

SIXTH DISTRICT BENCH BAR MEETING

June 9, 2009

Courtroom 301

Present: Judge Carnaroli, Tony Sasser, Kent Hawkins, Brent Roche, Judge Box, Warren Webber, Vic Pearson, David Martinez, Judge Dunn, Suzanne Johnson, Judge Laggis

Excused: Steve Muhonen, Steve Herzog, Ken Lyons

I. Welcome – Judge Dunn

II. Purpose and Format of the Bench Bar Committees – Judge Dunn

The purpose of our committee is to create an atmosphere amongst the attorneys and judges where general issues and problems can be discussed and solved. Are there ways that we can make working in the courts easier and generally more consistent throughout our district? The members of this committee are assigned to be available to get problems to the table and then as a committee, discuss them and propose protocol.

There will be two subcommittees working from this committee. One is the civil practice subcommittee and the other is the criminal practice subcommittee. Judge Box will chair both subcommittees

The committee may also be tasked with looking at broader issues as well.

There was a discussion of what other bench bar committees were doing throughout the nation:

- Some local committees were established through the state bar associations with links posted from the state website to local contacts. Some website links contained the names, phone numbers and email addresses of local bench bar committees so that members of the bar could easily access members with questions and problems.
 - SUGGESTION AND ASSIGNMENT FOR DAVE MARTINEZ: Dave Martinez will contact Gordy to have this bench bar information posted on our county website. Suzanne will provide Dave/Gordy with the committee information to be posted.
 - SUGGESTION AND ASSIGNMENT FOR SUZANNE JOHNSON: Suzanne has access to get information emailed to members of the Sixth District Bar through the Idaho Supreme Court. She will make a list of all members of the committee along with a new Sixth District Bar Association website address and ask the Supreme Court to email the information to members of the Sixth District Bar Association ;
 - SUGGESTION: Our bar association sends emails to members of the bar in our district regarding events and meetings, could they provide notifications for us?
 - ACTION TAKEN: The committee members who were present agreed to publish their names, business phones and work emails as members of the Sixth District Bench Bar Committee as contacts for attorneys to bring up issues to the committee.

- ASSIGNMENT FOR BRENT ROCHE: He will make the necessary contact to announce the assembly of the Sixth District Bench Bar Committee at the next Sixth District Bar meeting on June 23, 2009.
- SUGGESTION: Judge Box suggests that minutes of the bench bar be posted on a Sixth District Bar Association website so that attorneys can see what problems are being discussed and proposed solutions in order to get more comments on what is being done by the committee. This will also provide a historical view of what the committee has accomplished so far;
- Some Bench Bar Committees worked toward facilitating communication between lawyers and judges;
- Some worked on improving civility throughout the system;
 - SUGGESTION: If this is something that the bench bar would like to pursue, could put a panel together, contact Inns of the Court for presentation;
- Some provided educational programs to improve practice;
- Some focused on attorneys best-practices;
- The 4th Judicial District in our state has their own webpage that provided information of officers and activities. This webpage is part of the Idaho Supreme Court home page. It was suggested that the Sixth District Bar explore setting up a webpage, either through the Supreme Court, the State Bar, or as a stand alone page.
- Some Bench Bar Committees conducted surveys through the bench bar to gauge what the sentiments are regarding the judicial system;
 - SUGGESTION: Could we possibly use a law clerk to help us with surveys as did Dave Martinez when he was Judge Meehl’s law clerk in surveying attorneys about 5th District law library?
 - SUGGESTION: If we sent out a mailing to all attorneys, is there another page that we could add to survey needs or problems?

III. Members of the Bench Bar Committee (as of 6/9/09. There is an updated list as of 7/20/09) –

- A. Steering Committee
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|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| Chairman – Judge Dunn | stephend@bannockcounty.us | 236-7250 |
| Secretary – Suzanne Johnson | suzyj@bannockcounty.us | 236-7071 |
| Subcommittee Chair – Judge Box | gaylenb@bannockcounty.us | 236-7255 |
- B. Criminal Bench Bar – Subcommittee
- | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| Chairman – Judge Box | gaylenb@bannockcounty.us | 236-7255 |
| Judge Carnaroli | ricke@bannockcounty.us | 236-7322 |
| Judge Laggis | plaggis@co.power.id.us | 226-7619 |
| Dave Martinez | davidm@bannockcounty.us | 236-7043 |
| Vic Pearson | vicp@bannockcounty.us | 236-7280 |
| Warren Webber | webblaw@qwestoffice.net | 233-7400 |
| Steve Muhonen | sjm@racinelaw.net | 232-6101 |
| Steve Herzog | sherzog@pocatello.us | 234-6148 |

C. Civil Bench Bar - Subcommittee		
Chairman – Judge Box	gaylenb@bannockcounty.us	236-7255
Anthony Sasser	tony@cooper-larsen.com	235-1145
Brent Roche	bor@racinelaw.net	232-6101
Kent Hawkins	khawk@merrillandmerrill.com	232-2286
Ken Lyon	ken21@cableone.net	233-1240
Warren Webber	webblaw@qwestoffice.net	233-7400
Aaron Thompson (accepted 6/10/09)	athompson1@cableone.net	233-0132

Other possible members include David Penrod, Ben or Mike Nielsen

IV. Schedule future meetings –

- MEETING DATES:

The Civil Subcommittee will meet 3rd Friday of the first month each new quarter at noon.

- July 17, 2009
 - October 16, 2009
 - January 15, 2010
- Kent Hawkins has an issue that came up that he will discuss at the subcommittee meeting. It will give time for the issue to cool down a bit.
 - Warren Webber has talked to some attorneys who have some concerns about some civil-related areas
 - Judge Box has concerns regarding collection work in areas of default judgments, warrants of attachment, debtor's exams, etc. Judge Dunn noted the lack of consistency in the filing of default judgments within our district.
 - Judge Dunn mentioned his implementation of calendaring civil trials through the stipulation of attorneys providing three dates made certain for trials. Gives the attorneys more control of the dates rather than the courts. Kent Hawkins was concerned that some attorneys already have 10-15 trials scheduled on their calendars and adding three more dates on their calendars times the number of judges could be too much.
 - Do we need to look at attorneys to represent employment and workers comp cases, Fort Hall related issues, personal injury cases?

The Criminal Subcommittee will meet the 3rd Friday of the second month of each new quarter at noon.

- August 21, 2009
- November 20, 2009
- February 19, 2010

- Suzanne will set up a bench bar email group for each subcommittee so that we can contact each other and she will send out reminders and proposed agendas prior to each meeting.

To Do:

1. See if J Dunn would like to make the announcement at the Bar meeting on June 23rd.
2. Once Sixth District Bar Association has a website, we want to see if they will create a web page for the Sixth District Bench Bar Committee similar to:

http://www.lycolaw.org/committees/bench_bar/bench_bar_committee.asp
3. Work on something to give to Judge Box for dissemination to Sixth District Bar through email.
4. Ask Brent Roche if he wanted to make copies of his stuff and have it available at the bar meeting including a page with members of the bench bar committee.
5. Ask J Dunn to make a request to the bar association if they would consider creating a bench bar committee page that lists members and minutes.