



Staff Memorandum

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Agenda Item #27

Attached for your review is a report on local bar activities in the Sixth District from Mark S. Gorgos.



To: Executive Committee

From: Mark S. Gorgos

Re: Vice President's Report – Sixth Judicial District

Date: June 12, 2012

A. Introduction

“Each such Vice President shall visit the various local bar associations within the judicial district and federations of such bar associations on frequent appropriate occasions, shall arrange meetings for the President with representatives of such local bar associations within the Vice-President's judicial district, and shall perform such other acts within the judicial district on behalf of the President as the President shall specifically require.” NYSBA Bylaws, Art IV, Section 3C (excerpt).

B. Description of the Sixth Judicial District

The Sixth Judicial District consists of 10 counties located in the Southern Tier of New York. It covers a large area with Watkins Glen on the west, Cooperstown on the east, Wampsville to the north and Binghamton on the south. The largest county by population is Broome County and the Broome County Bar Association membership currently consists of 548 members. The BCBA has one paid employee, is an accredited CLE provider, has a Board of Directors and has a website. Tompkins County ranks second by population in the Sixth Judicial District and the Tompkins County Bar Association currently has 223 members. They are an accredited CLE provider and have a website but do not have any paid employees. The Broome County Bar Association is the only Bar with a paid full time executive director.

The Bar Associations of Madison, Chemung, Chenango and Schuyler Counties have smaller memberships and are not accredited CLE providers. The Schuyler, Chemung and Madison County Bar Associations have websites and Chenango County plans to develop one.

C. Bar Association Events

The Broome County Bar Association sponsors events for both Young and Senior Lawyers as well as a Memorial Ceremony honoring deceased members of the bar for the current year. They sponsor a Mock Trial program and in addition to their Annual

Meeting and summer picnic, also host Law Day activities. The BCBA has a very active CLE committee and provides approximately 10 CLE programs every year.

The Tompkins County Bar Association also sponsors Law Day activities, hosts their annual meeting, a Summer Social and monthly luncheon meetings.

Madison County conducts CLEs in cooperation with the Onondaga County Bar Association. They also arrange for guest speakers at their meetings. They are currently presenting E-Filing and Litigation in the Computer Age in June.

Chemung County's Bar Association hosts four luncheon meetings with different speakers each year and a golf outing.

The Chenango County Bar Association celebrates Law Day and participates in a Mock Trial program.

The Schuyler County Bar Association holds a spring/summer staff appreciation gathering and also hosts a Holiday party.

None of the bar associations in the 6th JD are planning any special events or celebrating any milestones this year.

D. State Bar Assistance

Overwhelmingly the smaller bar associations in the 6th JD would like to see easier processes to host and/or attend CLE events in their locales, including events sponsored by the State Bar's CLE programs. This creates a bit of an issue within the 6th JD. The Broome County Bar Association, for example, has a very effective CLE committee and a significant portion of its revenue is derived from CLE programs. So there is certainly some understandable reluctance to encourage NYSBA sponsored CLE programs within the geographic region served by the BCBA and perhaps the other relatively larger bar associations. To date, this has not been a contentious issue, but the fact that the smaller bar associations perceive that they are underserved merits some additional attention to this issue.

I have attempted to keep in contact with the local bar associations for the 6th, although the lack of full time executive directors in 8 of the 9 local associations hampers that a little. Certainly the outreach that we did for the Courthouse Funding initiative was well received and appreciated. Connecting with the local bars is an important and vital role of the VPs and we need to continue to keep opportunities to connect and interface in mind.

