

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

REPORT

TO THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES:

Appellate Rules

The uniform rules of procedure for the United States courts of appeals which our committee reported to the Conference at its last session and which the Conference approved were adopted by the Supreme Court on December 4, 1967, have been reported to Congress, and will go into effect on July 1, 1968 unless Congress otherwise directs. Thus has come to fruition a long time goal of the Conference to secure uniformity in the federal appellate procedure.

Civil Rules

Proposals for the improvement of the rules relating to depositions and discovery which the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules has been engaged in formulating for some time were printed and transmitted to the bench and bar for study and comment in November 1967. We have requested that all comments and suggestions with respect to these proposals be placed in our hands not later than January 1, 1969, so that there may be adequate time to give them further study prior to September 1969 when we hope to have a definitive draft to present to the Conference.

Criminal Rules

The Advisory Committee is continuing its study of various

phases of criminal procedure, particularly the procedure for preliminary hearings, arraignments, and other proceedings prior to trial.

Bankruptcy Rules

The Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules is busily engaged in its large task of preparing a draft of comprehensive rules of procedure under the Bankruptcy Act, but is not yet ready to report.

Rules of Evidence

Likewise the Advisory Committee on Rules of Evidence is continuing intensive work, with frequent committee meetings, on the development of an adequate draft of uniform rules of evidence for the federal courts. However, this also is not yet completed.

Admiralty Rules

The Advisory Committee on Admiralty Rules is planning with the aid of a reporter which it is hoped may be appointed on July 1st to give more intensive study to the practical effect of the new rules as they relate to maritime litigation. Its work on the proposed amendatory statute, which the Conference has authorized it to prepare, is proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman

January 31, 1968