

2023 Criminal Law Committee Report

As in 2022, during the year 2023, the Criminal Law Committee did not have any meetings per se but rather, utilized the Criminal Brown Bag lunches to serve as the meetings. That involves both the Court and the District Attorney's Office.

The backlog that was discussed in the 2022 report has all but disappeared. Utilizing jury selection on an every-other-week basis, it appears as though court scheduling is almost up to date.

During the year we had the opportunity to have representatives from Torrance State Hospital appear and discuss the role it plays in determining competency to proceed to trial or plea. Due to a lack in funding, there is a backlog of individuals waiting to get there. Unfortunately, there are only 80 male beds and 24 female beds to cover 48 counties.

There were discussions concerning once competency is restored, do the local prisons maintain the medications that were utilized to restore competency. That has been an issue.

There were discussions on how we are going to proceed with criminal cases in 2024. The Court has decided to continue jury selections on a pick-and-go basis which basically means jury selections will occur on Mondays and Tuesdays and trials will be scheduled later that week or the following week. Jury selection will be on a monthly basis.

Robert A. Hoffa, Chairman