

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE
Meeting of January 13-14, 2005
San Francisco, California
Minutes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance.....	1
Introductory Remarks.....	3
Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting.....	5
Report of the Administrative Office.....	5
Report of the Federal Judicial Center.....	7
Reports of the Advisory Committees:	
Appellate Rules.....	7
Bankruptcy Rules.....	9
Civil Rules.....	12
Criminal Rules.....	15
Evidence Rules.....	20
Report of the Technology Subcommittee.....	21
Proposed Transnational Procedures.....	22
Next Committee Meeting.....	26

ATTENDANCE

The winter meeting of the Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure was held in San Francisco, California, on Thursday and Friday, January 13 and 14, 2005. The following members were present:

Judge David F. Levi, Chair
David J. Beck, Esquire
Charles J. Cooper, Esquire
Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater
Judge Harris L Hartz
Dean Mary Kay Kane
John G. Kester, Esquire
Judge Mark R. Kravitz
Associate Attorney General Robert D. McCallum
Judge J. Garvan Murtha
Judge Thomas W. Thrash, Jr.
Justice Charles Talley Wells

Member David M. Bernick was unable to participate in the meeting.

Providing support to the committee were: Professor Daniel R. Coquillette, reporter to the committee; Peter G. McCabe, secretary to the committee and Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; John K. Rabiej, chief of the Rules Committee Support Office of the Administrative Office; James N. Ishida and Robert P. Deyling, senior attorneys in the Office of Judges Programs of the Administrative Office; Brooke D. Coleman, law clerk to Judge Levi; Joe Cecil of the Research Division of the Federal Judicial Center; and Joseph F. Spaniol, Jr. and Professor Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., consultants to the committee.

Representing the advisory committees were:

- Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules —
Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Chair
Professor Patrick J. Schiltz, Reporter
- Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules —
Judge A. Thomas Small for Thomas S. Zilly, Chair
Professor Jeffrey W. Morris, Reporter
- Advisory Committee on Civil Rules —
Judge Lee H. Rosenthal, Chair
Professor Edward H. Cooper, Reporter
- Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules —
Judge Susan C. Bucklew, Chair
Professor David A. Schlueter, Reporter
Professor Sara Sun Beale, Consultant
- Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules —
Judge Jerry E. Smith, Chair
Professor Daniel J. Capra, Reporter

Patrick F. McCartan, former member of the committee, and John S. Davis, Associate Deputy Attorney General, also participated in the meeting. Associate Deputy Attorney General Christopher A. Wray made a presentation on behalf of the Department of Justice on the second day of the meeting. Attorneys Elizabeth J. Cabraser and Melvyn R. Goldman participated in a panel discussion on the second day. Professor R. Joseph Kimble participated by telephone in the committee's discussion of the report of the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Judge Levi reported with regret that the term of committee member Patrick McCartan had expired. He noted that Mr. McCartan had made many major contributions to the work of the committee over the course of the past six years, and he presented him with a framed certificate of appreciation signed by the Chief Justice. Mr. McCartan expressed his appreciation for the honor, and he emphasized that serving on the committee had been one of the highlights and great privileges of his professional career.

Judge Levi welcomed and introduced Mr. Kester as a new member of the Standing Committee and Professor Beale as the next reporter to the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules. He added that the Standing Committee would honor Professor Schlueter at its next meeting for his long and distinguished service as reporter to the criminal rules committee over the past 17 years.

Judge Levi noted with particular sadness the recent death of Judge H. Brent McKnight, whom he praised as an outstanding member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules and a wonderful human being. He pointed out that Judge McKnight had been responsible for heading the committee's efforts in producing new Admiralty Rule G, which brings together in one place the key procedures governing civil forfeiture actions.

Judge Levi also reported that John Rabiej had recently been honored by election to membership in the American Law Institute.

He noted that the major team effort to restyle the civil rules for public comment was nearing an end, and a complete package of restyled rules would soon be ready for publication. He described the contributions of the many participants as incredible, and he said that special thanks were due to the members of the Style Subcommittee (Judge Murtha, Dean Kane, and Judge Thrash), the chair of the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules (Judge Rosenthal), the chairs of the two subcommittees of the civil rules committee (Judges Kelly and Russell), the committee reporters and consultants (Professors Kimble, Cooper, Marcus, and Rowe and Mr. Spaniol), and the staff (Messrs. McCabe, Rabiej, and Deyling).

Judge Levi reported that two important decisions had helped to assure the success of the project. First, he said, the committee had decided to avoid making any substantive changes in the rules and to use a high standard to make sure that changes affect only style, and not substance. Second, he noted, it had been agreed that the Style Subcommittee would have the final word on matters of pure style, but the civil rules committee would have the final word as to whether a particular change is substantive or affects substance. He pointed out that some members of the bar may be concerned when they see changes in familiar language, but, he emphasized, the advisory committee believes that no changes have been made to the substance of the rules. He predicted that

the reformatting, reorganization, modernization, and sheer readability of the rules will be a very pleasant surprise for users.

Judge Levi reported that the Judicial Conference at its September 2004 session had approved all the recommendations of the committee without discussion. He also briefly described some of the proposed amendments that had been published for comment in August 2004, noting that they will be presented to the committee for final approval at its next meeting. He reported that the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules had just conducted the first of three public hearings on the proposed electronic discovery rules amendments and pointed out that there had been a huge amount of public interest.

Judge Levi also mentioned two potential future projects under consideration by the advisory committees. The first would address the way that time is described in the different federal rules. It would take a broad look at all the various time provisions to make sure that they are realistic and internally consistent. The second potential project would address certain overlaps and conflicts between the civil rules and the evidence rules.

Judge Levi reported that the civil and evidence advisory committees had reviewed the Supreme Court's decision in *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. ___, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004), invalidating a state court sentence because it had violated the defendant's Sixth Amendment right to jury trial in that aggravating factors enhancing the defendant's sentence had been found by the court, and not found by a jury or admitted by the defendant. He said that the advisory committees had been considering the need to amend the federal rules if the Supreme Court were to invalidate the federal sentencing system and to require fact-finding by juries.

