

MINUTES
BENCH BAR COMMITTEE
Monday, November 5, 2018
By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

Attendance

Present were: Judge Butts, Judge Lovecchio, Judge McCoy, Aaron Biichle, Brian Bluth, Michele Frey, Jessica Harlow, Brad Hillman, Ed Mitchell, Joseph Rider, Adrienne Stahl, David Wilk

Old Business

Jury Questionnaires

Jury questionnaires for use in civil cases will be a topic for discussion at a conference of the Civil Trial Attorneys which has been rescheduled for November 16, 2018 at noon.

Courtroom #3

Senior Judges Kenneth Brown, Dudley Anderson, Richard Gray and J. Michael Williamson will continue to cover Courtroom #3 for the remainder of 2018 and the year 2019.

New Business

Changes in Requirements for Forfeiture of Firearms

House Bill 2060 has been passed and signed by the Governor. This statute becomes effective March 25, 2019. This statute changes the law to require relinquishment of all firearms to the Sheriff in all cases where a Protection From Abuse Order is imposed following a hearing. Firearms will no longer be permitted to be surrendered to relatives or third parties.

The statute also requires relinquishment to the Sheriff of all firearms within 24 hours of being convicted or pleading guilty to a crime of domestic violence. Relinquishment continues until released from incarceration or five (5) years whichever is longer.

Changes in Policy for Release of Prison Wire Tap Information

The County has changed its policy pertaining to release of wire tap recordings to allow release pursuant to a subpoena without the need for a court order.

Back Log of Criminal Cases

There is currently a back log of criminal cases which exceeds 400. There are also 8 pending murder trials including 2 death penalty cases.

The back log is attributed to the reluctance of the District Attorney's office to utilize plea bargains or early disposition of criminal charges in appropriate cases.

If the back log continues, it will interfere with the ability to conduct civil trials.

Admission Ceremony

An admission ceremony has been scheduled for December 6, 2018. Admissions forms are available on the Law Associates website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2019 at noon in the Law Association Executive Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell
Chairman