

PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS TASK FORCE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2005
JUSTICE BUILDING, ROOM 101
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Minutes

The Public Access to Court Records Task Force met on Friday, September 23, 2005 in Room 101 of the Justice Building in Little Rock with the Honorable Ben Story presiding.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ben Story. Those in attendance were: Ben Story, Arkansas Judicial Council; Steve Sipes, Pulaski County Court Administrator; John Stewart, AOC; Tim Tarvin, U of A Law School; Tom Larimer, Arkansas Press Association; Rick Peltz, UALR Law School; Lisa Vest, Office of Information Technology; Jeff Moore Arkansas Bar Association; John Burnett, Attorney at Law; Ashley Fisher, Attorney General's Office; Jeanne Steen, Arkansas Circuit Clerks Association; Matthew Miller, Bureau of Legislative Research; Jesse Gibson, Arkansas Trial Lawyers; Chris Heil, Arkansas Trial Lawyers; Matthew Hess, Arkansas Trial Lawyers; David Williams, Arkansas Trial Lawyers; Tim Holthoff, AOC; Karolyn Bond, AOC; Joe Beard, AOC; and Pam King, AOC.

Ben Story advised the Task Force that some of the trial judges had concerns with the policy as it dealt with exhibits. He stated that exhibits were included in Section VII. A. (8) but had been struck from that subsection after the meeting held July 1, 2005.

Tim Holthoff responded that the reason for making the change with regards to exhibits at the last meeting was because exhibits are currently available for viewing and that the change in the language and the way it currently reads does not require that exhibits be published on the Internet but it does continue to give the public access.

Ben Story stated that maybe the Task Force should just clarify or simplify the language so it is more clearly understandable.

Rick Peltz stated that the Section V. Commentary is clear but could add the language at the end of the second paragraph, ... items beyond this list are left to the discretion of the court and are not covered by the Rule.

Tim Tarvin suggested delaying the acceptance of the proposed policy until the Judicial Council as a body could review the policy.

Rick Peltz stated that it would probably be helpful for a representative from the Task Force to visit with the various groups that would be impacted by the proposed order to avoid any future

misinterpretations. Rick Peltz stated that the Task Force needed to be thinking about a time frame for approving and submitting the proposed rule to the Supreme Court.

Ben Story set the next meeting for Monday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 101 of the Justice Building in Little Rock.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.