

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
March 5, 2021**

The Community Relations Committee met on March 5, 2021 by video conference. The meeting was chaired by Judge Sheryl Lynch.

- 1. Members present.** John Broden, Mary DeBoer, Greg Granger, Maria Granger, Michael Morrissey, Cheryl Rivera, Lori Schein, Austin Shadle, Gary Schutte, and Sheryl Lynch, chair.
- 2. Staff Present.** Jenny Bauer, Sarah Kidwell, and Josh Hicks provided staff assistance.
- 3. Approval of Minutes.** Mary DeBoer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2020 meeting and Cheryl Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Remote meetings.** Jenny Bauer reported that the committee will conduct meetings by remote video technology through the summer. Sheryl Lynch suggested using the remote video option after in-person meetings are approved by the Office of Judicial Administration.
- 5. Update on Broadcasting Pilot.** Ms. Bauer reported that the broadcast pilot was put on hold shortly after the Supreme Court approved it in early 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. She and Amanda Wishin asked for guidance from the Office of Judicial Administration's Chief Administrative Officer regarding continuation of the project. Ms. Bauer will report on the CAO's response at the next meeting.
- 6. IJA Awards.** Ms. Bauer reported that the Indiana Judges Association cancelled the 2020 Awards for Excellence in Public Information and Education due to Covid. She learned recently that the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference will likely be held in person in French Lick, but the IJA luncheon is questionable. Ms. Bauer reached out to IJA for direction on the 2021 awards and will report at the next meeting.

- 7. Constitution Day.** Ms. Bauer reported that Constitution Day is September 17. Because of Covid, it is still uncertain as to whether visitors will be allowed in schools for presentations to students. The Office of Communication, Education, and Outreach will send reminders about Constitution Day in future weekly bulletins. Judges who want to participate might have arrange Zoom or prerecorded videos.
- 8. Adoption Day.** Ms. Bauer reported that the Supreme Court issued an order in September 2020 that permanently authorizes trial courts to broadcast uncontested adoption proceedings. The order allows year-round still photography, video, and audio coverage of uncontested adoption proceedings, whether in-person or remote. The order also allows families to use, share, and distribute the photographs, video, and audio, and allows the media to use the same for news purposes. Josh Hicks can help judges with photography.
- 9. 2021 meetings.** The committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates in 2021: June 11, August 6, November 5

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Staff Attorney
Indiana Office of Court Services

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
June 11, 2021**

The Community Relations Committee met on June 11, 2021 by video conference. The meeting was chaired by Judge Sheryl Lynch.

- 1. Members present.** John Broden, Maria Granger, Austin Shadle, Gary Schutte, and Sheryl Lynch, chair.
- 2. Staff Present.** Jenny Bauer, Sarah Kidwell, and Josh Hicks provided staff assistance.
- 3. Approval of Minutes.** Maria Granger made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2021 meeting and Austin Shadle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 4. IJA Awards.** Jenny Bauer reported that the Indiana Judges Association decided to suspend the 2021 Awards for Excellence in Public Information and Education. She expects the awards to resume in 2022. Sheryl Lynch reported that the winner of the 2019 journalist award—Olivia Covington—was just named the new editor of The Indiana Lawyer.
- 5. Constitution Day.** The Committee discussed plans for Constitution Day. Because the Judicial Conference is in early September this year, judges should have more availability near September 17. Sarah Kidwell suggested that judges will need to check with schools to determine whether visitors will be allowed in schools for presentations to students. The Office of Communication, Education, and Outreach will send information about Constitution Day in future weekly bulletins.
- 6. Adoption Day.** Ms. Bauer reminded the committee that the Supreme Court issued an order in September 2020 to permanently authorize trial courts to broadcast uncontested adoption proceedings. The order expands “Adoption Day” and allows year-round still photography, video, and audio coverage of uncontested adoption proceedings, whether in-person or remote. The order also allows families to use, share, and distribute the photographs, video, and audio, and allows the media to use

the same for news purposes. Austin Shadle suggested marketing for the expansion of adoption day to year-round. Sarah Kidwell suggested working with bar associations and the Indiana Adoption Program (which can provide cake and punch for adoption celebrations).

- 7. Thanks to outgoing members.** Ms. Bauer announced that the following members will complete their terms on the committee on June 30: Mary DeBoer, Greg Granger, Michael Morrissey, Sheila Moss, and Chair Sheryl Lynch. She and Judge Lynch thanked the outgoing members for their service to the committee.

- 8. 2021 meetings.** The committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates in 2021: August 6 and November 5

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Staff Attorney
Indiana Office of Court Services

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
November 5, 2021**

The Community Relations Committee met on November 5, 2021, by video conference. The meeting was chaired by Judge Sheryl Lynch.

- 1. Members present.** Ellie Bright, John Broden, Chadwick Hill, Cheryl Rivera, Gary Schutte, Austin Shadle, Stephanie Steele, and Maria Granger, chair.
- 2. Staff Present.** Jenny Bauer, Sarah Kidwell, and Josh Hicks provided staff assistance.
- 3. Approval of Minutes.** John Broden made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2021 meeting and Gary Schutte seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 4. Constitution Day.** Sarah Kidwell reported Constitution Day was September 17. The Office of Communication, Education, and Outreach publicized Constitution Day in the weekly message to judges but does not know how many judges participated this year due to Covid precautions in schools. The Committee discussed the possibility of in-person presentations by judges in 2022.
- 5. Broadcast Pilot.** Jenny Bauer reported the Court approved the broadcast pilot project in five trial courts—Allen Circuit (Judge Gull), Delaware Circuit (Judge Vorhees), Lake Superior (Judge Parent), and Vanderburgh Superior (Judge Shively). The Court order will go out November 15 and the four-month pilot starts December 1. The pilot order will also authorize re-broadcasting of livestreamed proceedings. The pilot is set up so the judge has complete discretion to grant or deny a media request for broadcast coverage. Ms. Bauer and Amanda Wishin have meetings scheduled with each judge and local media representatives to discuss the order and logistics. She asked the members to watch for media coverage of the pilot.
- 6. 2022 meetings.** The committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates in 2022: January 28, April 29, August 5, November 4

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Staff Attorney
Indiana Office of Court Services