

COURT OFFICIALS MEETING AT FALL SEMINAR
by Richard Matt

There was a great turnout of officials for this forum meeting to discuss the transcript copy rate issue that has been brought to light by the State Public Defender and the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel. There were approximately 40 officials in attendance for this somewhat charged discussion.

Unfortunately only one of the two scheduled speakers was able to attend, but Dave Kaplan, the State Public Defender, aptly presented the position of the Public Defender's Office and Alternate Defense Counsel re: copy costs. Brian Shaha, ADC for Colorado, did not make his promised appearance, although extremely apologetic when I saw him Monday. Mr. Kaplan indicated that since mandated costs (expert witness fees, evaluations, transcripts fees, etc.) have been assigned to come out of each department's own budget, (PD, ADC, & DA) his office has had to make cost cuts across the board, and transcript costs represent the largest burden on this budget.

Once the original is produced, what is the "actual" cost to produce the copy? (Toner, paper, binders, reporter's time) Would e-mailing those transcripts or using disks alleviate that expense for reporters? Would foregoing copy costs for state paid transcripts, but raising page rate for non-state paid transcripts help resolve this issue?

Much more than can be herein included was discussed, but I'd especially like to thank Mr. Kaplan and the reporters who participated in this open forum.

Even though no concrete resolution to this issue was reached – or may not even be able to be reached – open discussion and a willingness by reporters to attempt to help resolve this type of issue can only be seen as a positive.

