By Rachel Zahniser  
Staff Attorney  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Spring is finally here after a winter for the record books! The warm sunshine and beautiful flowers almost make me forget about my frozen pipes.

In February, in the midst of the snow and freezing temperatures, CASA’s executive board attended the ABA Midyear Meeting in Chicago. During the Midyear Meeting, six board members assisted with the Judicial Clerkship Program (JCP), which is a joint effort of the Judicial Division and the Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline. The JCP is designed to bring judges and minority law students together and to expose those students to clerkship opportunities. This year, approximately fifty-six law students from fourteen different law schools and programs from across the country participated in the JCP, which included panel discussions, a research exercise based on a recent Supreme Court case, observation of oral arguments, resume review, and social events. Staff attorneys add to the discussion by giving tips on applying for

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Greta Scodro  
Indiana Supreme Court  
Indianapolis, IN

CASA members know there are as many ways to organize the work of appellate staff attorneys as there are appellate courts. This article briefly discusses Indiana’s approach.

Approximately 190 employees carry out the work of the Indiana Supreme Court; about one-third are attorneys. Six of those attorneys do the work most closely related to CASA’s core mission of professional development for appellate court attorneys: the Administrator (Kevin Smith), the Deputy Administrator (Greta Scodro), and four staff attorneys (Lynn Pelley, Paula Cardoza-Jones, Geoff Davis, and Brian Eisenman). There’s not a lot of turnover. Some of us have been with the office nearly twenty years; the newcomer has been here for seven. Our collective professional experience before working for the Court includes bankruptcy, criminal law (prosecuting and defending), employment law, and all manner of civil litigation.

Our office is formally known as the Division of Supreme Court Administration, but is generally referred to as the “Admin. Office.” Indiana Code section 33-2.1-7-4 says that

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO:  
INSIDE THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT

By Greta Scodro  
Indiana Supreme Court  
Indianapolis, IN

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clerkships, sharing their experiences in working with judges, and providing information about other positions for attorneys within the judiciary. We learn from the students as well. A student in my group shared his experiences as a participant in the American Indian Law Center’s Pre-Law Summer Institute, which is an intensive two-month program to prepare American Indians and Alaska Natives for law school. If you have the opportunity to attend next year’s Midyear Meeting in Houston, I highly recommend that you volunteer with the JCP.

With summer approaching, the time to renew your ABA and CASA membership is right around the corner. The ABA’s public service group membership allows Judicial Division members to join or renew at greatly reduced rates. If your court does not have a group, please contact CASA’s membership chair Taye Sanford (taye_sanford@ca10.uscourts.gov).

The ABA Annual Meeting will be in Boston from August 8-10. CASA has the opportunity to participate in the Young Lawyers Division’s Section Connect Fair on Friday, August 8. We will have a table to promote CASA and answer questions from young lawyers. If you will be attending the Annual Meeting and would be interested in helping out with the table, please contact me (Rachel_zahniser@ca6.uscourts.gov). The CASA dinner and t-shirt exchange will be on Friday, November 14. Begin looking now for a creative t-shirt (size XL) from your locale!

Hope to see you in Dallas! Enjoy your spring and summer!

CASA’s education committee has been busy planning this fall’s AJEI Summit, which will be at the Dallas Marriott City Center from November 13-16. The agenda is shaping up for another great program, with interesting educational sessions and fun social activities. CASA-sponsored sessions include the popular Supreme Court reviews with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and a new program on Brain Games to Stay Motivated with speakers from the Center for BrainHealth. As we have done in past years, CASA will send panels of staff attorneys to local law schools to talk about the various attorney positions with the court system. While many law students are familiar with “elbow” clerkships in a judge’s chambers, many are unaware of the attorney positions in central staff offices and clerk’s offices. This year in Dallas, CASA looks forward to panels at the SMU Dedman School of Law and the new UNT Dallas College of Law. We anticipate that these panels will be on the morning of Thursday, November 13, before the Summit’s programming begins. If you are interested in participating on a panel, please contact me (Rachel_zahniser@ca6.uscourts.gov). The CASA dinner and t-shirt exchange will be on Friday, November 14. Begin looking now for a creative t-shirt (size XL) from your locale!

Hope to see you in Dallas! Enjoy your spring and summer!
...Inside the Indiana Supreme Court Administration Office continued

the Admin. Office “shall perform such legal and administrative duties for the justices as are directed by the justices.”

