

Civil Benchbook
June 11, 2021
Minutes
Meeting via Teams Video Conference

1. **Attendees:** Judge Travis, Commissioner Cosby, Judge Joven. Judge Sedia.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the November 6, 2020 minutes.
3. **Document Check Lists:** The Committee approved the checklists tab. Judge Joven volunteered to draft a checklist for eminent domain.
4. **Self-Represented Litigants:** The Committee wants to hyperlink to the Self-Represented Litigants Civil Guidebook from the Institute for the Advancement of American Legal System (IAALS) instead of including it wholesale. Judge Travis will work on an overview of this chapter with the addition of the previously approved sections by Mag. Singleton (sovereign citizens) and Judge Bacon (self-represented).
5. **Civil Commitment Question:** The question posed does not make sense in the context of the current version of the Benchbook. Amanda will email the judge who asked the question to ask for more information.
6. **Forms in the Benchbook:** The Committee requested that the link to the forms be at the beginning of each chapter for which we have forms. Since the forms are in packets, the Committee would like a listing of the forms available to be located at the front of the chapter also.
7. **Next meetings: Aug. 13 & Nov. 12. Agenda for the August meeting:**
 - a. Welcome/orientation of new members
 - b. Update civil forfeiture – Judge Leach
 - c. Eminent domain filing checklist – Judge Joven
 - d. Self-represented litigants – Judge Travis
 - e. Assignment of chapter review

Civil Benchbook
August 13, 2021
Minutes
Meeting via Teams Video Conference

1. **Attendees:** Judge Travis, Mag. Beaty, Judge Bowers, Mag. Coombs, Commissioner Cosby, Judge Dungan, Judge Drake, Judge Joven. Judge Leach, Judge Roper, Judge Sedia.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the June 11, 2021 minutes.
3. **Welcome/Orientation:** The Committee welcomed new members Mag. Beaty, Judge Bowers, Judge Dungan, and Judge Drake. Amanda Wishin gave a brief overview of the goal of the Committee and the structure of the benchbook.
4. **Update of Civil Forfeiture:** Judge Leach went through recommended changes to the Civil Forfeiture tab based on the newest opinion from the Indiana Supreme Court on *Timbs v. State*. Judge Leach will make additional changes for review at the next meeting.
5. **Eminent Domain check list:** Judge Joven is going to review the draft to see if anything needs to be added/included in the section on eminent domain in the Benchbook and then pare down the document to add to the chapter of check lists.
6. **Self-represented litigants:** In review of this chapter, the Committee requested a sample dialogue be added to page 7 regarding not hiring an attorney and more practical tips for dealing with issues raised by sovereign citizens. Judge Roper and Judge Bowers offered to supplement the chapter with additional sovereign citizen information as well.
7. **Assignment of chapter review:** Judge Sedia suggested a section be added about medical malpractice and will work on drafting that. Amanda will put together a list of the last time each chapter was updated so that the Committee can make chapters that have not been reviewed recently a priority. Judge Bowers also suggested that we review any overlap between the Civil Benchbook and other benchbooks, which will be discussed at the next meeting.
8. **Next meeting: Nov. 12. Agenda for the November meeting:**
 - a. Update civil forfeiture – Judge Leach
 - b. Eminent domain filing checklist – Judge Joven
 - c. Self-represented litigants – Judge Travis
 - d. Medical malpractice - Judge Sedia
- e. Assignment of chapter review

Civil Benchbook
November 5, 2021
Minutes
Meeting via Teams Video Conference

1. **Attendees:** Judge Travis, Mag. Beaty, Judge Bowers, Mag. Coombs, Judge Drake, Judge Leach, Judge Joven, Judge Roper, Judge Sedia.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the August 13, 2021 minutes.
3. **Update of Civil Forfeiture:** Judge Leach added in citations to the most recent *Timbs* opinion from the Indiana Supreme Court. He also added in updated case law. The updated chapter was approved to publication. .
4. **Eminent Domain:** Judge Joven's summary was discussed by the Committee. He is going to review the section on eminent domain and make sure that it echoes his summary. He will also draft a check list of filing requirements for this case type.
5. **Self-represented litigants:** The Committee made a suggestion to add case law to accompany the drafted advisement and also to add a mention of the flag fringe for the portion of the chapter about sovereign citizens. Judge Travis will make these changes for the next meeting.
6. **Medical malpractice:** The Committee reviewed Judge Sedia's new section on medical malpractice cases. Judge Sedia will make some formatting changes and the section was approved to publication. Beyond formatting, Judge Sedia will work on adding to the section about pitfalls and challenges in this case type for the next meeting.
7. **Name and gender change:** The Committee reviewed a new section drafted by Judge Bowers on name and gender change cases, as well as the accompany check list. After making minor changes, the Committee approved both for publication.
8. **Comparison chart and assignment of chapter review:** Amanda will email out the list of chapters that have not been reviewed in at least 5 years and ask the members to choose a chapter for review.
9. **Next meeting: 2022 meetings to be set.** The Committee requested that meetings for 2022 be set for Friday's at 10:30am (ET).