

**MINUTES**  
**BENCH BAR COMMITTEE**  
Monday, February 3, 2025  
By C. Edward S. Mitchell, Chairman

**Attendance**

Participants were: Judge Butts, Judge Gardner, Brad Hillman, Marc Lovecchio, Tom Marshall, April McDonald, Ed Mitchell, Nicole Spring, LLA Executive Director Michele Frey

Method: the meeting was conducted in person at the LLA Office.

**Old Business**

The staffing shortage in the Public Defenders Office is improved but the office remains understaffed. Two additional individuals, who are now acting as paralegals, will be taking the Bar exam in February.

The DA's office is still understaffed.

All criminal cases on the trial list for the last session of criminal court were reached.

**New Business**

Judge Butts discussed changes in the procedure for making recommendations for supervised bail and the authority for the determination for supervised bail.

The Family Law Arbitration Act was discussed. There are several exclusions and its use for permitted issues is voluntary.

There was an update on the Federal Trade Commission Rule barring non-compete provisions in employment contracts. A federal district court in the northern district of Texas has ruled that the FTC does not have the authority to issue such a regulation.

There was an update on the Corporate Transparency Act which requires small businesses to report beneficial ownership interests to FinCEN. The enforcement of the act has been enjoined by a federal court. Reporting entities, as defined in the Act, are not presently required to make the reports. Reporting entities are corporations, limited liability companies and entities created by the filing of a document with the Secretary of State or other similar office under the law of a state or Indian tribe. There are 23 exceptions. Partnerships and limited liability partnerships are not reporting entities. Professional corporations are reporting agencies.

The Committee for memorial resolutions for Jeff Yates has been appointed. The memorial session of court will be March 5, 2025.

The next meeting will be May 5, 2025 at noon in the LLA Office.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Edward S. Mitchell  
Chairman