In practice, we serve as the central legal counsel for the five Justices. A unique boutique law firm, perhaps. We work for the Court as a whole, in contrast to law clerks who are hired individually by each Justice and work only for that Justice. We have regular duties, and then we have “other duties as assigned.”

The Court’s appellate jurisdiction (last year, it addressed more than 1000 appeals) is largely discretionary, with mandatory jurisdiction over appeals involving the constitutionality of state statutes and criminal cases in which the sentence is death or life without the possibility of parole. All of the paperwork in appeals passes through the Admin. Office. One of our primary regular duties is to write substantive legal memoranda for the Justices in appeals as directed (last year, nearly 300). In addition, the various miscellaneous motions and other matters requiring a ruling (some 2,000 last year) are presented to the Court through the Admin. Office, and we have a role in drafting these orders. We draft per curiam opinions as assigned. We work on attorney and judicial discipline matters, including drafting orders and decisions. The Admin. Office has specific duties prescribed by the Indiana Trial Rules with regard to actions originating in the Court (usually proceedings that challenge a trial court’s jurisdiction). We regularly answer questions from the public and attorneys about appellate procedure.

While the above is a short list of our primary duties relating to the Court’s appellate function, we also have “other duties as assigned,” which can range from conducting an orientation program for new law clerks, speaking at continuing legal education events, and drafting correspondence, to working on robing ceremonies for new Justices.

The Admin. Office is also responsible for the day-to-day fiscal administration of the Court (paying bills, processing payroll, administering employee benefits), assisting the Chief Justice in preparing the Court’s operating budget, collecting and reporting statistics, and often serving as the Court’s liaison to its various agencies, the practicing bar, and the general public. We work with a superb group of five non-lawyer professional staff members on these matters.

The Court has been committed to CASA’s mission for decades. Attorneys from the office have been attending CASA conferences since the 1990’s. We presently attend on a rotation basis and look forward to the next one.

Photo Credit: Greta Scodro
L-R: Brian Eisenman (CASA member and staff attorney), Geoff Davis (CASA member and staff attorney); Greta Scodro (CASA member and deputy administrator), Paula Cardoza-Jones (CASA member and staff attorney), Lynn Pelley (CASA member and staff attorney), and Kevin Smith (administrator).
MY MIAMI TRAVEL GUIDE

Dalila E. Patton
Staff Attorney
Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands
Frederiksted, St. Croix

As a resident of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, no matter where in the continental United States I plan to go, my first stop is always the same: the D terminal at the Miami International Airport (MIA). It is a huge busy place but I believe I can offer some tips and strategies for a successful stopover.

Whenever my plane is about to land, the crew tries to help us with our connecting gate information. And that information will likely be wrong because it’s about 3 hours old. Gates can switch on a moment’s notice. The crew will also tell us that an agent at the gate can assist. However, this will only happen if you have enough time to wait until the agent finishes assisting the 20 people in front of you.

Instead, when I get off the plane I’m looking for the gate on a Flight Information directory which has all the Departures/Arrivals by city, flight number and gate. There are no signs pointing to them, so I just look for a group of people standing still and focusing towards the walls with confused facial expressions. If I’m staying in the D terminal then it’s all good because the Sky Train runs from Gates 1 to 60 in about 10 minutes. There are four stops on a circular route so, even when I go the wrong way, I just stay on the train and I’ll get there soon enough. The only difficulty is actually finding the Sky Train, but here’s a tip: the “Sky Train” signs only take you to the elevators and the escalators. Once you’re there, you have to actually get on the elevators or the escalators and keep going up. (Someone had to explain this to me. Please don’t judge.)

After I identify where I am and where I need to go, my next move depends on my situation. I once landed in the E terminal and my next flight was scheduled to leave a D terminal gate in 45 minutes so I only had 15 minutes to get to that gate. The E terminal was new to me, but I didn’t worry because The D and E terminals are right next to each other. But then I found out that I have to use the extremely long walkway between these terminals, unless I wished to re-experience the magic of the TSA. So since the Sky Train doesn’t go to the E terminal I forgot everything else and ran for my life. But normally I will have plenty of time to reach my gate and relax.

Once I get to a gate, I check the information board behind the agents to make sure that the plane at the gate is going the same place as me. After I know I’m in the right place, I scope out my competition for a power outlet. There are posts in the middle of different sections of seats with about 5 outlets so, theoretically, everyone in the seats around the posts can plug in their electronics. But I regularly see that one person can hog 2 outlets so the competition can be fierce!

