

OCBA Judicial Relations Committee
July 17th, 2019 Meeting Minutes/Notes

- I. Meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Chair Mary Ann Etzler who welcomed attorneys and judges who were present in-person and over the phone.
- II. Introductions of Committee Officers:
 - a. Chair: Mary Ann Etzler
 - b. Vice-Chair: Hon. Martha Adams
 - c. Secretary: Ani Rodriguez-Newbern
 - d. Immediate Past Chair: Hon. Eric DuBois
- III. Chief Judge Myers provided the following updates:
 - a. Judge Myers still staffing Orange County Division 41 for the time being and then it will be transitioned into a ½ Orange and ½ Osceola division.
 - b. The number of open cases in Osceola County (especially in DV) has increased, and the number of cases open in Orange has become more reasonable.
 - c. August will see the transition of Orange County Division 41 into a half division. Judge Pinder Rodriguez will transition into staffing Divisions 41 in Orange and 43 in Osceola with a rotating schedule (i.e. Mondays, Thursdays, and every other Friday in Orange with Tuesday, Wednesday, and every other Friday in Osceola.)
 - d. Addition of 2 new judges (Judge Michael Kraynick and Judge Diego Madrigal, III) starting 7/22/19 in family divisions in Osceola County.
 - e. Judge Schaffer is moving to dependency and delinquency.
 - f. Investiture date – August 15th at 4pm at the courthouse**
 - g. Courthouse construction:
 - i. Could take a year to get shovel to dirt. In the process of getting a design set for the 13 and 14th floors. Floor 14 will become chambers, and floor 13 will become courtrooms. Floor 14 will be tackled first, and it will be a flex space (i.e. the bar may be movable to allow for large jury selection possibilities and changing the well size or adjusting seating for parties). Creating a virtual courtroom to have small matters handled by phone. \$4.5 million from the county has been committed to the buildout.
 - h. Reopening the business court.
 - i. Business court is going to be reopened at the juvenile courthouse.
 - ii. Juvenile divisions will be seeing some changes. Judges in those divisions will be changing their intake procedures come September due to the reopening of the business court.
 - iii. New admin order that is being worked on to repopulate the business court division. Attorneys can file motions to ask for their case to be reassigned. Admin judge will decide who goes. We don't anticipate the rules will change, but the parties may be required to

specifically plead damages. Will look at trial dates and other factors to assess what gets moved where.

- iv. New judge is not necessarily going to be the business court judge. Will look for a judge who can hit the ground running and can manage one division.
 - i. There's a list of 18 on the interview list for the new judge. August 9th for JNC interviews.
 - j. Judge Weiss was recently assigned as appellate admin. Goal to have decisions made within 90 days back up and running. Take note that the mall claims threshold is changing.
- IV. Judge Higbee provided an update on Circuit Domestic:
- a. Orange County Division 41 will be transitioning to Judge Pinder Rodriguez, who will be splitting her time between Orange and Osceola Counties (see above). Her JA will likely be located wherever the judge is.
 - b. DV judges are now conducting ex parte and short matters with the caveat that those hearings will only happen once every three weeks.
 - c. For uncontested divorces, Trial Clerks need to be able to pull the file and check everything prior to hearing. Uncons will now be docketed. Parties need to give at least 48hrs notice of a hearing.
- V. Judge DuBois provided updates on County Civil and County Criminal:
- a. Civil is working to prepare for January 1st when the threshold for amounts in controversy goes up.
 - b. Orange County is one of seven counties selected to participate in a pilot project in small claims.
 - i. Parties will have to opt in.
 - ii. Conflict dates will be considered.
 - iii. Possible mediator in a chatroom sign online.
 - iv. Clerk still not sure of what this entails and what possible Odessa integration looks like.
 - c. Procedures for trial date are changing to accommodate coverage attorneys at mediation.
 - d. Judge Jewett was "crowned" – first judge from orange county to serve as President of the Conference of County Court Judges.
- VI. Good of the Order
- a. Next Thursday's OCBA luncheon will celebrate the Passing of the Gavel to Judge Myers, OCBA President Tony Sos
 - b. OCBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee Women Who Lead event on August 30th, Ahmad AlGendi, OCBA D&I Committee Chair
 - c. Mary Anne De Patrillo is retiring at the end of the year. Search committee is out looking for her replacement, Kim Hosley, OCBA Legal Aid President
 - d. OCBA YLS & CFAWL backpack project is on August 1, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Cami Schwam-Wilcox, CFAWL
 - e. OCBA Bench Bar Conference is on April 3, Karen Fast, OCBA
 - f. New procedure for RSVPing – Google form for the moment, Mary Ann Etzler, Chair

- g. New email address for the JRC that can be used for comments, questions, concerns, etc., Ani Rodriguez-Newbern, Secretary
- h. Forming a sub-committee to review, produce, and/or consolidate forms to streamline processes such as Orders to Show Cause., Mary Ann Etzler, Chair
- i. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. September 11, 2019
 - ii. November 13, 2019
 - iii. January 15, 2020
 - iv. March 11, 2020
 - v. May 13, 2020
 - vi. July 8, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.