

MEMORANDUM

To: LLA Membership

From: Gary Weber

Date: January 6, 2008

Subject: Annual Report of the Customs and Rules Committee

The LLA Customs and Rules Committee met twice in 2007.

The Committee presently has under consideration the following issues:

- **An update of the Lycoming County Orphans' Court Rules.** These local rules had not been reviewed for a number of years. A sub-committee of LLA members who practice in the areas governed by the Orphans' Court Rules was commissioned to thoroughly examine the existing rules and to consider revising, eliminating or adding to existing rules. Some recommendations were made to the Committee in December of 2007 and it is hoped that revisions in the areas of guardianships and distribution of estates will be referred to the Court for approval in January, 2008.

The sub-committee continues to meet to consider several additional issues and will likely report back with additional revisions, later in 2008.

- **Civil Case Arbitration Limit.** The court has indicated a desire to increase the arbitration limit to \$50,000. An order will be submitted to the Court in January 2008 to implement this change. The increase will become effective in the spring.
- **Title Search Customs** - The Committee referred the question of review of the LLA Title Search Customs to the Real Estate Committee for consideration.
- **Electronic Access/Filing of Documents.** The Committee has had a preliminary discussion of this issue, and has had favorable response from the Court. Further action is to be discussed at the first meeting of 2008.
- **Domestic Relations Local Rules.** The Committee has discussed the possibility of examining the rules in the domestic relations area for revision, in 2008. The local rules in this area are clearly out-of-date. The process of examining these rules will probably begin later in 2008.
- **Scheduling Order Revised.** The only change to the local rules in 2007 was to the civil case scheduling order (Lyc. Co. R.C.P. L1007C) which was amended to remove the reference to the defunct Lycoming Mediation Project.