COLORADO JURY SYSTEM STANDING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of:
Thursday, March 19, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Held at the State Court Administrator's Office – 3rd floor conference room

Attendees:	Justice Michael Bender, Karen Salaz, Bob Grant, Judge Joe Meyer, Christina Valerio, LeAnna Mosher, Molly Saxton, Judge Jay Breese
Chair:	Justice Michael Bender
Staff:	Molly Saxton
Next Meetings:	May 19, 2009 from 3:00-5:00 at the State Court Administrator's Office, 3rd floor conference room. 1301 Pennsylvania Denver, 80203

Subcommittee: Ongoing Education and Training – Justice Bender/Kent Wagner

- Kent is showing materials from Paula Hannaford from National Center to judges regarding voir dire. Kent wants to expand the training but budget issues have put a hold on that.
- Information is being presented at new judge training and advanced judge training.
- Karen asked if Kent could put together some material that can be handed out to judges at their local meetings. Justice Bender thinks that wouldn't be as effective as an actual training session.
- Voir dire is a relationship and judges need to be taught this through a variety of training. Also the theories of voir dire need to be better understood by judges.
- At Judicial conference – can an experienced DA and defense attorney give a session on criminal trial voir dire?

Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1. Explore the idea of having a judge/prosecutor/defense attorney present at Judicial Conference.	Justice Bender	Next meeting

Subcommittee: Plain Language Criminal Jury Instructions – Judge Jay Breese (Chair)

- 1:02 has been completed
- Revised 1:02 handed out for review.
- The committee is meeting monthly to complete 12 instructions
- 1:04 and 1:01 are next on the list to be completed.

Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1. Continue working on 1:04 and 1:01. Give update on progress at next meeting.	Judge Jay Breese	Next meeting

Juror Notebooks (Civil) – Judge Meyer, Christina Valerio;
County Court Notebooks – Karen Salaz

- County court juror notebook:
  - County court juror notebook was distributed to all county court judges for review. Minor changes were made but the majorities of the judges approved the document and want to start using it right away.
  - Committee reviewed notebook and had a few minor changes. Added a part about not using the internet to look up ANY aspects of the trial during the course of the trial.
  - Discussed who should be given this – seated jurors or the whole panel. After discussion it was decided that only the seated jurors would be given this.

- Civil notebooks:
  - Need to change the section regarding pre-deliberations.
  - Civil glossary approved
  - Christina has 100 notebooks that can be used to make a set (8 notebooks per set), Molly to put those together.
  - Which courts should these be distributed to? One set per county? Because of limited funds, we have to use the 100 notebooks we have so deciding who should get a set is important.
  - Judge Meyer brought up that most civil attorneys put evidence in a notebook; this particular notebook is not big enough.

Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1. Make corrections to county court notebook and distribute to committee for final review	Karen Salaz	ASAP
2. Karen to find out how much it would cost to laminate the county court notebook.	Karen Salaz	ASAP
3. Talk to Jerry about the price for having county court notebook laminated	Justice Bender	ASAP
4. Make changes to civil notebook so that it can be finalized at next meeting	Christina Valerio	Next meeting

Subcommittee: Pre-Deliberation Discussions – Judge Joseph Meyer (Chair); Mike Keating

- Memo to civil rules committee and proposed rule change regarding pre-deliberations handed out and discussed. A few changes made to the wording of the rule.
- Memo will be given to the civil rules committee. Justice Bender wants the memo to have more information as to why there needs to be a change to the rule. Make sure there is empirical evidence to support the change.
- Give copies of the survey to the civil rules committee.
- Need to get on the agenda for the next civil rules committee meeting

Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1. Make revisions to the rule and send out to committee for comment	Judge Joe Meyer/Mike Keating	ASAP

Subcommittee: Juror Questionnaires – Karen Salaz/Dina Jones (Chair)		
➢ Reviewed memo and questionnaires ➢ Discussion over language "The judge sees your answers, and may share those answers with the attorneys for the parties but only after first asking for your permissions to do so." in regards to the sexual assault instructions. It was agreed to take that out and replace with "the judge will review your answers with the attorneys for the parties". ➢ Other minor changes made to parts of the questionnaires ➢ After questionnaires are finalized it is thought that these would be sent out to all judges. They will be posted on the intranet for everyone to access. ➢ Justice Bender will write a cover letter to go out to the judges.		
Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1. Justice Bender to create cover letter that can be sent out with the questionnaires	Justice Bender	Next meeting
2. Make corrections and send out to committee	Karen Salaz	ASAP

Subcommittee: Juror Issues		
➢ Colorado pays jurors better than most states. ➢ Justice Bender would like something to go out to the courts/judges about juror pay. ➢ ➢		
Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1. Write an article of the April Bits & Bytes bulletin regarding jury	Molly Saxton	April bulletin

New Business		
➢ Next meeting will be to finish up last few items we are working on (juror questionnaires, civil notebook, pre-deliberations) ➢ After those are completed our efforts should be on the jury instructions. ➢		
Action Item:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline:
1.		

Dates of Next Meeting(s):	May 19, 2009 from 3:00-5:00 at the State Court Administrator's Office, 3rd floor conference room. 1301 Pennsylvania Denver, 80203

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Molly Saxton