**PROBATE BENCH-BAR COMMITTEE MEETING**

Overview from May 10, 2021

Location: Zoom

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Notes from the meeting:

* Materials from Attorney Mitch Hagopian’s presentation on April 12, 2021 were submitted and approved for 1.0 CLE credit. He addressed topics such as restoring a ward’s right to vote and advocacy actions that could be taken to get a ward vaccinated, if vaccination is desired by or for the ward. The presentation was recorded and materials may be found at [https://milwbar.memberclicks.net/probate-bench-bar](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fmilwbar.memberclicks.net%2fprobate-bench-bar&c=E,1,qcQO2LxGG65z_CamguRmq-9EHosO2OvmmbgFGe1XtaPZq7wV_9Z2rmocFFXFkc0uPrP2KvDLkjlm5sbjrwOmPfLshsVOlt2Nbe4Hb5pyK0I,&typo=1).
* For those doing Watts Reviews, please pay careful attention to whether the ward has been vaccinated, and if the ward has not been vaccinated and wishes to be vaccinated, then use this hearing to advocate for the ward’s vaccination wishes.
* Room 206 is available for in-person civil division hearings 1) under extraordinary circumstances, 2) with the permission of the chief judge, and 3) at the direction of the chief judge. Routine hearings are still being held via Zoom. The criminal division has added four new courtrooms for jury trials.
* Hundreds of old cases are being administratively closed and e-notices are being sent regarding their closure. Please contact Josh Steib if you receive an e-notice for a case that should not have been closed.
* Diversity in the GAL list remains a goal, particularly with respect to those who may be able to assist deaf and non-English speaking individuals. GAL applications are still being accepted, and the need for bilingual GALs is significant.
* The 4th Quarter Watts Review calendar will be sent to the GALs soon.
* The date for the annual MBA GAL seminar will most likely be in July but has not yet been confirmed. The seminar has historically been approved for 3.0 CLE credits. Those who need additional credits are encouraged to register for the State Bar GAL seminar that will be presented live on May 14, as that seminar has been approved for 7.0 CLE credits.
* Practice tip: if a standby guardian needs to be appointed, a hearing will need to be held.
* As of June 1, 2021 Judge Lindsey Grady and Judge Hannah Dugan will be swapping calendars.
* The next Bench-Bar Meeting via Zoom will be on Monday, June 14 at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Shue