On January 12, 2005 — the day before the committee meeting — the Supreme Court issued its decision in *United States v. Booker and United States v. Fanfan*, ___ U.S. ___, 125 S. Ct. 738 (2005). Copies were provided to the members, and they offered their initial personal reactions to the opinions. They agreed that the Court had retained the federal sentencing guidelines in place, but had made them advisory in nature, rather than mandatory. Judge Levi noted that the result was very satisfactory to the judiciary and mirrored the proposed recommendations of a special five-judge *Blakely/Booker/Fanfan* working group, comprised of the chair and two members of the Criminal Law Committee, himself, and Judge Robert Hinkle of the evidence rules committee.

Professor Capra pointed out that he had served as the reporter for the special working group and had conducted research for it. He noted that his review of all district-court decisions following *Blakely* had revealed that federal district judges were in fact continuing to adhere to the federal guidelines, had imposed sentences within the prescribed ranges of the guidelines in about 90% of the cases, and were carefully

explaining their reasons for departures. He added that research had shown that appellate review had worked effectively in those state-court systems that use advisory sentencing guidelines. He concluded that the advisory-guidelines system left by *Booker/Fanfan* would be workable, but he questioned whether Congress would leave it in place for the long run.

Professor Capra noted that, in light of *Booker/Fanfan*, there was no need to change FED. R. EVID. 1101 to make the evidence rules applicable in sentencing, or to make other changes in the evidence rules generally. Judge Bucklew said that the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules would consider the need for changes in the criminal rules at its next meeting, but it did not appear at first glance that major changes would be needed. Judge Levi added that the Criminal Law Committee would take the lead for the Judicial Conference in developing substantive positions and legislative options.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The committee voted without objection to approve the minutes of the last meeting, held on June 17-18, 2004.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Mr. Rabiej reported that the Judicial Conference at its September 2004 session had approved the committee's proposed victim allocution amendments to FED. R. CRIM. P. 32 (sentencing and judgment). He noted, though, that the committee had been aware of pending legislation that would provide a broader array of rights to victims than the proposed rule. As soon as the legislation was enacted, he said, the amendments were withdrawn by pre-arrangement. Mr. Rabiej noted that it is the responsibility of the Department of Justice under the legislation to alert victims as to the times and places of various court proceedings. He added that the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules was examining the legislation to determine whether any other changes were needed in the criminal rules.

Judge Levi pointed out that the legislation contains an extraordinary appellate provision under which victims may seek mandamus on an expedited basis to enforce their rights and receive a determination by a single appellate judge within 72 hours. It was pointed out by the participants that the provision is inconsistent with existing statutes and rules. Mr. Rabiej said that Congressional staff had been alerted to the deficiencies of the provision, but they had not corrected them.

Mr. Rabiej reported that legislation enacted in the wake of 9/11 had amended FED. R. CRIM. P. 6 directly to permit grand jury information to be shared with foreign officials. But, he said, the statutory provision had been superseded by the restyled body of criminal rules. He explained that the Administrative Office had advised Congressional staff of the supersession problem and had drafted an amendment to correct it. But, he said, the language actually used by Congressional staff was not fully consistent with the restyled rules.

Mr. Rabiej reported that legislation had passed the House of Representatives in the last Congress that would amend FED. R. CIV. P. 11 (pleas) to require a court to impose sanctions for every violation of the rule. The bill, however, died because the Senate did not act on it. He noted, moreover, that similar legislation had been introduced in the last several Congresses and had been opposed by the judiciary. He added that the legislation was likely to be reintroduced again in the 109th Congress, and the committee had asked the Federal Judicial Center to conduct a new, follow-up survey of federal judges on the operation of the current rule.

Mr. Rabiej reported that legislation had been introduced to amend FED. R. CRIM. P. 11 to require a judge to make specific findings that a sentence imposed pursuant to a plea agreement reflects the “seriousness of the actual offense behavior.” He said that the Administrative Office had written to the House Judiciary Committee opposing the provision, and it had been deleted during a mark-up session.

Mr. Rabiej noted that the Sunshine in Litigation Act of 2003, among other things, would regulate confidentiality provisions in settlement agreements. He reported that the Federal Judicial Center had conducted an exhaustive study of all sealed settlement cases in the federal courts and had concluded that sealed settlements are rare and do not present a problem. He said that the Center’s report had been sent to Senator Kohl, sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. Rabiej reported on a technical problem with the portion of the federal rules website that allows the public to submit comments or request a hearing directly through the website. He noted that the system had worked well in the past, but for some reason it stopped receiving comments and requests in late 2004. As a result, he said, a notice had been placed on the site informing the public of the defect and extending the comment period.

REPORT OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER

Mr. Cecil pointed out that the agenda book for the committee meeting contained a status report on the educational and research projects undertaken by the Federal Judicial Center. (Agenda Item 4)

He reported briefly on research requested by the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules. He described the Center's work in evaluating the possible impact of permitting citation of unpublished appellate opinions in the courts of appeals under proposed FED. R. APP. P. 32.1. He noted that the Center was conducting both a study of actual cases and a survey of judges and attorneys.

Judge Alito noted that the study was quite sophisticated and was aimed at ascertaining whether a policy that permits citation of unpublished opinions increases the time of judges and leads to a decrease in the number of precedential opinions. He also pointed out that the Administrative Office was conducting a statistical survey of median disposition times and any other pertinent events that might show workload impact, such as the number of cases decided by summary decisions. Up to this point, he said, there was no sign that there had been any changes in disposition times or in the number of summary dispositions in the circuits permitting citation of unpublished opinions.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON APPELLATE RULES

Judge Alito and Professor Schiltz presented the report of the advisory committee, as set forth in Judge Alito's memorandum and attachment of December 13, 2004. (Agenda Item 5)

Judge Alito reported that the advisory committee was not seeking approval of any amendments. But, he said, it was continuing to consider various proposed amendments to the appellate rules that would eventually be presented to the Standing Committee as a package, rather than in piecemeal fashion.

Informational Items

FED. R. APP. P. 4(a)(1)(B) and FED. R. APP. P. 40(a)(1)

He noted that the advisory committee at its last meeting had approved amendments to FED. R. APP. P. 4(a)(1)(B) (appeal of right — when taken) and FED. R. APP. P. 40(a)(1) (petition for panel rehearing). They would make it clear that the additional time the government is given to file an appeal or a petition for panel rehearing applies in cases in which an officer or employee of the United States is sued either in an individual capacity or an official capacity for acts or omissions occurring in connection with duties performed on behalf of the United States. He explained that additional time is given the Department of Justice to accommodate its internal review procedures.

