

MINUTES
BENCH BAR COMMITTEE
Monday, February 6, 2023
By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

Attendance

Participants were: Judge Butts, Judge Tira, Bob Elion, Skip Greevy, Ed Mitchell, Corey Mowrey, Adrienne Stahl, Dave Wilk, Tom Heaps and Michele Frey

Method: the meeting was conducted by conference call.

The scheduling of jury selections for the Mondays and Tuesdays of each trial term in both civil and criminal cases, which was reported at the last meeting, is being utilized. The purpose is for juries to be selected closer in time to the actual date for the trial to reduce the numbers of juries which have in the past been picked and not utilized because of subsequent pleas or settlements.

A memorial special session of Court is being scheduled to honor our recently deceased member, Garth Everett. The session has not yet been scheduled but will be in person.

The observance of Law Day will be by special session of Court scheduled for May 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. The theme will be customs of democracy civics, civility and collaboration.

Testing of electronic filing in civil cases is taking place. It is anticipated that electronic filing in civil cases will begin in March, 2023. There was a discussion about whether electronic filing would be available and considered timely if received before midnight. Prothonotary Heaps responded that electronic filing, which is now available in criminal cases, has been considered timely if received before midnight. The discussion was prompted by the fact that the Third Circuit is considering a rule establishing a 5:00 p.m. cut off for electronic filing within the Third Circuit. The persons who participated in the discussion were opposed to any cut off time earlier than midnight.

Volunteers for jurors in mock trials are needed. Those willing to participate should contact Middle District Magistrate Judge Arbuckle.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell
Chairman