

**MINUTES**  
**BENCH BAR COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 1, 2023

By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

**Attendance**

Participants were: Judge Carlucci, Robert Elion, Jennifer Heverly, Marc Lovecchio, April McDonald, Ed Mitchell, Clifford Rieders, Nicole Spring, Adrienne Stahl, Elizabeth White, David Wilk and Michele Frey

Method: the meeting was conducted by conference call.

Agenda items included requests by the Executive Committee that the Bench/Bar Committee resume in person meetings rather than conference call meetings and the suggestion that the substantive committees be invited to submit topics to the Bench/Bar Committee for consideration.

There was no consensus concerning whether meetings should be in person. There was a consensus that if meetings were to be conducted in person that the location should be the LLA office or another location outside the courthouse. There was a suggestion that the meetings be held in person with the opportunity for those members who could not attend in person to participate by phone. It was pointed out that the LLA office does not have a phone located in the classroom which had previously been used for in person committee meetings.

The suggestion that substantive committees be given the opportunity to submit topics to the Bench/Bar Committee for discussion is acceptable.

The status of electronic filings for civil matters in the Prothonotary's office was discussed. Amendment to the local rules of civil procedure have been drafted and submitted to the PBA civil rules committee for approval. Copies of the proposed electronic filing and service of legal papers rules were circulated by the Court Administrator to the members of the committee.

It was reported that a procedure is being adopted to permit *pro se* parties to get permission from presiding Judges in pending matters in which the *pro se* parties are involved to permit cell phones to be brought into the courthouse.

There was a discussion concerning the different requirements for withdrawals of PFAs in the various courtrooms. Although uniform procedures would be desirable, it was conceded that such a possibility is unlikely.

The meeting began at 12:00 p.m. and was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be August 7, 2023. The Notice will include the method and location.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell  
Chairman