Judge Alito reported that complaints had been received from the bar regarding the many variations among local circuit rules as to requirements for briefs. As a result, he said, the advisory committee had asked the Federal Judicial Center to conduct a comprehensive study of local briefing requirements. He noted that the Center's report was excellent, and it documented that there is a great deal of local rulemaking in this area and considerable diversity in practice among the circuits.

The report, he said, showed that some of the local-rule requirements contradict FED. R. APP. P. 28 (briefs). But, he observed, achieving complete uniformity would be very difficult, particularly since the circuits feel very strongly about their local rules on this topic. He added, though, that the advisory committee would try to promote more uniformity by proposing some discrete changes in Rule 28 from time to time, by encouraging improvements in local rules, and by trying to make it easier for lawyers to ascertain the local requirements.

Professor Schiltz pointed out that the local briefing requirements are scattered among local rules, internal operating procedures, manuals, and other sources. He said that the advisory committee would pursue getting these various materials posted on the Internet, and it would try to pinpoint certain changes for potential inclusion in the national rules.

One member complained that local rule requirements for briefs appear to be proliferating, change frequently, are generally confusing, and can be a snare for attorneys. Other participants added that many of the variations are not justified, and some urged the rules committees to be more active in promoting national uniformity. Others pointed out, however, that the Rules Enabling Act specifically authorizes local rulemaking, and it is no simple task to determine whether a particular local provision is actually in conflict with the national rules.

Professor Coquillette pointed out that the 1988 amendments to the Rules Enabling Act vested oversight of local appellate court rules in the Judicial Conference and gave it authority to abrogate local circuit court rules that conflict with the national rules. He suggested that the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules might be asked to take another look at whether, as a matter of policy, it would be appropriate to preempt local rulemaking by the individual courts of appeals in certain, specific areas, while leaving other areas open to local procedural variations.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BANKRUPTCY RULES

Judge Small and Professor Morris presented the report of the advisory committee, as set forth in Judge Zilly's memorandum and attachments of December 1, 2004. (Agenda Item 6)

Amendments for Publication

FED. R. BANKR. P. 1014

Judge Small reported that the advisory committee had approved for publication in August 2005 a proposed amendment to FED. R. BANKR. P. 1014 (dismissal and change of venue) recommended by the joint Venue Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and the Bankruptcy Administration Committee. The problem, he said, is that large cases are often filed in the wrong district. The proposed amendment would explicitly allow a court on its own motion to initiate a change of venue. He pointed out that most bankruptcy judges believe that they have that authority now, but some do not. Professor Morris added that the committee note to the proposed amendment attempts to make it clear that the rule does not grant any new authority to a court, but merely recognizes existing authority and provides a requirement for notice and a hearing.

The committee without objection approved the proposed amendment for publication by voice vote.

FED. R. BANKR. P. 3007

Judge Small reported that the last sentence of current FED. R. BANKR. P. 3007(a) (objections to claims) states that if an objection to a claim is joined with a demand for relief of the kind specified in Rule 7001, it “becomes” an adversary proceeding. He pointed out that there are serious problems with this language, including problems of issue preclusion. He said that the proposed amendment would eliminate the problematic sentence and make it clear in a new subdivision (b) that a party asking for relief of the type that requires an adversary proceeding must actually file an adversary proceeding. The party could no longer simply include the demand for relief in its objection to claim.

Professor Morris pointed out that an adversary proceeding generally asks for positive relief, unlike an objection to a claim. In addition, he said, an adversary proceeding requires the filing of a complaint and service of a summons, but an objection to claim does not. Finally, he observed, a court can always consolidate matters for processing.

The committee without objection approved the proposed amendment for publication by voice vote.

Amendment for Final Approval

FED. R. BANKR. P. 7007.1

Judge Small reported that the proposed amendment to FED. R. BANKR. P. 7007.1 (corporate ownership statement) would correct an oversight in the rule. The rule, which took effect on December 1, 2003, currently states that a party must file the required corporate ownership statement with its “first pleading.” But, he said, the rule does not go far enough. The time for filing the statement should be when the party files its first paper in a case — whether or not it is a “pleading.” Accordingly, the proposed revised language would be broadened to specify that the statement must be filed with a party’s “first appearance, pleading, motion, response, or other request addressed to the court.”

Judge Small pointed out that the advisory committee was asking the Standing Committee to approve the change without publication because it is a technical amendment comporting with the original intention of the drafters of the rule. Professor Morris added that the proposed amendment would make the rule almost identical to the counterpart provision in the civil rules, FED. R. CIV. P. 7.1.

Judge Levi pointed out that the proposed amendment did not require immediate implementation, and he suggested that it might be better to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on it. The committee concurred.

The committee without objection approved the proposed amendment for publication by voice vote.

Informational Items

FED. R. BANKR. P. 2002(g), 9001(9), and 9036

Judge Small reported that several proposed amendments to the bankruptcy rules had been published in August 2004, with a comment deadline of February 15, 2005. He noted that three of the amendments could have positive budget effects for the courts and should be processed on an expedited basis. He pointed out that the proposals had been studied at length, were not controversial, and had received no public comments following publication.

Judge Small explained that the proposed amendment to FED. R. BANKR. P. 2002(g) (addressing notices) would permit a creditor to make arrangements with a “notice provider” to receive all its court notices, either electronically or by mail, at an address specified by the creditor. Proposed FED. R. BANKR. P. 9001(9) (definitions) would define a “notice provider” as any entity approved by the Administrative Office to give notice to creditors. FED. R. BANKR. P. 9036 (notice by electronic transmission), as amended, would eliminate the requirement that the sender of an electronic notice obtain confirmation that the notice has been received. He pointed out that many Internet

providers do not provide for confirmation of receipt. Thus, many entities are unable to take advantage of electronic noticing. The revised rule, he said, would encourage creditors to sign up for centralized noticing, particularly electronic noticing. In addition to the benefits accruing to creditors themselves, the change would save considerable mailing and administrative expenses for the courts.

