

*Mitchell
Gallagher*
Attorneys at Law

J. Neafie Mitchell (1919-1996)

C. Edward S. Mitchell
Robert A. Gallagher
Gary L. Weber
Bret J. Southard
Darryl R. Wishard

Email: cesm@mmgsw.com

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John Humphrey, Esquire
President, Lycoming Law Association
Pine Street Plaza
321 Pine Street, Suite 217
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Re: Report of Bench/Bar Committee of
Lycoming Law Association -- 2004**

Dear Jack:

The members of the Bench/Bar Committee for 2004 were as follows:

Honorable Kenneth D. Brown, Honorable William S. Kieser, Honorable Nancy L. Butts, Honorable Dudley N. Anderson, Honorable Richard A. Gray, Honorable Clinton W. Smith, William Burd, Rita Alexyn, Brian Bluth, Joseph Campagna, Jr., Roan Confer, Jr., Michael Dinges, Robert Eckenrode, Robert Elion, Allen Ertel, William Knecht, Marc Lovecchio, C. Edward S. Mitchell, Joseph Rider, Clifford Rieders, Kevin Way, Darryl Wishard and Janice Yaw.

The Committee met quarterly on April 5, 2004, July 7, 2004, October 4, 2004, and January 3, 2005.

At each meeting, each member of the Committee in attendance was given the opportunity to speak.

The judges discussed changes in the monitoring and pretrial conferencing of criminal cases in an effort to expedite disposition of cases which are not to be tried and to reduce the criminal backlog. The judges also discussed the new juvenile drug court and its success and the new DUI court which will begin later this year. Other items discussed by the judges

Mitchell Mitchell Gallagher Weber Southard & Wishard P.C.

www.mmgsw.com

10 West Third Street, Williamsport, Pa. 17701-6513

(570) 323-8404 Fax (570) 323-8585

included their decision against requiring male protection from abuse defendants to be evaluated by Men Against Abuse, amendments to local rules required by changes to statewide rules on discovery motions, scheduling, rules to show cause and mediation in medical malpractice cases. Other topics included the statewide computerized criminal docketing system which will be implemented in Lycoming County in February 2005. The increasing of the jury pool and the sources of perspective jurors was discussed. The judges commented favorably on the success of various mediation programs now in effect and encouraged attorneys to expand their use of mediation in all types of cases.

The lawyer members of the Committee commended Judge Brown for his response to the attack by one of the Commissioners on Kevin Way and the Court for its handling of juvenile offenders. They also commended Judge Brown for the favorable publicity the Court received from his presentation to the Board of Transitional Living Center.

Members of the Committee reported on legislative amendments which effect the functioning of the courts, the hiring and use of the Association Executive Director, the functioning of the early jury selection in civil cases, conflicts in family court scheduling, the procedures for filing PFA's and the lack of any meaningful measurement of recidivism in domestic violence.

Minutes of the meetings are posted on the Lycoming Law Association Web site promptly after each meeting. Copies of the minutes are available on the Law Association Web site.

Attendance at the meetings was poor. Three members of the Committee attended no meetings. Seven members attended only one of the four meetings. It is requested that members who request assignment to the Committee commit to attending meetings if they are selected. The meetings for the remainder of the year will be April 4, August 1 and October 3. Under the current schedule, meetings will be held at noon on those dates.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

CESM/klm