

The Supreme Court of Ohio

Improving Court Operations Using Remote Technology (iCOURT) Task Force Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2021

Task Force Members in Attendance: Hon. Rocky Coss (*Chair*), Mag. Serpil Ergun (*Vice Chair*), Douglas Bettis, Hon. Theresa Dellick, Justice R. Patrick DeWine, Hon. Ian English, Douglas Eaton, Hon. Jonathan Hein, Kelli Howard, Robert Incorvati, Nick Lockhart, Haley Martinelli, Velta Moisisio, Hon. Deborah Nicastro, Hon. Andrea Peeples, Mag. Paul Rattermann, Elizabeth Stephenson, Mag. Kenneth Teleis, Lori Tyack, and Hon. James Walther

Staff in Attendance: Jeff Hagler, Stephanie Nelson, Kyana Pierson

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the December 8th meeting were approved after a correction noting that Velta Moisisio was in attendance.

Subcommittee Reports on Initial Recommendations

The subcommittee chairs reported on the recommendations that their respective subcommittees have drafted. A complete list of these recommendations was included in the meeting materials. Below is a highlight of the subcommittees' recommendations.

Appellate Subcommittee (Eaton)

- Develop standard briefing templates
- Offer training and guidance for lower court clerks on what records need to be transmitted to courts of appeals
- Explore more cost-effective ways to provide a trial transcript
- Record oral arguments
- Continue remote oral arguments

Civil Jury Trials, Civil & DR (English)

- Amend Civil Rule 43 to allow witness testimony to be taken remotely
- Amend Civil Rule 38 and 39 to allow for remote civil jury trials
- Recommend the Supreme Court to purchase a supply of mobile devices for jurors to use

Court Operations (Hein)

- Implement basic minimum standards for accessibility to courts
- Develop best practice to implement technology recommendations
- Change the way the Supreme Court technology grants are awarded to incentivize the use of remote technology

Criminal & Jury Trials (Peeples)

- Confrontation Clause allows for the use of technology in criminal cases
- Develop procedures to ensure juror participation
- Establish processes for juror deliberation/sequestering
- Request that grants be tied to participation with minimum standards

Juvenile & Probate (Walther)

- Continue conducting hybrid hearings where appropriate
- Create general definitions of remote instead of revising individual code sections
- Allow for the acceptance of electronic signature
- Allow for personal service to be made in guardianship cases
- Use physical drop boxes where electronic filing is not available to allow for less personal contact during pandemic
- Educate local attorneys on how to use remote technology

Next Steps: Subcommittees need to finalize their recommendations by the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held virtually on March 19, 2021 from 10:00-2:00.