

**Common Pleas & Appellate Courts Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Lawrence Scanlon at 12:00 noon.

The committee was joined by Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer, Judge Thomas Parker and Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands to discuss the serious situation of depleting funds for criminal defense attorneys.

Judge Stormer explained the multi-faceted budget they have, which provides no control for the court over attorney fees. This year the attorney fees will run out in the middle of November. Next year the court is facing a 9.7% budget reduction, and a 12% reduction over the next three years. The judges have discussed several options including capping fees, eliminating court mediation, moving toward a direct indictment program which is currently being used in Cuyahoga County, and moving toward a situation where the attorneys would be provided with a budgeted fee covering the entire year of service without restriction on the number of cases handled. Judge Parker, member of the attorney fees committee, explained that the committee is still in discussions about what to do. The need is warranted, and they are open to suggestions. Larry Scanlon summarized that it is a situation for the judges to ultimately decide on, and the committee will be available to help in whatever way it can.

The meeting was adjourned. The next committee meeting is scheduled for **October 28<sup>th</sup>** at 11:45 a.m. at the Akron Bar Association.

Common Pleas & Appellate Courts Meeting Schedule:

October 28<sup>th</sup>  
November 25<sup>th</sup>  
January 27<sup>th</sup>  
February 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 24<sup>th</sup>  
April 28<sup>th</sup>  
May 26<sup>th</sup>  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>

All meetings will begin at 11:45 a.m. at the Akron Bar Association office.