

MEMORANDUM

To: LLA Membership
From: Gary Weber
Date: December 31, 2016

Subject: Annual Report of the Customs and Rules Committee

The Lycoming Law Association Customs and Rules Committee met a number of times in 2016. The following individuals served on the Committee in 2016: Gary Weber, Chair; Jennifer Heverly; Norman Lubin; John Pietrovito; Kevin Way, Mary Kilgus, Adrienne J. Stahl, and J. Michael Wiley. Additionally, the following individuals were involved with the revision of the local Orphan's Court rules: Jim Malee, Eric Ladley, and Bob Cronin.

On June 8, 2016 the Court entered an order implementing changes to Lycoming County Rules of Civil Procedure L205.2 and L1910.1, which were amended to implement a different procedure for filing exceptions in domestic relations matters. The rule changes were proposed by the Court and reviewed and revised by the Committee.

The more difficult project undertaken by the Committee in 2016 involved the complete rewriting of the Orphan's Court rules, under a mandate issued by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vacated all local Orphan's Court rules effective September 1, and implemented a comprehensive new state-wide rule scheme. In some cases, local rules are required and in other cases prohibited.

The Elder Law Committee and its chair, Eric Ladley, assisted the Committee in identifying areas needing local rules. A draft set of rules was submitted to the Court in June. State procedure now requires rules changes to be submitted to the appropriate Supreme Court rules committee for approval, and the proposed changes were so submitted in June. A critique with multiple required changes was received in December and will be addressed at a January 10 meeting. In the meantime, there are no local Orphan's Court rules in effect.

In December, the Committee was convened to discuss new rules respecting court reporters and transcripts of court proceedings. These rules were proposed by the Lycoming County judges to comply with recently enacted state rules on the same subject. A draft was circulated and will be submitted to the court in January.

The Customs and Rules Committee had a very busy year!