III. Topic Suggestions/Brainstorming Roger M. Townsend (WAW), LRCC Chair Elect

Roger Townsend discussed the stimulation and the process of coming up with ideas for the programs. He encouraged participants to be creative with panelists. He shared his story about FBI Director Christopher Wray, a high school classmate. He described the very long process it took to confirm Mr. Wray's participation. Mr. Townsend explained that when considering panelists for programs, no authority is given to make the invitation on first contact. The Chief Judge has to approve all the speakers. Mr. Townsend explained the importance of inviting speakers who are diverse, not only ethnically diverse but it is also important to involve panelists who are geographically diverse and have ideological differences. For this reason, assembling panels can be challenging.

Ms. Perry Isaacson turned the proceedings over to Roger Townsend and asked Bobbie Marticello (CAC) to discuss the planning for the November 13-14 Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges happening in Tucson. This will be the first in-person gathering in three years. Bobbie explained that one of the programs will discuss small business reorganization and changes to the code. He explained that the next LRCC Conference program will be in San Diego February (26-27) with the Conference of Chief District Judges. Robbie explained the meetings with the Chief Judges that often provide the opportunity to gather in intimate settings with the chief district judges the night before the education program. The Conference of Chief District Judges provides the opportunity to speak directly with the Chiefs about procedural and sometime, tell the Chiefs about matters they may not know about. The most recent meeting happened in May in Pasadena where the Chiefs were provided with an outstanding program about the implementation of The First Step Act that had been organized by former LRCC member Colin Prince (WAE).

IV. Programs and Activities Related to the Circuit Conference Roger M. Townsend,
LRCC Chair Elect

Roger discussed some of the activities involved with the circuit conference. A key social networking event involves only lawyers and is sponsored by law firms throughout the Circuit. Roger explained that Misty Perry Isaacson has worked very hard on raising funds and organizing the event that takes place on Sunday night after everyone arrives at the circuit conference. He

explained that a volunteer or two will be needed to organize this gathering. He described several Conference programs involving an orientation for the new lawyer representatives and the leadership changes. Elections will be held for a new LRCC Vice Chair and two “at-large” members for the Conference Executive Committee. the programs for the

IV. Big Sky Dinners

Linda Anderson Dana (OR)

The committee spent some time exchanging ideas about financing district dinners and coping with the increasing costs of hosting the dinners. Montana was very difficult because of the expense and the need for transportation to the various dinner venues. Also, there were some districts who combined forces in order to deal with the exorbitant buy-out requirements some venues wanted. Providing transportation was another hurdle. The final issue involved how districts deal with alcohol. The districts will not contribute to alcohol since judges have to pay the alcohol separate from their meals.

V. Options in Portland

Susan Wick (OR)

Susan Wick suggested people reach out to her and Linda Anderson Dana. She encouraged LRCC members to talk to their chief judge and keep the dinner at \$100. Explore new collaborations with other districts and have an open mind since it provides the opportunity to meet people you would not usually meet. Cynthia Ecube explained that the islands of Hawaii, Guam, and CNMI join with Nevada. Cynthia added to Roger Townsend’s points about working with the Chief District Judge by agreeing on a per plate dinner cost and also choosing a buffet style arrangement which is more cost effective.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM. The next LRCC meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25, at 4:00 PM PDT.