He said that the proposed amendments would be expedited by having the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules vote on them by e-mail ballot right after the end of the public comment period. The Standing Committee in turn would poll its members by e-mail in time to present the amendments to the Judicial Conference at its March 2005 meeting. If the Conference approves them, the amendments would be transmitted immediately to the Supreme Court, which could act on them by May 1, 2005. The rules could then take effect by operation of law on December 1, 2005 — one year sooner than usual.

One member expressed some concern about the problem of a creditor not receiving a notice, and he asked the advisory committee to consider adding a provision to the rule at a later date that would address the issue.

FED. R. BANKR. P. 4002(b)

Judge Small reported that the advisory committee had published proposed amendments to FED. R. BANKR. P. 4002(b) (duties of the debtor) that would require the debtor to bring certain documents to the § 341 meeting of creditors. He said that the advisory committee would present the amendments for final approval at the June 2005 Standing Committee meeting.

Judge Small explained that the Executive Office for United States Trustees had initiated the proposal. In its proposal, the Executive Office would have required the debtor to bring a great many documents to the § 341 meeting. But, he pointed out, the recommendation had attracted substantial opposition from consumer bankruptcy attorneys, and more than 80 negative comments had been received by the advisory committee before the matter was even on its formal agenda.

He noted that a special subcommittee had been appointed to review the proposal, and it had conducted a conference with interested parties and made recommendations to the full committee. The full advisory committee then studied the proposal and approved a shortened list of required documents for the debtor to bring to the meeting, *i.e.*, picture identification, a pay stub or other evidence of current income, the most recent federal income tax return, and statements of depository and investment accounts.

He added that the committee had received a detailed comment from a bankruptcy judge who recommended expanding the list of documents. He noted that the judge had

asked to testify at the hearing, but withdrew his request and stood on his written statement when informed that the hearing had been cancelled for lack of other witnesses.

Finally, Judge Small reported that the advisory committee would consider additional rules proposals from the Venue Subcommittee, and it would seek permission to publish them at the June 2005 Standing Committee meeting.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RULES

Judge Rosenthal and Professor Cooper presented the report of the advisory committee, as set forth in Judge Rosenthal's memorandum and attachments of December 17, 2004. (Agenda Item 7)

Amendments for Final Approval

FED. R. CIV. P. 5.1 and 24(c)

Judge Rosenthal reported that the advisory committee was recommending final approval of proposed new FED. R. CIV. P. 5.1 (constitutional challenge to a statute). She noted that the rule had been published in August 2003, and it had attracted little comment and no criticism. The advisory committee, she said, further polished the rule at its last meeting, and the revisions made since publication did not require republication.

She explained that both 28 U.S.C. § 2403 and FED. R. CIV. P. 24(c) (intervention) require a court to certify to the Attorney General of the United States, or the attorney general of a state, when the constitutionality of a federal or state statute affecting the public interest is drawn into question and the pertinent government is not a party to the proceeding. But, she pointed out, the requirement has often been ignored, largely because court employees are simply unaware of it.

She said that the proposed new rule had been initiated by the Department of Justice, which had recommended two principal rule changes. First, the Department suggested that the existing certification requirement be moved from Rule 24(c) and placed in a new Rule 5.1, immediately following FED. R. CIV. P. 5 (service) to emphasize its importance. Second, the notice to the attorney general should be strengthened by adding to the requirement of court certification a new requirement that the party who challenges the constitutionality of a statute also notify the appropriate attorney general.

She noted that some concern had been expressed in the advisory committee over the new notice requirement placed on parties challenging a statute. But, she added, the Department of Justice had convinced the committee that notice by the court alone has been insufficient to protect the government's interests. Moreover, experience in the

several states imposing the same notice requirement has shown that no undue burdens are placed on the challenging party.

Judge Rosenthal pointed out that, as published, the rule would have required the court to set a time not less than 60 days for the government to intervene. Following the comment period, though, the advisory committee modified the provision to state that unless the court sets a later time, the attorney general may intervene within 60 days after notice is filed or the court certifies the challenge, whichever is earlier. The court, moreover, may extend the time on its own motion.

In addition, the committee moved language up from the committee note to the text of the rule to make it clear that before the time to intervene expires, the court may reject the constitutional challenge, but it may not enter a final judgment holding the statute unconstitutional. Thus, the court can reject unsound challenges quickly, grant interlocutory relief, continue pretrial activities, and conduct other proceedings to avoid delay.

Judge Rosenthal explained that the rule also provides for service on the attorney general by certified or registered mail or by electronic notice to an address designated by the attorney general. She said that no such addresses are currently in place, but they would likely be established by the Department of Justice in the near future. Finally, she pointed out, the rule clarifies that if a party fails to give notice, it does not forfeit a challenge to a constitutional right.

One member noted that the new rule is broader than the statute and the current rule, which govern challenges only to statutes “affecting the public interest.” Judge Rosenthal replied that the advisory committee had deliberately broadened the scope of the reporting requirement to make sure that notice is given in every case in which a challenge is made to a statute. She noted that the expansion tracked the language of the counterpart provision in the appellate rules, FED. R. APP. P. 44.

One member expressed concern that the rule did not provide for a sanction against a party who fails to notify the attorney general. It was pointed out, though, that judges have adequate authority under the rules to deal with non-compliance. In addition, it was noted that a party challenging the constitutionality of a statute cannot effectively obtain the relief requested until the government enters the case. Another member expressed concern as to the internal consistency of the language of the proposed rule and asked the advisory committee to take another look at it before it is published.

Judge Small added that the new rule had implications for the bankruptcy rules because the current FED. R. CIV. P. 24 is incorporated in adversary proceedings by virtue of FED. R. BANKR. P. 7024. He said that the bankruptcy advisory committee would

consider the matter at its next meeting and make appropriate recommendations to the Standing Committee in June 2005.

The committee approved the proposed new rule and proposed amendment for final approval by voice vote with two objections.

Proposed Style Revisions for Publication

Judge Rosenthal reported that the advisory committee was recommending that Rule 23 and Rules 64-86 be added to the list of restyled rules previously approved for publication by the Standing Committee. She explained that the advisory committee had made a number of further style changes in the rules previously approved for publication, consistent with the directions of the Standing Committee to continue polishing the document and to pick up minor errors and inconsistencies.

