

**Minutes of the Federal Practice Section Executive Committee Meeting**  
**October 28, 2008**

In attendance were:

David Atkins, Anne Louise Blanchard, George Cahill, Hon. Robert Chatigny, Peter Costas, Hon. Warren Eginton, Jonathan Einhorn, Robert Frost, Carolyn Ikari, Hon. Mark Kravitz, Ethan Levin-Epstein, Nancy Martin, Margaret Mason, Patrick McHugh, Robert Oliver, David Rosen (co-chair), Paul Sanson, Tim Shearin, Frank J. Silvestri, James Stapleton, Elizabeth Stewart (co-chair), Willie Dow, and Jacob Zeldes.

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Stewart at 7:07 p.m. at the Quinnipiack Club in New Haven.

1) Elizabeth Stewart announced the names of the Executive Committee officers and sub-committee chairs as follows:

Co-Chairs: David Rosen and Elizabeth Stewart

Vice Chair: David Schaefer

Treasurer: Gary Klein

Secretary: Anne Louise Blanchard

Civil Practice: Pat McHugh

Criminal Practice: Hope Seeley; Tony Kaplan

Education and Programs: David Atkins

Legislative, Peter Costas

Bench-Bar Conference: Tim Diemand

2) Chief Judge Chatigny reported the following:

- the September 18, 2008, Bench-Bar conference was very well attended and thanks were extended to Tim Diemand and his committee for their work on the successful conference.
- Judge Charles Haight, located in New Haven, is the newest addition to the district court and has a full docket.
- the New Haven County Bar Association is organizing a memorial service for Kevin Rowe, 9:30 a.m., November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 235 Church Street, with Judge Dorsey speaking.
- there are 4 vacancies on the Grievance Committee and interested applicants should contact Judge Chatigny.
- the district courts will be closed on the Fridays following the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Judge Chatigny next drew the Executive Committee's attention to the fact that the federal judiciary is facing a crisis due to the failure of Congress to increase judicial salaries. Despite efforts by the Chief Justice, no pay raise has occurred, which will make it increasingly difficult to attract and retain federal judges.

Judge Chatigny also noted that the district court will be focusing on two projects this year: reviewing and increasing the efficiency of dispositive civil motions and the problem of recidivism by those with federal criminal cases. On the civil side, Judge Chatigny was interested in comments on adopting a custom of oral argument in all dispositive motions and in increasing the amount of bench rulings. On the criminal side, Judge Chatigny noted that the Federal Probation Department was working on re-entry issues and that Judge Underhill is taking a lead on this issue.

- 3) A discussion ensued regarding efforts the bar could take to assist in lobbying for a federal judicial pay raise. Peter Costas, Tim Shearin, and Bob Oliver will work on this issue.
- 4) The Executive Committee then discussed the size of the membership of the Executive Committee. Currently, the By-laws require that the Executive Committee be limited to 15 members in addition to ex-officio members. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend expanding membership to 25 and to not strictly enforce the informal policy of limiting membership to one member per firm. The Executive Committee also agreed to propose revising the dues requirement for members of the judiciary.
- 5) Elizabeth Stewart reported that the December 2, 2008 full section meeting will be devoted to proposed changes to the federal rules.
- 6) Elizabeth Stewart next requested ideas for the goals of the Section. Members discussed the importance of judicial pay raises, educating young lawyers, monitoring the implementation of the pro bono program, involving members of the full section in projects, and the crisis which the legal services programs are facing as IOLTA revenues have decreased dramatically. Members also discussed ways to more fully involve public defenders and U.S. attorneys, possibly considering a dues differential for those members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Louise Blanchard  
Secretary, Executive Committee  
Federal Practice Section