

MEMORANDUM

To: LLA Membership

From: Gary Weber

Date: December 19, 2013

Subject: Annual Report of the Customs and Rules Committee

The LLA Customs and Rules Committee met several times in 2013 to address several requests by the court for revisions to the local rules:

1. Revision to Lyc. Co R.C.P. L1915.13-1 - emergency custody relief.

Judge McCoy proposed a change to Lyc. Co R.C.P. L1915.13-1, pertaining to petitions for emergency custody relief. The court was having difficulty scheduling the hearings within the 5 days required by the rule. The Committee considered the request and recommended a revision to the rule. On May 6, 2013, an order was entered to extend the time within which the full hearing must be held from 5 to 10 days.

2. Civil arbitration rules changes.

Judge Anderson requested that the committee consider a proposal to modify the arbitration rules in several respects. The committee discussed the proposal and submitted a revised proposal for approval, which was adopted by the court on December 5, 2013. Lyc. Co. R.C.P. L1301, L1302.1, L1303, L1304.1, L1306, L1308, L1311 were revised to remove references to the obsolete practice of praeciping the case for arbitration, to clarify the current procedures and to make conforming and stylistic changes so terminology and references are consistent throughout the rules. New Lyc. Co. R.C.P. L1315 relating to notifications required upon settlement of cases was issued.

3. Proposal to implement local rule to require the prothonotary to revise party addresses in the court computer system.

Judge Lovecchio submitted a rule proposal that would have required the prothonotary's office to update party address information based on addresses in filed documents. The purpose was to address instances of notices sent to incorrect addresses and parties not appearing for hearings. The committee met to discuss the issues and decided to explore the issues further with the parties. A committee meeting attended by Suzanne Fedele, and Judges Lovecchio and Anderson resulted in an informal resolution of the issues, and the request for the committee to issue a rule was withdrawn.

4. Orphan's Court motion cover sheet.

Several years ago, Judge Butts requested the court to consider a dedicated Orphan's Court motion cover sheet. An acceptable form was finally drafted this year and an order issued on December 5, 2013 to require the use of the new form in Orphan's Court matters.

5. Civil motion cover sheet revision.

The court requested a change to the civil motion cover sheet to add a paragraph requiring the parties to confer in an attempt to resolve motions. An order was issued on December 11, 2013 to require the use of the new form.