Hopefully I’m all charged up at the right gate when they announce that my flight is boarding. I’m one of those people that crowd the entrance while waiting for my group to be called. Why do I do this? Because I have to claim my overhead bin! These days, overhead bins are so crowded that the crew requires people to check their carry-ons when there’s no more space. Or if you can’t find space around you, the crew might take your carry-on and store it far behind your seat, which will require you to wait until everyone deplanes before you can retrieve your carry-on. I’ve learned my lessons.

So after my group is called and I pass the carry-on size test, I’m on my way to the next stop. Hopefully with these tips, and your own patience and sense of humor, you too can enjoy yourself at the MIA on the way to wherever your final destination may be.
2014 SUMMIT PREVIEW

By Rachel Zahniser
Staff Attorney
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Cincinnati, Ohio

CASA’s Education committee has been hard at work planning this year’s AJEI Summit, which will be held at the Dallas Marriott City Center from Wednesday, November 13, through Sunday, November 16. Registration will soon be available on the AJEI’s website. Remember—CASA members receive priority for scholarships to attend!

The Dallas Marriott City Center is located in the Arts District, just a short walk away from the Nasher Sculpture Center and the Dallas Museum of Art. If you’re in the mood for exploring the city, a DART light rail station is nearby.

The Summit’s agenda is packed with interesting educational sessions featuring top notch speakers. CASA-sponsored sessions include Dean Erwin Chemerinsky’s ever popular Supreme Court reviews, a session on Brain Games to Stay Motivated with speakers from the Center for BrainHealth, and Professor Susan Herman’s law and literature presentation on Three Decades after 1984: Why Does Privacy Matter? Plenary sessions include such topics as 50 Years of the Civil Rights Act, The Lure of the Internet, Supreme Court Percolating Conflicts and Preview, and First Amendment Speech—Who and What Are Protected, and Fourteenth Amendment: Personal Jurisdiction. Watch for the updated agenda on the AJEI’s website.

In addition to the sessions, we have a number of fun social events planned. On Thursday night, we will have a Taste of the Arts at the Winspear Opera House — a reception followed by vignettes from various performing arts groups. Friday night will be the CASA dinner and t-shirt exchange. We are in the process of selecting a restaurant to host our dinner. Start looking for your t-shirt now! On Sunday, there will be a reception, dinner, and desserts at the Marriott. Throughout the Summit, CASA will be running the Summit’s hospitality suite at the Marriott. Stop by to have a drink and meet some folks!

We owe a big thanks to CASA’s education committee, including co-chairs Frank Gibbard and Ric Shickele and members Cliffie Wesson and Susan Dautel, for their efforts. We hope to see you in Dallas in November!
COUNCIL OF APPELLATE STAFF ATTORNEY MINUTES

CASA Business Meeting
Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit
Marriott Marquis and Marina
San Diego, California
November 15, 2013

Chair Taye Sanford called the meeting to order. The minutes from the February 9, 2013 executive board meeting were approved on motion by Rachel Ekery, seconded by Lee Ramsey.

Chair’s Report

Taye reported that four CASA members accepted Dean Erwin Chemerinsky’s invitation and flew in a day before the AEJI summit to visit the University of California, Irvine School of Law, to talk to law students about the many different positions held by attorneys within the courts. On the morning before the summit opened, another panel visited California Western School of Law in San Diego to speak to students. Students who attended the panel discussions had already sent emails asking questions of the panelists. Many students and career services employees at law schools are unaware of the many different positions available within court systems. Anyone interested in visiting SMU Dedman School of Law and the soon to be opened UNT Dallas College of Law before the next summit in Dallas should contact Taye.

Members who are participating in the 2014 Judicial Clerkship Program before the ABA Mid-Year Meeting were encouraged to tell law students about different job opportunities within court systems.

Taye also noted that John Attanasio had stepped down as the Dean at the SMU Dedman School of Law. The AJEI was the brainchild of former Dean Attanasio, but SMU is interested in continuing its involvement in the program and is seeking a grant from the ABA to hire a part-time director. Rebecca Greenan, who had been directing the program, is leaving SMU to become the Assistant Dean of Students in a new public law school in Dallas, UNT Dallas College of Law. Former ABA liaison Christie Brietner has moved to another position in the ABA, and Denise Jimenez has been named the new CASA liaison. Taye reported that CASA’s membership numbers are up, possibly aided by the ABA group membership discount. Many appellate staff attorney may be members of a group already, which can be comprised of both judges and attorneys.

