

MBA Family Bench-Bar Committee Meeting
April 3, 2023
Meeting notes

Report from the Court – Judge Martens

- Judge Ashley becomes Chief Judge in a few weeks and his court will have a reserve judge for at least 6 weeks, can't really say how long.
- Judge Protasiewicz court will also need a reserve judge if she wins the Supreme Court election.
- The courts are not granting divorces by affidavit without a final hearing, but they will try to expedite hearings with these revised Affidavits. Attorney Susan Hansen's fillable pdf Affidavits can be found on the committee webpage: <https://milwbar.memberclicks.net/family-bench-bar>
- (As a follow up to FCC report) Stipulated Divorces will have to be scheduled on Tuesday's and Wednesday's only and heard on Wednesday's.
- Judge Pocan stated he can get a stipulated divorce in within the week.
- Judge Witkowiak advised that the Division local rules committee has been working hard on the revisions and would like to see all forms belonging to the appendix in the Milwaukee County website.

FCC Report – Comm. Berrios-Schroeder

- All hearings continue to be via zoom or phone through perhaps end of year if the construction work scheduled to start this summer actually starts.
- Stipulated divorces will be heard again the FCC, only on Wednesday's. The Clerk of Court will be appointing a DCC for that court to work only Tuesday's and Wednesdays (due to shortage of staff).
- After 4/4 election, assuming all goes as expected, at some undetermined date Comm. Pruhs will become the FCC, the hiring process for an AFCC is already open and the appointment of a DFCC will be made by the judges from the internal pool of candidates.

Report from Clerk of Courts – Ted Chisholm

- **Default divorces.** Default divorces will be heard in-person in CH 509 starting in May (exact date TBD but likely 5/24). We are preparing a process to review filings in the Justice Center; they will be collected from there by the Deputy Court Clerk prior to proceedings taking place on Wednesdays.
- **Reserve calendar in Family Court.** Just a reminder that Judge Carl Ashley will assume a full-time administrative role as Chief Judge effective 4/15. His calendar will be assumed by reserve judges. A consistent deputy court clerk will be assigned there for at least the first two weeks to facilitate a smooth transition.
- **CCAP.** Attorneys may have experience e-filing issues in recent weeks due to short-term CCAP outages. The first was related to DDoS activity that was promptly addressed by network security. No further issues have occurred in recent days.

MBA updates – Katy Borowski

- Save the date – June 2nd Family Judges Live Seminar