

Virtual Court Proceedings Committee

April 2, 2021

Present: Chief Judge St. Peter, Chief Judge Berens, Judge Torline, Amanda Truan, Jennifer Olsen, Marilyn Targos, Katherine Oliver, Jennie Leach

Staff: Sarah Hoskinson, John Houston, Amber Smith

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Update on Committee Membership

Judge St. Peter reported that Judge Rush left the bench and is no longer part of the committee. Judge Weingaart resigned his position on the committee as well. Some attorneys will be added to the group to get their insight. Amber contacted prospective attorneys, focusing on geography, practice area, and breadth of experience. Two attorneys are expected to join the committee, but their appointments may not take place until the April administrative conference.

Data Gathering Subcommittee

Judge St. Peter shared thoughts about possible next projects for the subcommittee:

- May consider re-weighting attitudes about the use of technology in court proceedings now and in the future. The surveys moved quickly last time. As we move out of pandemic, attitudes may change.
- Would like the subcommittee to revisit the consumer group. That group did not have a good response rate to that survey, possibly because of time constraints.

Guidelines Subcommittee

Once the attorneys are appointed to the committee, one will be assigned to this subcommittee. Judge St. Peter indicated that the subcommittee might consider standards for hybrid hearings – for civil and criminal – though the focus may be on civil initially. He noted that Judge Berens has been doing some AVC webinars, including one about self-represented litigants and an upcoming one about hybrid hearings.

Judge Torline developed an outline from the committee's AVC standards; this information was presented to municipal court clerks at their conference and webinar. The same presentation will occur at the municipal court judges' conference in April.

Zoom has created a judicial committee that is focused on courts – Judge Torline is serving on that committee. She encouraged committee members to send her any comments about how Zoom functioning can be improved for the court system.

Legislation

Judge St. Peter provided an update on legislative developments, noting that the legislature extended the Chief Justice's authority to authorize the use of AVC in court proceedings when necessary to protect health and safety, or to expedite the handling of court cases.

The next meeting is tentatively set for June 25.