

**Minutes of the Federal Practice Executive Committee Meeting**  
**March 7, 2007**

In attendance were:

Hon. Janet Arterton, David Atkins, Anne Louise Blanchard, Hon. Robert N. Chatigny, Dorit S. Heimer, Gary Klein, Charles Lee, Ethan Levin-Epstein (Co-Chair), Nancy Martin, Robert Oliver, Christopher Rooney, David R Schaefer, James Shearin, Frank J. Silvestri, Jonathan Tropp(Co-Chair), Hon. Stefan Underhill, and Philip Walker.

The meeting was called to order by Ethan Levin-Epstein at 6:45 p.m. at the Quinnipiack Club in New Haven.

1. Chief Judge Chatigny gave a report on the state of the District. He noted that the nomination of Vanessa Bryant is before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and may be acted upon shortly. The Court continues to focus on strategies to address congestion in the civil court docket and seek to achieve standards approved by this Committee some years ago. Among other things, the Court is looking at addressing delays in the employment docket and is considering model interrogatories and other strategies. The Court is also considering recommendations from a recently circulated report on managing the backlog in prisoner cases, including early merit review of cases and much greater use of volunteer attorneys. On a related topic, Judge Chatigny hopes that our Section will participate in pilot program sponsored by the CBA regarding representing youngsters at risk in New Britain.
2. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2007 were approved.
3. David Atkins reported that the Education Committee is planning a CLE program on March 29 with Magistrate Judges Garfinkel and Martinez, moderated by Tim Shearin. The Committee is also planning a program on e-discovery for the CBA's annual meeting in June.
4. Ethan Levin-Epstein reported that as Peter Costas could not be present, he had submitted a letter reporting on the status of proposals concerning encroachment in the judicial branch.
5. In Tim Diemand's absence, Jon Tropp raised the topic of whether the Newsletter has outlived its usefulness. Since the discussion of this question at the last meeting, very few people have spoken in support of maintaining the Newsletter and no-one had volunteered to write for it. Accordingly, on motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to disband the Newsletter committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Having not seen Peter Costas' letter, I'm just guessing here. Help!

6. In Elizabeth Stewart's absence, Jon Tropp reported that new local rules are in effect regarding e-discovery and communication with jurors. The rule concerning sealing documents is under consideration by the Court.
7. Ethan Levin-Epstein reported that the Appellate Advocacy Section has offered to put on a program on appellate advocacy for our next full section meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
8. Philip Walker made a presentation regarding a proposed Special Master program. Following his presentation there was a lively discussion about the perceived advantages and likelihood of success of the program in our District.
9. There was some discussion concerning attendance at Section and Executive Committee meetings.
10. Ethan Levin-Epstein solicited volunteers to work on the 2008 St. Clements Conference.
11. Anne Blanchard asked anyone interested in volunteering to work with Legal Services on a program representing truant youth in school expulsion hearings to contact her. She also invited those interested to contact her regarding the pilot program described by Judge Chatigny.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorit S. Heimer  
Secretary