

# THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CASE MANAGEMENT

**Honorable Craig R. Baldwin**

Fifth District Court of Appeals

*Chairperson*

**Honorable Beth Cappelli**

Fairborn Municipal Court

*Vice Chairperson*

### **Meeting Minutes**

April 29, 2022

#### **Committee Members Present:**

C. Michael Walsh, Esq.

Elizabeth W. Stephenson, Esq.

Judge Beth Cappelli

Judge Craig R. Baldwin

Judge Kim A. Browne

Judge Kristen K. Johnson

Judge Latecia Wiles

Judge Patrick Carroll

Je'Nine Nickerson

Susan Sweeney, Esq.

Tonja Amato

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Judge Gene A. Zmuda

Judge John Rudduck

Judge Kimberly Cocroft

Judge Michael Oster

Judge Michelle Earley

Judge Terrance A. Nestor

Judge Terri L. Stupica

Judge Thomas Teodosio

Judge William R. Zimmerman

Michael Negray

#### **Supreme Court of Ohio Staff Members Present:**

Chris Geocaris, Esq.

Joel Gottke

Kate Munger, Esq.

Stephanie Nelson, Esq.

Colleen Rosshirt, Esq.

Samantha Goyings

#### **Meeting Minutes Approved**

The February 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes were submitted to members for approval. Meeting minutes to be amended: Tom Pokorny was erroneously listed as in attendance; Judge Patrick

Carroll was in attendance. Motion to approve as amended. Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

## **Old Business:**

### **Case Management Education Subcommittee**

Kate Munger reported on the Case Management Opportunities from the Bench educational series. The goal is to do 3 or 4 webinars with CLE this year, with more if the series is well received. Mental Health for Caseflow is planned to be first in the series, with a focus on developing timely caseflow for those with mental health disorders. Another planned topic for the series is Local Rules. The Committee's input on it and other topics was requested.

### **Access to Justice and Fairness**

Chris Geocaris advised six pilot courts are live for the Access to Justice and Fairness project. The initial phase of data collection from the surveys is nearly completed. From May-June, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will analyze the data they receive. In July, NCSC will translate the survey and create a guide. In August or September, they will present the summary to the Supreme Court of Ohio, with recommendations that can be shared in a webinar. The final report will be presented in a webinar in September or October.

### **Failure to Appear Pilot Project**

Money has been set aside in the technology grant funding for pilot courts to provide a text messaging program for court users. Colleen Rosshirt reported the technology grant announcement would be made in the beginning of May.

## **New Business:**

### **Case Inquiry Process Proposal**

Colleen Rosshirt reported on a proposal to create a formal process to request information from courts regarding cases in which there is a possible caseflow issue. Case Management has been using a process, when in receipt of an inquiry from a litigant or attorney, to discuss the status of the case with the judge or judge's staff. The goal of the process is to simplify contact with Case Management to conduct the inquiry, with the possibility of a link being placed on Case Management's website page. The Committee discussed the drawbacks and merits of developing a formal process. Judge Baldwin asked for a motion to approve the proposal. The motion was approved. Colleen Rosshirt advised the proposal would need to go to the Justices for approval.

### **Capital Case Attorney Fee Council**

Chris Geocaris reported on the Capital Case Attorney Fee Council's decision to leave the current rate at \$125/hour. However, the appellate judges who compose the council are considering an increase in 2023 to coincide with the rate of inflation.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding**

Colleen Rosshirt reported there will be federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to address backlogs and that the funding is not limited to common pleas and municipal courts but also includes family court jurisdictions as well. An announcement for the funding will be made soon.

Stephanie Nelson advised the funding could also be used for technology that is Covid-impacted or to address warrant backlogs. The Statistics section has created a data sheet for courts to demonstrate need.

**Future meeting dates:**

Upcoming Dates of 2022 Meetings:

July 22, 2022 (Zoom at 12:00 p.m.)

October 21, 2022 (in-person @ 10:00 a.m.)