She added that three more non-controversial “style-substance” amendments would be included as part of the publication package, along with the “style-substance” amendments previously approved for publication by the Standing Committee. She pointed out that the package would also include a memorandum prepared by Professor Kimble explaining the key style conventions adopted by the committee. That document would give readers an appropriate context by which to judge the revisions.

Accordingly, she asked the Standing Committee to approve the entire package of restyled civil rules for publication, subject to final review for typographical errors, formatting, cross-references, and the like. She suggested that if members had any additional suggestions, they would be considered by the advisory committee during the public comment period.

Judge Rosenthal reported that the committee would schedule public hearings before the end of the comment period. She added that Professor Cooper had written an excellent law review article on the style project that deserved attention — *Restyling the Civil Rules: Clarity Without Change*, 79 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 1761 (Oct. 2004)

The committee without objection approved the proposed style package for publication by voice vote.

Informational Items

Judge Rosenthal reported that proposed class action fairness act legislation would be re-introduced in the new Congress, be considered by the Senate early in February 2005, and proceed directly to the Senate floor without a hearing. The bill would then be taken up by the House Judiciary Committee.

She reported that on January 12, 2005, the day before the Standing Committee meeting, the advisory committee had conducted the first of three public hearings on the proposed electronic-discovery amendments. She noted that many of the participants in the Standing Committee meeting had attended the hearing, and a full transcript would be made public. She said that the committee continues to receive a heavy volume of written comments on the proposed amendments, and many more comments were expected before the February 15, 2005, comment deadline.

Judge Rosenthal noted that the advisory committee would meet in April 2005 to consider all the comments and testimony. At that time, she said, the committee would decide whether to proceed with the published changes, whether to republish any amendments, and whether to send proposals on to the Standing Committee for final approval.

She noted that the advisory committee had set forth in the agenda book the various future projects that it was considering, including: (1) a suggestion by the Department of Justice that the committee clarify how indicative court rulings should be handled; (2) a proposal to amend FED. R. CIV. P. 48 to deal with jury polling; and (3) a suggestion to improve the practice of taking depositions under FED. R. CIV. P. 30(b)(6). The committee, she said, had also been asked to consider possible changes in the pleading rules and the summary judgment rule. She pointed out that the committee had deferred action on these various substantive matters until completion of the style project.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL RULES

Judge Bucklew and Professor Schlueter presented the report of the advisory committee, as set forth in Judge Bucklew's memorandum and attachment of December 2, 2004. (Agenda Item 8)

Informational Items

Judge Bucklew reported that the advisory committee had no action items to present to the Standing Committee. She noted that amendments to five criminal rules had been published for public comment in August 2004 and explained that they were noncontroversial and had attracted only one comment.

Three of the five amendments, she said, would allow the government to transmit documents to the court by "reliable electronic means" — FED. R. CRIM. P. 5(c)(3) (initial appearance); FED. R. CRIM. P. 32.1(a) (revocation or modification of probation or supervised release); and FED. R. CRIM. P. 41(d) and (e) (search and seizure). The proposed amendment to FED. R. CRIM. P. 40 (arrest for failing to appear in another district) would fill a gap in the rule and allow a magistrate judge to set conditions of

release for a person who fails to appear. The proposed amendment to FED. R. CRIM. P. 58 (petty offenses and other misdemeanors) would eliminate a conflict with FED. R. CRIM. P. 5.1 (preliminary hearing) and clarify the advice that a magistrate judge must give at an initial appearance in a petty offense or misdemeanor case.

Judge Bucklew reported that the advisory committee had a number of important matters on the agenda for its April 2005 meeting. Among other things, the members would consider a proposed new FED. R. CRIM. P. 49.1 (privacy in court filings) to implement the E-Government Act's requirement that federal rules be promulgated to meet privacy and security concerns raised by posting court files on the Internet. She said that the advisory committee should be able to forward a rule to the Standing Committee in June 2005 for publication.

Judge Bucklew reported that the advisory committee at its last two meetings had discussed a proposal from the American College of Trial Lawyers for rule amendments to address problems that the college perceives with implementation of the government's duties under *Brady v. Maryland* to turn over exculpatory evidence to the defendant. She said that one proposal under consideration would call for the government to provide information to the defendant 14 days before trial. But, she cautioned, the Department of Justice was likely to oppose any amendment codifying *Brady*. Professor Schlueter added that discussions are sensitive and on-going, and it was very unlikely that any proposal would be submitted to the Standing Committee in June 2005.

Judge Bucklew reported that the advisory committee was looking closely at the *Booker/Fanfan* case to determine what changes might be needed in the criminal rules. She also pointed out that the committee would look again at FED. R. CRIM. P. 6 (grand jury) to see whether additional changes are needed in light of the recent 9/11 statute. She added that the committee would also look at FED. R. CRIM. P. 11 (arraignment and plea) to consider the need for an amendment to require a judge to make a finding on the record that a plea agreement recognizes the seriousness of the defendant's behavior.

She reported that the advisory committee had approved proposed amendments to FED. R. CRIM. P. 41 (search and seizure) to provide procedures for tracking device warrants, noting that magistrate judges have said clearly that they would like additional guidance in this area. She explained that the Standing Committee had approved the proposed rule at its June 2003 meeting and had forwarded it to the Judicial Conference. But the amendments were later deferred and have been in limbo ever since. She said that the advisory committee would like to know their status and whether the committee should proceed further. She noted that a recent poll of the magistrate judges had shown that there was still strong support for the amendments.

Judge Levi explained that the amendments had been deferred after the September 2003 Judicial Conference meeting at the request of the deputy attorney general. Assistant

Attorney General McCallum reported that the Department of Justice's Criminal Division was looking into the matter and would present its definitive view to the committee soon. Judge Bucklew added that the advisory committee could take up the matter at its April 2005 meeting.

FED. R. CRIM. P. 29

Judge Bucklew reported that the advisory committee at its last two meetings had considered the Department of Justice's proposal to amend FED. R. CRIM. P. 29 (motion for judgment of acquittal) to require a judge to defer ruling on a motion to acquit until after the jury returns a verdict. The committee, she said, failed to approve the proposal, but the members stood ready to reconsider the issue. She pointed out that they had read the supplemental materials submitted by the Department to the Standing Committee.

