

MINUTES
GENERAL MAGISTRATES/HEARING OFFICERS
COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 A.M. by GM Robert Jones and welcomed all the attendees.

Attending the meeting: Harney Baxter, Barbara Beilly, Lee Schreiber, Maria Keebler, Richard A. Weis, Jon Johnson, Susan Roux Keith, Robert Jones and Norberto Katz.

Jon Johnson moved to approved the minutes of the September meeting in Tampa which was seconded by Harvey Baxter. The Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held regarding the status of how to best distribute and the use of the request for confidentiality forms arising out of the passage of Senate Bill 776. It was mentioned that it Barbara Warren may have a complete list of the GMs and HOs in the State. Martha Keebler has agreed to contact Ms. Warren to obtain list. Norberto Katz moved to request that Scott Rubin send out e-mail to all GM's and HO's to notify them of the change in the law and the existence of the forms and that Mr. Rubin authorize that the forms be posted on the Family Law Section's web site, which was seconded by Maria Keebler. The Motion carried unanimously. Robert Jones brought up the issue of dissemination of new statute and forms to governmental entities such as tax collectors and others who should be notified. Lee Schreiber made a Motion that Norberto Katz prepare a small article for submission to the Florida Bar News and the Family Law Section regarding the change and the existence of forms. The Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Jones reported that work is proceeding on the GM/HO webpage on the Court Education webpage. The GMs and HOs will be provided an address for the webpage in the near future.

Rob Jones reported on the June 2009 GM/HO AJS program. GM Jones reported that priority will be given to GMs and HOs that have not attended a AJS, FJC or the GM/HO Program put on at the Florida Supreme Court in June 2004. GM Jones noted that who will be on the faculty teaching the course, including Diane Kirigin, Jon Johnson, Norberto Katz and himself.

Robert Jones reported on Court budget issues, that are of great concern to the members of the committee, as well as to all members of the bench. There were 20 positions lost due to the last special session.. There may still be further cuts as a result of the budget in the upcoming session. Norberto Katz reported that the Florida Bar is now actively working with the Judiciary to curb cuts to the Judiciary and a joint meeting between the bar and bench was held at the mid year meeting in Miami. Harvey Baxter reported on proposed bills by DOR to enlargen and expedite the administrative support process which might

pose a danger to curb funding for HOs. Norberto Katz reported that the Executive Council is opposing those changes.

Rob Jones reported on the funding status of the Other Court Personnel Committee of the Florida Courts Education Council. GM Jones reported both Jon Johnson and he are on the committee and will continue to advocate for funding for education programs for GMs and HOs.

Rob Jones provided the committee with the committee's webpage on the Family Law Section's website and encouraged its use by GMs and HOs. Rob Jones will speak to Scott Rubin, chair of the Section, to request that the request for confidentiality forms be posted on the section's website/

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Norberto Katz
Committee Secretary