

MINUTES
BENCH BAR COMMITTEE
Monday, November 4, 2019
By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

Attendance

Present were: Judge Linhardt, Judge Lovecchio, Judge McCoy, Judge Tira, Bob Elion, Michele Frey, Skip Greevy, Jessica Harlow, Jennifer Heverly, Brad Hillman, Ed Mitchell, Joe Rider, Jeffrey Rowe, Adrienne Stahl and Mike Wiley

Old Business

The court calendar for 2020 has been completed and is available on the LLA website.

New Business

Family Court Local Rules

Judge McCoy reported that the Family Law Committee is requesting a change to the Lycoming County Local Rules pertaining to emergency custody relief. Specifically, the Committee is recommending rescision of Local Rule 1915.13-1 and 1915.13-2, both of which relate to an ex parte emergency custody procedure. The Committee related that these Rules are no longer viewed as necessary due to amendments to the statewide custody rules. At the present time, Lycoming County is the only county with such an ex parte procedure, and the rescision would bring our county in line with other counties operating under the statewide rules relating to emergency custody.

Trial Terms/Jury Selection/Call of the Criminal List

There will be five 5-week trial terms during 2020. Jury selection for each term will be Monday through Friday. There will be a call of the criminal list the Friday before each week of jury selection. This change is intended to reduce the number of criminal trials at an earlier date and thereby reduce the number of criminal juries selected.

Administrative Order for Payment of Probation Officers

The Administrative Order previously issued by Judge Butts requiring the Commissioners to make certain salary adjustments for probation officers has been suspended by the Court at the request of the County Solicitor for reconsideration after the election.

The background is that the Court receives Act 35 funding from the state toward funding the probation office. Our Court has traditionally contributed these funds to the County's general budget. The Commissioners have been reluctant to pay certain salaries for probation office supervisors and to hire needed additional probation officers. As a result, the Court issued the administrative order requiring certain salary adjustments. Depending upon the results of the election of Commissioners, the problem may be relieved.

30th Anniversary of Lycoming Law Foundation

The Lycoming Law Foundation is celebrating its 30th year. The Foundation is funded by contributions by local attorneys of arbitration fees and memorials given in honor of deceased members of the Bar.

The Foundation makes contributions to the funding of legal services and other selected charities.

Each member of the Bar will be solicited for a contribution of \$30.00 to the Foundation in celebration of the Foundation's 30th Anniversary.

Upcoming Events

Quizzo. There will be a quizzo contest on November 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the LLA offices. The Judges will have a participating team. Beer and pizza will be provided. All members are welcome.

Bar Admissions. There will be a ceremony for admission of new members of the Bar in Courtroom No. 1 on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Memorial. There will be a special session of court in memory of deceased member, Yvonne Campbell, on Thursday, December 12, 2019 in Courtroom No. 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 3, 2020 at noon in the Law Association Executive Office.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell
Chairman