

MINUTES
BENCH BAR COMMITTEE
Monday, August 12, 2019
By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

Attendance

Present were: President Judge Butts, Aaron Biichle, Brian Bluth, Jessica Harlow, Brad Hillman, Ed Mitchell, Cliff Rieders, Joe Rider

Old Business

There was no Old Business

New Business

Judicial Appointment

Governor Wolf has nominated Ryan Tira, who won both nominations during the May primary, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gray. The Senate has confirmed the nomination. Judge Tira will be sworn in on September 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in Courtroom #1. This appointment will continue until the end of 2019. Judge Tira will begin a 10 year term in January 2020.

Courtroom #3

Judge Tira will be assigned all matters scheduled for Courtroom #3 for the remainder of 2019. These matters will include civil, criminal, family court, custody and juvenile matters.

Since the Court will have a full compliment of active judges, it is anticipated that Senior Judges will not be assigned except in matters where all active judges have recused themselves.

Jury Questionnaires

The additional questions requested by the Civil Bar and approved by the Court for use on jury questionnaires, have been implemented.

Confidentiality Requirements

The APOC has requested comments from practitioners concerning problems encountered by the confidentiality requirements for pleadings.

Court Calendar and Judicial Assignments

The 2020 Court Calendar is being prepared.

Judicial assignments will be as follows:

1. Criminal - President Judge Butts and Judge Lovecchio
2. Civil - Judge Linhardt and Judge Tira
3. Orphan's Court - Judge Linhardt
4. Family Court - Judge McCoy

5. Treatment Court - President Judge Butts
6. Adult Probation - Judge Lovecchio
7. Juvenile Probation - Judge McCoy

Motion Coversheets

It was requested that judges more clearly indicate on motion coversheets what proceeding is being scheduled (conference, argument, hearing) and whether briefs are required.

Judicial Administrative Unit

Judge Butts is the Senior Judge and the Administrative Judge in the Judicial Administrative Unit of which Lycoming County is a part. Lycoming County, at times, provides judges to other counties within the unit where the local judges have recused. Lycoming County rarely receives assistance from other judges within the unit because of the requirements within their local counties.

Law Clerks

A new law clerk has been hired for Judge Linhardt to begin work in September.

Neils Davidson will continue to be the clerk in Courtroom #3 for Judge Tira.

Social Events

The Bar picnic will be August 27, 2019 at Bastress Mountain Winery.

An outing at Knoebels Amusement Report is scheduled for September 7, 2019.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 4, 2019 at noon in the Law Association Executive Office.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell
Chairman