

Civil Benchbook
February 7, 2020
Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Judge Cure, Judge Dreyer, Judge Leach, Judge Travis, Judge Zielinski. Staff: Amanda Wishin
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the November 8, 2019 meeting were approved.
3. **Contempt Tab:** The Committee approved Judge Cure's tab on Contempt. It was requested that Amanda move the chart on the last page forward, delete the 2nd chart, and add statutory references to the types of contempt.
4. **Civil Forfeiture:** The Committee approved Judge Leach's tab on Civil Forfeiture with the addition of the new *State v. Timbs* opinion. Judge Dreyer mentioned a few cases that could possibly be added that he would send to Judge Leach. It was requested that Amanda change the *Ids.* to the case name.
5. **Self-represented Litigants Update:** Judge Dreyer reported that he will be working on incorporating information following the US Supreme Court's opinion *Turner v. Rogers* into the self-represented litigants tab.
6. **Ethics Tab Discussion:** Judge Travis expressed concern on behalf of Mag. Singleton that perhaps the Ethics tab doesn't belong in the Civil Benchbook. After discussion, the Committee decided that it should stay in the Civil Benchbook, but we should ask Adrienne Meiring if she has any suggestions or input.
7. **Future meetings:** May 8, June 26, Sept. 11, and Nov. 6.

Note: the July 10th meeting was canceled and rescheduled for June 26th. The agenda for May:

- a. Self-represented Litigants – update resource list, sovereign citizens, civil inmate litigation, more practical help. – Judge Roper, Judge Dreyer, Mag. Singleton
- b. Ethics Tab Discussion – Judge Travis, Judge Zielinski, Mag. Singleton
- c. Oaths Tab– Judge Leach
- d. Eminent Domain – Judge Joven

Civil Benchbook
September 11, 2020
Minutes
Meeting via Teams Video Conference

1. **Attendees:** Judge Sedia, Judge Travis, Judge Joven, Commissioner Cosby, Commissioner Cody Coombs. Judge Dreyer attended as an emeritus member.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the May 2020 minutes.
3. **Self-represented Litigants – update resource list, sovereign citizens, civil inmate litigation, more practical help:** Judge Dreyer presented the publication by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System that he worked on. The Committee renamed the tab worked on by Judge Roper to the Rights of Self-Represented Litigants; the publication presented by Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System would serve as an appendix to this chapter. Judge Dreyer will continue to work on this for the November meeting.
4. **Oaths tab:** The Committee reviewed the draft prepared by Judge Leach. The only question is whether the appointment of a commissioner requires an oath; Amanda will research this for the next meeting.
5. **SNAP removal question:** A question about removal to federal court was forwarded to Amanda from Justin Forkner. This question was forwarded from Pennsylvania; he asked whether this is an issue in Indiana. The attendees stated that this has never been an issue for them.
6. **Eminent domain tab:** Judge Joven provided an updated citation for the paragraph on elements of eminent domain. This tab is now approved.
7. **Moving forward:** Our last meeting of 2020 is **Nov. 6 at 10:30am via Teams.**
 - Check lists: The Committee discussed creating check lists for different causes of action (evictions, foreclosures, civil collections, gender/name changes) – what documents need to be filed, requirements that need to be met. The Committee should brainstorm what causes should be included
 - Finalize Oaths.
 - Finalize Self-Represented Litigants.

Civil Benchbook
November 6, 2020
Minutes
Meeting via Teams Video Conference

1. **Attendees:** Judge Sedia, Judge Travis, Commissioner Cosby, Judge Zielinski, Judge Leach, Judge Roper, Mag. Singleton
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the September 11, 2020 minutes.
3. **Jury Questionnaire:** The Jury Committee requested our review of a general jury questionnaire that would be available for online filling out on Odyssey. Committee feels that this is generally good. The only suggestion was changing “parties to a civil proceeding” to Plain English. The Committee recommends, “Have you ever been sued or sued someone else?”
4. **Documents Required:** The Committee prepared a draft of a new tab, Filing Requirement Checklists. The tab includes documents required for mortgage foreclosure, evictions, collections, and name changes.
5. **Oaths tab:** After making small changes, the Committee approved Judge Leach’s Oath’s tab.
6. **Moving forward:** Meeting will continue to be on Fridays at 10:30am. Judge Travis and Amanda will set up meetings for all of 2021 and inform the committee. We will start by finishing-
 - a. **Self-represented litigants.**
 - b. **Checklists**