Mr. Wray presented the government's position and emphasized the importance of the matter to the Department. He explained that Rule 29 authorizes a judge to grant a verdict of acquittal either before or after the return of a jury verdict. The main problem, he said, is that the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Constitution precludes an appeal by the government when a trial judge grants an acquittal before return of a verdict. He explained that the committee note to the 1994 revision of Rule 29 encouraged judges to await the jury's verdict before ruling on an acquittal motion. He noted, too, that the Supreme Court has stated that it is preferable for trial judges to await the jury's verdict before granting an acquittal.

Mr. Wray pointed out that the proposal to amend Rule 29 was fully supported by the leadership of the Department of Justice, but the impetus for the change was coming from the ground up — from front-line prosecutors. He stressed that a pre-verdict acquittal is an anomaly under the rules. It may be the only action of a trial judge that is both dispositive and unappealable. Moreover, he said, a pre-verdict acquittal overrules the conscience of the community, as expressed through the action of a jury of citizens. And it may result in significant injustice in a given case.

Mr. Wray suggested that the advisory committee may not have been aware of the extent of the problem, and he acknowledged that the Department may not have been as persuasive as it could have been. But, he said, the supplemental materials submitted by the Department make the case for a change. He noted, for example, that the numbers alone are significant, even though statistics in this area are inherently imperfect and underinclusive. He pointed out that over a four-year period, there had been 259 Rule 29 judgments of acquittal. Of that total, 72% had been granted before the jury returned a verdict — not the preferred method under Rule 29. About 70% of these pre-verdict acquittals had disposed entirely of the prosecution, rather than just certain counts in a multi-count case.

He suggested that it cannot be determined whether these cases had been decided correctly because appellate review had been precluded by the trial judges' actions. But, he said, there is strong reason to suspect that a significant number of the pre-verdict acquittals had been erroneous and would have been reversed on appeal. He noted that the Department appeals about 60% to 70% of post-verdict acquittals, and about one published opinion a month reverses a trial judge's post-verdict action. He added that there is no reason to suppose that pre-verdict acquittals are less likely to be erroneous because they are often entered in the heat of trial.

Mr. Wray explained that the standards for granting an acquittal are stringent. The trial judge must assess the evidence in the light most favorable to the government and resolve all inferences and credibility questions in favor of the government. Then, an acquittal should be granted only if no rational trier of fact could find the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Obviously, he argued, that is not the standard that some judges had used. He proceeded to describe the facts of some specific cases in which the Department believed that district judges had committed serious error by granting an acquittal before verdict.

He emphasized that the problem had to be fixed, but he added that there may be more than one way to address the problem by rule. He explained that the Department was not asking the Standing Committee to choose one particular solution, but was merely telling the committee that the status quo is unacceptable and should be remedied by the advisory committee. He suggested that providing the government an appellate remedy would be a modest response to an immodest problem.

He referred to Judge Levi's proposal made at the last advisory committee meeting to allow a judge to enter a pre-verdict judgment of acquittal, but only on condition that the defendant waive double jeopardy protection and permit an appeal by the government. He noted that this particular solution would allow judges to cull out individual defendants and counts in appropriate cases and protect the rights of both the defendant and the government. He said that Department attorneys had considered the proposal and found that, on balance, it was a good one. He added in response to a question that the defendant's waiver of double jeopardy protection appeared to be constitutional.

Judge Bucklew reported that the advisory committee would be pleased to take another look at the matter, and she suggested that part of the committee's problem with the proposal had been a lack of persuasive information. Judge Levi said that the advisory committee, not the Standing Committee, is the right body to draft a proposed rule. He suggested, moreover, that it would be inappropriate for the Standing Committee to tell the advisory committee that a rule should be published or to ask it to draft a particular rule. Rather, he said, the advisory committee, as the body with the relevant expertise, should be asked to consider the best formulation for a rule that would address the problems identified by the Department of Justice and then to make a separate

recommendation as to whether that rule should be published for public comment. At its next meeting, then, the Standing Committee would have all the information it needs to make appropriate decisions on the matter.

He noted that the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules had been very interested in the Department's proposal to defer acquittals until after verdict, and it had at first voted to proceed with an amendment to Rule 29. But, he added, the committee became concerned about deferring verdicts in hung-jury, multiple-count, and multiple-defendant cases. He said that the hung-jury problem had inspired his alternate suggestion that a pre-verdict acquittal might be conditioned on the defendant's waiver of double jeopardy rights. In essence, the proposal would offer the defendant a choice. If a defendant wants the judge to consider a pre-verdict acquittal, he or she must be willing to preserve the government's right to appeal. He noted that the advisory committee's reporter, Professor Schlueter, had reduced the proposal to text form, and it appears workable.

One member said that the waiver proposal looked very promising and should be pursued by the advisory committee. He added that the Standing Committee should express its sense that the advisory committee should seriously considering bringing forward a rule. Another member emphasized the advisory committee should document the analysis behind its recommendations and its reasons for choosing one alternative over another.

In light of the committee discussion, Judge Levi restated his suggestion and recommended that the advisory committee be asked to: (1) consider an amendment of Rule 29 as a serious topic that deserves further consideration; (2) formulate the best way to deal with the problems identified by the Department of Justice and draft the best rule and committee note; and (3) recommend to the Standing Committee whether that rule and note should be published for public comment. The advisory committee, he said, could then consider the matter at its spring meeting, and the Standing Committee would have all the information it needs to consider the proposal at its June 2005 meeting.

The Department of Justice representatives agreed to this course of action, and they expressed their commitment to resolving the matter through the rulemaking process.

The committee by voice vote without objection approved Judge Levi's proposal to the advisory committee.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EVIDENCE RULES

Judge Smith and Professor Capra presented the report of the advisory committee, as set forth in Judge Smith's memorandum and attachment of December 10, 2004. (Agenda Item 9)

Informational Items

Judge Smith reported that the advisory committee had not held a separate autumn meeting, but had decided, instead, to conduct a meeting immediately following the Standing Committee meeting. He noted that proposed amendments to four evidence rules had been published for comment.