ABA Liaison Report

Denise Jimenez discussed recent changes and staff turnover in the ABA Judicial Division. The new associate director is Felice Watts. She encouraged CASA members to sign up and participate in the Judicial Clerkship Program at the upcoming February 2014 Midyear Meeting in Chicago.

Education Committee

Lee Ramsey and Frank Gibbard co-chaired the education committee, and Greta Scodro has also worked on the committee. The summit program is the committee report. Frank appreciated working with Lee and noted that being on the committee was a lot of work. Susan Dautel asked if CASA’s interests had been recognized, and Lee reported that they were full partners in the planning process. Frank noted that CASA became involved in the process early, which helped it to be heard.

Long-Range Planning Committee

No report.

Taye Sanford announced that Rachel Ekery’s judge retired and Rachel was going to work at a private appellate firm. The Board offered her a small token of its appreciation, and Rachel thanked the members for welcoming her into CASA and promised to continue attending the summit.
Nominating Committee

Susan Dautel reviewed the slate recommended by the nominating committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Lee Ramsey moved to adopt the slate of candidates, which was seconded and passed unanimously. The 2013-2014 officers of the CASA Board are

Chair: Rachel Zahniser (Federal - 6th Cir.)
Chair-Elect: Dalila Patton (State - SC, Virgin Islands)
Immediate Past Chair: Taye Sanford (Federal - 10th Cir.)
Secretary: Chris Smith (State - Georgia Court of Appeals)
Members-at-Large (2d year) Frank Gibbard (Federal - 10th Cir.), Karen Hornsby
(State - Tennessee Supreme Court)
Members-at-Large (1st year) Greta Scodro (State - Indiana Supreme Court), Lisa Senter (Federal - 6th Cir.), Cliffie Wesson (State - Texas Court of Appeals, 5th Dist.)

New Business

New chair Rachel Zahniser recognized outgoing chair Taye Sanford for her work and presented her with a gift from the Board. Rachel’s initiatives include increasing membership and educating people about what we do. Signup sheets were passed around for membership, education, CASA Quarterly, long-range planning, and the nominating committees.

Taye will chair the membership committee, joined by John Olivier, Karen Hornsby, and Joe Merrick. Committee members will contact the attorneys on the meeting attendee lists who work for a court and encourage them to join CASA.

Frank Gibbard committed to chair or co-chair the education committee and noted that three or four slots were available on the AJEI summit program committee for CASA members.

Susan Dautel, Ric Schickele, and Cliffie Wesson volunteered to serve on the committee.

In January, the new summit program committee chair Judge Catharina Haynes (US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals) will host a meeting in Dallas, where committee members will discuss proposed ideas and topics for the upcoming summit. Frank and Lee note that participation in the summit program committee is time-consuming but fun, and allows connection to a bigger pool of AJEI participants, including members of the Council of Appellate Lawyers and the appellate judges.

Christina Smith as the new secretary will be the editor for the CASA Quarterly, assisted by Geoff Davis.

Chair-elect Dalila Patton will chair the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Immediate Past Chair Taye Sanford will chair the Nominating Committee.

An executive board meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Chicago.

The Judicial Clerkship Diversity Program will be held in Chicago before the Mid-Year Meeting. Judge Mark Martin pushed to allow law clerks and staff attorneys to participate, and CASA board members were encouraged to volunteer. Law schools commit for three years to send law students who have a demonstrated involvement with racial and ethnic minority communities, and the students meet with judges and staff attorneys in small groups to participate in a research exercise similar to one a law clerk would do. The program is designed to allow judges, law students, and law clerks to develop close personal working relationships, improve students’ analytical, legal research and writing skills, and enhance a new lawyer’s career opportunities.

There being no further business, Chair Rachel Zahniser adjourned the meeting.
ABA’s Midyear meeting. This year, a total of fourteen law schools sent approximately 56 minority students to attend. The students were divided into ten teams and given an opportunity to work closely with judges, law clerks, and staff attorneys on a sample problem, network, learn about clerkships, hear a real oral argument, and receive assistance with their resumes. Six CASA board members participated: Rachel, Christina, Taye, Dalila, Karen, and Cliffie.

The Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Summit will be held on November 13-16, 2014, in Dallas. After Rebecca Greenan, who was the liaison between the AJEI and SMU Dedman School of Law, left SMU for a position as the associate dean of students at a new public law school, the AJEI funded a three year grant to hire a part time summit coordinator. Abby Ruth, who is in private practice in Dallas, has been hired for that position.

