MINUTES BENCH BAR COMMITTEE

Monday, August 1, 2022 By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

Attendance

Participants were: Judge Butts, Judge Linhardt, Judge Tira, Bill Carlucci, Robert Cronin, Skip Greevy, Jennifer Heverly, Marc Lovecchio, Ed Mitchell, Corey Mowrey, Cliff Rieders, Adrianne Stahl, Tom Waffenschmidt, Dave Wilk

Method: the meeting was conducted by conference call.

Bill Carlucci has been nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge McCoy. Bill will be sworn in on August 5 and begin serving on August 8. He will be handling civil and family court matters. He will be sitting in Courtroom 5.

This appointment does not restrict Bill from running for election next year.

Senior Judge Kenneth Brown will continue to provide Senior Judge coverage in Courtroom 4. Other Senior Judges who will be providing coverage due to the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Lovecchio include Senior Judge Anderson, Senior Judge David Klementik of Somerset County, Senior Judge Edward Reibman of Lehigh County, Senior Judge Jeffrey Smith of Bradford County and Senior Judge Richard Lewis of Dauphin County.

16 additional custody trial days have been added to the court calendar for the remainder of the year.

A Motion was unanimously passed to communicate to the Community Outreach Committee of the Law Association the support of the Bench/Bar Committee for the funding request to the Lycoming Law Association Foundation submitted by North Penn Legal Services for payments to attorneys for indigent parties involved in protection from abuse actions which involve children as protected parties and/or child custody issues.

Judge Tira is working on an initiative to improve access to the Courts for individuals within the autism spectrum. The initiative will include training for attorneys and physical changes to the court facilities.

Lycoming County is one of three counties in the state selected for a Children's Advisory Center (CAC). The CAC is intended to create a one shop facility for interviewing of children involved in legal proceedings and thereby reduce the number of interviews to which some children are subjected.

The meeting began at 12:00 noon and was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be November 7, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell Chairman