He said that the advisory committee had been surprised by the lack of public comment to date on the proposed amendments to FED. R. EVID. 408 (compromise and offers to compromise). Among other things, the use of statements and conduct during civil settlement negotiations would not be barred when offered in a later criminal case. He pointed out that the Department of Justice had asked for a broader rule, but the committee was proposing a compromise rule that allows use of comments made at settlement negotiations, but not the settlement itself.

He reported that the proposed change to FED. R. EVID. 609(a)(2) (impeachment by evidence of conviction of a crime) deals with the automatic impeachment of a witness by evidence that he or she has been convicted of a crime of "dishonesty or false statement." He explained that the amendment permits the mandatory admission of evidence of conviction only when it "readily can be determined" that the crime of conviction was one of dishonesty or false statement, such as by the elements of the crime or by clear information set forth in the indictment or other key document.

Judge Smith said that the proposed amendment to FED. R. EVID. 606(b) (competency of a juror as a witness) would make it clear that testimony by a juror may be used only to prove that the verdict reported by the jury was the result of a clerical mistake. The amendment, thus, rejects some case law that interprets the current rule to allow jurors to be polled as to whether the jury understood the instructions.

Judge Smith noted that a preliminary reading of the *Booker/Fanfan* case shows that the advisory committee will not have to make any changes in the Federal Rules of Evidence. But, he added, the committee will have to wait to see what Congress does in the wake of the case. He added that the advisory committee had also decided not to proceed on any rules issues that may be impacted by the Supreme Court's decision in *Crawford v. Washington*, 541 U.S. 36 (2004), barring the use of "testimonial" hearsay against a criminal defendant in the absence of cross-examination. The committee, instead, will monitor case law development under *Crawford*.

Professor Capra said that a suggestion had been received recommending an amendment to FED. R. EVID. 803(8) (hearsay exception for public reports) to ensure that federal statutory standards are incorporated into the admissibility requirements of the rule. He noted that public records are considered presumptively trustworthy, and the courts do not seem to be having any difficulty in applying Rule 803(8). He added that the advisory committee would consider the suggestion at its January 2005 meeting.

REPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

Judge Fitzwater reported that the Technology Subcommittee had met in January 2004 and had prepared a template for the advisory committees to use in drafting rules to implement the E-Government Act of 2002. The statute requires that federal rules be issued to address the privacy and security concerns raised by posting court files on the Internet. He pointed out that the subcommittee had revised the template to incorporate views expressed by the advisory committees and some suggestions by the Department of Justice. Professor Capra added that working from a single template fosters the mandate of the E-Government Act that the federal rules be as uniform as possible.

Professor Capra reported that the goal was to have rules amendments presented by the advisory committees to the Standing Committee at its June 2005 meeting, so that they could be published in August 2005. He explained that the basic decisions reflected in the template had been derived from the extensive work of the Court Administration and Case Management Committee, which had conducted several public hearings and had determined that the best policy for the Judicial Conference to adopt was a general rule that “public is public,” *i.e.*, that all case papers publicly available at the courthouse should also be made available on the Internet. But, he cautioned, certain specific categories of sensitive personal information would have to be redacted.

He noted that the Court Administration and Case Management Committee had spent a great of time discussing which sensitive information should be redacted. The Technology Subcommittee and the advisory committees, he said, had made a few additions to the policy to implement some requirements of the E-Government Act and to meet some concerns of the Department of Justice. He explained that the resulting template is necessarily complex, and it categorizes four different kinds of document filings: (1) documents that must be redacted; (2) documents exempt from the redaction requirement, such as administrative agency records; (3) social security and immigration appeals, for which public access will be restricted to the courthouse; and (4) documents filed under seal. He noted that the template states that a court by order in a case may limit or prohibit remote electronic access to a particular document in order to protect against disclosure of private or sensitive information.

Professor Schiltz reported that the proposal to be considered by the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules states that documents in the appellate courts should be treated in the same manner that they are treated in the court below.

PROPOSED TRANSNATIONAL PROCEDURES

Dean Kane led a panel discussion of the American Law Institute's transnational procedure project with Professor Hazard and distinguished San Francisco attorneys Elizabeth Cabraser and Melvyn Goldman. Dean Kane noted that Professor Hazard was the only American co-reporter on a project that developed a set of procedural rules drawn from both civil-law and common-law systems for use in handling commercial contests. The results of the project, she said, had been approved recently by the Institute. She asked Professor Hazard first to describe some provisions in the proposed rules, and then she asked Ms. Cabraser and Mr. Goldman to respond.

Professor Hazard noted at the outset that the transnational project had been started about 10 years ago with intense consultation by lawyers from many parts of the world. It was conceived as a procedure for commercial cases involving sophisticated lawyers and clients. But, he said, the rules could also be used in other categories of cases. And, he added, they are generally compatible with the American system and with jury trials. They include provisions dealing with notice, the right of participation, judicial management of proceedings, and full consultation by advocates.

Four of the ideas embraced in the rules, he said, could potentially be adapted for use in the federal court system: (1) more focused discovery; (2) fact pleading; (3) written statements of witnesses in lieu of oral testimony for direct examination; and (4) motions demanding proof.

1. With regard to discovery, Professor Hazard pointed out that the U.S. has the broadest discovery system in the world. In general, a party must — on demand and at its own expense — turn over to a requesting party any evidence it has that may lead to admissible evidence. Elsewhere in the world, on the other hand, discovery requests must be more specific. A producing party's obligation, moreover, extends only to relevant evidence. Other countries, he noted, are mindful of the problem of relevant evidence residing in the hands of an opposing party, but release of that type of evidence is usually governed by substantive law.

