

SPECIAL FEE DETERMINATION COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED BY: Melaine Shannon Rothey, Esquire

Re: Report regarding Special Fee Determination Committee

During the last year, I worked closely with Pam DeCecco and Dorie Schnippert for the purpose of streamlining the procedures for participating in the fee arbitration system. I believe that we have developed a simpler process for responding to requests to arbitrate and for scheduling hearings.

In November, I sent a Memo to the 106 attorneys listed as members of the committee and requested a response as to whether he/she wished to continue to be a member of the committee. I received 99 favorable responses, so the committee currently has that many members.

Also, I sent a Memo to the members of the Criminal Litigation Section soliciting members of that section to volunteer for the committee, as we have several matters involving criminal cases each year. We received some favorable responses.

We discussed having a wine and cheese reception to thank the members for their participation, but have not followed up on that idea yet.

According to Pam, there were only 10 arbitration hearings in the 2007-2008 year. There were 40 additional requests for arbitration, which resulted in the following:

- 1 = Complainant changed mind and declined to arbitrate
- 8 = No response from Respondent
- 11 = Respondent declined to arbitrate
- 17 = No response from Complainant (after initial paperwork was sent out)
- 2 = Below \$500 amount
- 1 = Referred to another County Bar for response.

In addition, I issued one Advisory Opinion in response to a request from the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security.