Before this year’s Dallas Summit, CASA members will again visit local law schools to talk to students about employment opportunities at courthouses besides the well-known job of elbow clerk to a judge. Members will hold panel discussions at SMU and Rebecca’s new school, UNT Dallas College of Law.

Taye encouraged the board to offer a hospitality suite again at the Summit, noting that the judges appreciate it, especially on Wednesday and Saturday nights. The problem with advertising its availability is that the room number is unavailable until check in. The board agreed and AJEI budgeted funding for the suite.

Rachel will represent CASA at the Appellate Judges Conference (AJC) and AJEI midyear board meetings on Sunday, February 9, 2014; CASA board members are invited to attend to learn more about the groups.

Finally, the AJC will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Boston on August 8, 2014. Chief Justice John Roberts will provide a video and Jeffrey Toobin is a possible speaker.

Education Committee

Committee co-chair Frank reported on the Summit progress. He and co-chair Ric Shickele solicited suggestions from CASA members last November and are working with the AJC and the Council of Appellate Lawyers (CAL). They participated in a conference call to weed out bad ideas and develop good ones, sent the suggestions to the AJEI, and attended a meeting at SMU last month, which Frank and Cliffie attended and which Rachel attended by phone. A tentative schedule has been set for plenary and breakout sessions. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky has agreed to speak again. The committee is rounding up other speakers, submitting information to them, and organizing the event.

The Summit will be held at the Dallas Marriott City Center hotel in the Dallas Arts District, and the committee is considering entertainment options, such as Cowboy Stadium, the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and the Sixth Floor Museum. A reception will be held at the Museum, and possibly at the Opera House if Justice Antonin Scalia speaks. Rachel mentioned that Judge Haynes encouraged CASA members to contribute ideas.

The agenda will include a CASA sponsored session on how to remain motivated and plenary sessions on the 14th Amendment and personal jurisdiction, the 1st Amendment rights of corporations, civil rights after 50 years (considering the LBJ/Dallas connection), actual innocence, Bryan Garner, who has committed to speak and is talking to Justice Scalia about joining him, percolating conflicts, a review of recent U.S. Supreme Court civil cases, and a panel discussion on "the lure of the Internet," which is the topic of an SMU professor’s book. Breakout sessions will include a review of recent U.S. Supreme Court criminal cases, prosecuting terrorists under military law, oral argument, and "When You Can't Wait: Mandamus and Interlocutory Appeals." CASA unsuccessfully proposed sessions on "Gideon v. Wainwright After 50 Years" and pro bono access to appellate courts for pro se litigants.
CASA will hold its annual t shirt exchange and dinner, either Thursday or Friday evening. Dalila is in charge of finding a place to hold the dinner.

**Long Range Planning Committee**

Dalila will attend a meeting of the Judicial Division's chairs elect in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 8 11, 2014. Taye mentioned that the meeting is a good opportunity to meet people and see the overall structure of the Judicial Division and its long range plans. It will be an opportunity for CASA to discuss what it wants to do and what it is doing.

Frank mentioned that membership is critical, and the board discussed lack of funding as an obstacle to obtaining new members. The Federal Judicial Center used to give courts money to send federal staff attorneys to events sponsored by CASA or the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys (NAACA), but in the last two or three years has provided no funds for that purpose. Further, federal courts are prohibited from spending money on private organizations. Senator Grassley did a study of federal courts to examine how many staff members traveled to non-governmental meetings and how much money was spent, such as 9th Circuit judicial personnel traveling to Honolulu and the Federal Circuit to Japan. In response, federal spending for outside CLE was curtailed. Some circuits have their own summits, some don't require staff to hold active bar licenses so they don't need CLE, and some judges have an anti ABA sentiment since the organization grades potential judges, all of which may give federal staff attorneys less reason to join CASA. Still, CASA members do benefit from attending the Summit, which offers some of the only CLE that is directly relevant to CASA members, and they benefit from meeting judicial staff from different courts who perform different functions.