He said that the present federal rule dealing with document discovery had been adopted in contemplation of the exchange of a dozen or so documents, before the use of copying machines and computers. He questioned whether the sheer quantity of documents today makes a difference that calls for a rule change. He added that one interesting consequence of the enormous discrepancy between

- U.S. and foreign document production rules is that some foreign companies initiate litigation in the United States just to get broad discovery that they can use in a dispute back home.
2. Professor Hazard pointed out that the federal rules authorize notice pleading. But other countries and many U.S. states require a complainant to set forth specific facts at the outset. He suggested that most good plaintiff's lawyers already use fact pleading, even in the federal courts, because they want the court to understand their case from the outset. He explained that the proposed transnational rules require the complaint to set forth the relevant facts in reasonable detail and to describe with sufficient specification the available evidence to be offered in support of the allegations.
 3. Professor Hazard explained that the transnational rules provide that in a nonjury trial a written statement by a witness is a necessary predicate to the testimony of that witness. This is contrary to U.S. procedure, where direct testimony is taken orally. Under the transnational rules, the first submission is a written statement prepared by the lawyer setting out what the testimony of a particular witness is going to be. Then an examination of the witness follows — either by the judge in civil law countries, or by the lawyers in common law countries. Thus, the oral testimony of the witness is essentially cross-examination.
 4. Fourth, the transnational rules provide for a motion demanding proof, a sort of streamlined version of a summary judgment motion. Typically, he said, a summary judgment motion is made by a defendant arguing that the plaintiff lacks proof as to key elements of the case. The movant has to attach details to show that there is considerable proof that a particular issue is not subject to proof by the opposing party. Instead, he said, why not have a motion demanding proof? That way, the movant does not have the full burden of establishing that there cannot be proof on a particular issue.

Ms. Cabraser said that the federal and state procedural rules work very well in many cases, but they do not work well in others, nor do they always provide protection for litigants against bad practices. Parties, she said, can make litigation unjustifiably expensive and combative.

She suggested that the proposed transnational rules may work very well in commercial disputes, which usually involve litigation among equals. But, she added, much litigation in the American courts is among parties who are not equal. For example, she said, most countries do not have the highly developed tort law of the U.S., nor do they provide the same level of access for ordinary citizens. The courts of the U.S. follow a different national ethos and provide regulation through the litigation process.

With regard to the cost of producing documents, she said, the system should not place most of the cost of production on the plaintiffs. Judges, she pointed out, have authority to assess costs against requesting parties in appropriate cases.

She said that in her own individual cases, the same defendant has produced the same documents several times in past cases. But she must ask for them again in each new case, thereby adding costs to the defendant and running up transactional costs. She suggested that it might be helpful if there were a rule or protocol in the complex litigation manual enabling a defendant to identify documents previously discovered and placing the burden on the plaintiff to get them.

With regard to fact pleading, she said that plaintiffs should be required to set forth the facts in a clear manner. It helps both the pleader and the court, and it avoids the need for status conferences to find out what the case is about. She noted that she personally provides the same level of detail in federal complaints that she does in her state court complaints.

She suggested that a motion demanding proof could work in both sophisticated and simple cases, especially where there are a limited number of documents. She said that summary judgment had become unmanageable in complex cases, and it leads to production of a huge volume of documents. She suggested that the concept of a motion demanding proof should be tried.

Mr. Goldman said that discovery, especially electronic discovery, is completely out of hand. He noted that civil cases are rarely tried, yet the parties in the end have to bear the cost of wasteful discovery.

He pointed out that effective case management is the appropriate reform. He said that a judge should take over a case from the first conference and identify the claims, defenses, issues, and evidence on both sides. The judge, he said, will learn quickly what discovery is needed and will tailor it to the circumstances of the particular case. Staged discovery, for example, would be particularly appropriate.

But, he said, early hands-on case management does not take place in the courts where he practices today, except with a handful of trial judges. Instead, he said, the normal practice is to have pro forma case management conferences with pro forma orders. He suggested that if there were effective case management, there would be far less discovery and abuse.

He pointed out that judicial case management is clearly contemplated in the federal rules and in the new transnational rules. But it is not happening for a number of reasons. Not all trial judges, he suggested, are suited by temperament to case management. Judges, moreover, see that the vast majority of their cases settle, and they

may conclude that hands-on case management is not a good use of their time. And most court systems lack sufficient flexibility to permit judges who are good at case management to take over cases that need management.

As for fact pleading, he asked whether it is designed to provide information to the other side or to serve as a means for filtering out cases that do not belong in the system. The latter, he said, is a laudable goal, but courts rarely dismiss cases for lack of sufficient facts, except in securities cases. He suggested that fact pleading is a gate-keeping mechanism that might work, and it should be explored. But, he added, even under the current rules, good case management is critical, as a judge can ask the parties to plead with more particularity.

Mr. Goldman said that the proposed motion for proof is a fascinating idea, but he doubted that it will come to pass. He said that appropriate use of summary judgment is a way to elicit the proof that parties have in a case. He noted that trial judges have a great deal of flexibility, and he has seen judges ask parties to file a motion for summary judgment. He noted, too, that Rule 56(f) gives a judge discretion to authorize discovery in connection with summary judgment.

Mr. Goldman said that the use of written statements for expert witnesses is an excellent idea and should be the rule. But he did not believe that it would be appropriate for non-expert witnesses. A trial judge, he said, wants to assess the credibility of the witness on direct examination, as well as on cross examination. Judges have a good ear for listening to evidence in person, and they will interject from time to time when they want clarification. But they may not receive the same education from reading written statements.

Professor Hazard noted that in civil law countries, the judge is in control from the moment a case is filed. The new English rules, too, place heavy emphasis on case management. He noted also that the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation has authority to assign a case to a particular judge, and it regularly assigns cases to particularly competent judges. He said that the notion of randomly assigning cases is deeply embedded in the federal court system, but it needs to be reexamined.

Participants suggested that consideration might be given to developing different subsets of rules to deal with different kinds of cases. But both Ms. Cabraser and Mr. Goldman responded that early, effective case management, rather than different rules, is the appropriate answer. The judge, they said, can determine at the first pretrial conference how much time and effort are required in each case.

Ms. Cabraser added that every case should have an early case management conference, without all the requirements of FED. R. CIV. P. 26. A judge should sit with the parties and shape the rules for each individual case. Over time, she said, protocols

would develop as to the appropriate procedures to apply in different types of cases. Cases, she said, could be handled without even referring to Rule 26, and discovery disputes would be averted. The judge should have inquisitory powers and broad discretion to make the parties act appropriately. This approach might mean more work for judges at the outset of a case, but it would save them considerable time in the long run, as there would be fewer discovery problems and disputes.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, June 15-16, 2005, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. McCabe
Secretary