

MINUTES
BENCH BAR COMMITTEE
Monday, August 4, 2025
By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

Attendance

Participants were: Judge Butts, Judge Linhardt, Judge Carlucci, Marc Lovecchio, April McDonald, Ed Mitchell, Register & Recorder Dave Huffman, and LLA Executive Director Michele Frey

Method: the meeting was conducted in person at the LLA Office.

Old Business

The staffing shortage in both the Public Defender's Office and the District Attorney's Office continues.

The interviewing of victims of persons qualified under Act 44 for early release from supervision has been completed.

New Business

The civil trial list is current. There is adequate time during trial terms for disposition of the civil cases on the list for trial during that term.

Senior Judges Charles Saylor of Northumberland County and Thomas James of Columbia County are being assigned by the AOPC for handling cases in which all Lycoming County Judges are recused. Senior Judges are only being assigned to specific cases where local Judges are recused because Lycoming County now has a full complement of sitting judges.

Register and Recorder Dave Huffman reported on the newly installed software known as IQS. The system has a fraud alert system available for individuals who register for it. Training is available for users.

Enforcement of the FTC rule attempting to ban most non-competes nationwide with exceptions for existing agreements with senior executives and those related to the sale of a business, has been enjoined nationwide by a federal district court in the northern district of Texas. The FTC has appealed the decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals. The Trump administration has petitioned the Circuit Court for a stay of the appeal pending further consideration on whether to continue to defend the FTC rule. State law pertaining to non-competes remains in effect.

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is issuing an interim final rule that removes the requirement for US companies and US persons to report Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) to FinCEN under the Corporate Transparency Act.

There were no agenda items presented by the Chairmen of the LLA committees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be November 3, 2025 at noon in the LLA Office.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell
Chairman