Greta asked how CASA would benefit if membership doubled. Frank responded that if more CASA members attended the Summit, the group would have more of a say in the programming. Taye said that forty attendees at the last Summit identified themselves as court attorneys, but only 20 were CASA members. Holding the hospitality room provides a venue for meeting court attorneys and drawing them into CASA. We should try to identify these attorneys and reach out to them in advance of the Summit by inviting them to dinner and to the hospitality suite. Lisa mentioned that we should get those attorneys interested in the group rates, and point out that if they need CLE, the ABA offers inexpensive options. Taye noted that some court attorneys join the Young Lawyers Division instead of the Judicial Division because they don't know about CASA.

**Membership Committee**

Taye reported on the committee's initiatives to increase membership, including follow up email messages to all of last year’s Summit attendees who identified themselves as court attorneys but are not CASA members. The Judicial Division had 4,646 members as of the end of January 2014. Within the Judicial Division, the Lawyer’s Conference has the largest membership, with 2,000. The Appellate Judges Conference (AJC) has the second-largest membership, with 1,233. Within the AJC, CAL has 395 members and CASA has 76; together, they make up 38% of the AJC.

CASA membership numbers have been steady for the last four or five years. The Judicial Division had a contest among its conferences to see which could make the greatest gain in members between June 2012 and June 2013. The Special Judges Conference (which is small) had the greatest percentage increase, and the AJC had the greatest member-number increase.

Judicial Division group dues for FY 2014 (September 2013 through August 2014) are $105, of which $70 is for membership in the ABA and $35 is for membership in the Judicial Division.

In FY 2015, group dues will be $130 because the ABA component will increase to $95 ( $25 more); the JD component will remain the same.

The ABA is looking at a significant shortfall in revenue, so it put together a pricing strategy advisory group (PSAG) to look at ways to raise revenue. The PSAG recommended several ways to increase non-dues revenue and also recommended increasing dues, which have not been raised since 2007. In the past, the ABA has set a three-year dues rate that was front loaded, so members paid more money in the first year than it cost to operate, but paid less than it cost in the third year. Rather than front-loading the dues, the PSAG recommended making a 13% across the board increase in dues in the first year with possible COLA increases in the next three years. These changes will not apply to CASA members who pay group rates, but will to those who pay individual rates. The PSAG also recommended changing the speed at which the ABA drops members who don't pay. Currently payment is due in September but non paying members are not dropped until February. Starting in FY 2015, the ABA will drop non paying members in mid-November, and the following year it will drop non-paying members at the end of September, i.e., after 30 days. CASA has had problems historically in getting
its members registered in CASA, but that is getting straightened out. Rachel will attend the next membership committee meeting.

Division director Peter Koelling reported that the JD was fully staffed, with the important addition of Felice Watts. Denise Jimenez as conference manager can focus on supporting AJC conferences. Other staff includes Amanda Banninga, Kris Berliant (meeting planner), Jo Ann Saringer, Gena Taylor, and Nicki Martinez. All budgets are on target and they are beginning to set the budget for next year, which is usually completed by now but was delayed by the dues vote. If spending remains constant, the JD will run a $65 million deficit in 2015. JD membership of 4,646 is at an all-time high; the AJC, which is one of six conferences in the JD, has more than 1,200 members. A new amicus protocol will be implemented in May so that ABA briefs to the United States Supreme Court will say, "No judge has read or approved this." Sometimes issues arise about judicial independence and the budget, and the judges wanted a way to respond. The JD Amicus Committee is composed of six members from CAL and six from the Lawyers Conference. It receives applications, votes, files the application with the ABA Amicus Committee if passed, identifying the author.

The JD has applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a PBS type series for adult non-lawyers about the role of the courts in a democracy. An Enterprise Grant from the ABA has been given to produce a book on Issues of Implicit Bias in the Judicial System.

Peter pitched the idea of CASA updating a 20 year old opinion writing manual that is out of print. The JD gets lots of calls for it, and the money could go to the FJE to fund AJEI scholarships. Taye suggested that CASA review the manual and Rachel said we could then consider presenting a proposal in November. Taye asked how to find committee memberships; Peter said they were listed on the website with descriptions and staffing information and suggested she contact the staffer or himself and let them know of her interest.

Nominating Committee

Taye reported that the committee will present a new slate of officers at the November meeting. There are a couple of open slots for first year board member. Members must attend two meetings a year and be available for phone conferences. Many CASA members are retiring and we need to find new people.

CASA Quarterly

Christina reported that she was trying to put together copy. Greta offered to write an article or profile about where she works, as she is retiring soon. Other members offered to assist with newsletter articles.

There being no other business, Dalila moved to adjourn, seconded by Taye and Frank. The motion was approved.