

Minutes of General Magistrate Hearing Officer Committee

September 10, 2008

Chair Rob Jones called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

Attendees: Rob Jones, Chair, Susan Roux Keith, Jon Johnson, Joan Montagno, Harvey Baxter, Norberto Katz

Harvey Baxter moved to approve the minutes and Susan Keith seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Rob Jones reported on the committee officers for this year.

The members in attendance had an extensive discussion regarding the current Court budget crisis.

Rob Jones reported on training efforts he is pursuing. One of the goals of this effort is to train the Bar and the Bench on proper use and limitations of General Magistrates and Hearing Officers.

Rob Jones reported on the educational program provided at the last conference of Circuit Court Judges which focused on the appropriate use of General Magistrates.

Rob Jones reported on a mentoring effort for General Magistrates and Hearing Officers which he will be discussing with Chief Justice Quince.

A subcommittee was appointed to review and make recommendations for procedures and develop forms for the recently enacted public records exemption for General Magistrates and Hearing Officers. Carlos Fernandez will chair this

subcommittee and Jon Johnson will be the vice chair. Rob Jones will also serve on this subcommittee.

The committee reviewed the current description of the committee on the Family Law Section website. Joan Montagno moved to approve and maintain the current language and Susan Keith seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Rob Jones reported on educational opportunities for committee members. There will be a dependency component at the AFCC conference. Additionally, training for General Magistrates and Hearing Officers will take place at this year's AJS thanks to the FCEC, the Court Education Office of OSCA and the Dean of AJS.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Norberto Katz

Secretary