

**Access to Justice Commission
Minutes
May 6, 2010**

The Access to Justice Commission met at the Supreme Court Building on May 6, 2010. Those attending the meeting in person were Justice Jim Burke, Larry Wolfe, Stuart Day, Joann Odendahl, and Becky Craig; those attending by phone were Justice Marilyn Kite, Ronda Munger, Walter Eggers, Bill Hiser, Dan Fleck, Judge Wesley Roberts, Judge John St. Clair, Dona Playton, Sleeter Dover, Tim Day, and Rennie Polidora.

Opening Remarks

Justice Burke opened the meeting by commenting that the Commission needs to strive to keep the forward momentum going on this project. He will be attending the Equal Access Conference in Arizona on May 15th, which is scheduled to have many topics on the agenda that are relevant to the AJC. Justice Kite received notification of the Commission's reporting requirements, the first report being due on November 11, 2010. She feels that this is a reminder of the accountability that the Commission has to the Legislature.

Non-Profit Entity

Justice Burke spoke of the need for the structure of the AJC to be established, and that the tenor of the March 11, 2010 meeting was that a new independent non-profit entity be formed. Discussion was held. Judge Roberts moved and Justice Kite seconded a motion to form a new non-profit entity. Motion carried. Stuart Day abstained from voting.

Name of Non-Profit Entity

Larry Wolfe met with Chris Reimer in Jackson recently, and Chris has the documents prepared for a new non-profit organization. A name for the non-profit entity will need to be decided on soon. Members of the Commission are to let Becky Craig know of any proposed names, which will then be circulated by email to all members.

Rules, Regulations and Priorities Committee/Non-Profit Structure Committee

The Rules, Regulations and Priorities Committee, consisting of Walter Eggers, Rick Lavery, Scott Skavdahl, Ronda Munger and Leigh Anne Manlove met in April. Walter Eggers reported that a stakeholders' meeting has been set for August 4, 2010 at the Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. A name and address database has been prepared from the list of people who attended the meetings last summer. A save-the-date type of reminder will be sent out soon, with a formal invitation to be sent 2-3 weeks before the meeting. Discussion was held on whether or not the APA would be followed in conducting the stakeholders' meeting. Justice Burke will research this at the Equal Access Conference. It was stressed that the main area of focus at the stakeholders' meeting should be on how to provide service needs. The Rules, Regulations and Priorities Committee group is currently researching the Federal LSC Bylaws and hopes to have a proposed set of draft rules prepared before the next meeting. Justice Burke would like the new rules to be more streamlined and flexible than the Federal LSC Rules.

The Non-Profit Structure Committee consists of Justice Kite, Joann Odendahl, Larry Wolfe, and Chris Reimer. Joann Odendahl reported that the Circuit Court Clerks have been notified of the addition of the Civil Legal Services Fee to the bond schedule; the Administration Staff is working on updating the bond schedule/statute tables; and the accounts have been set up with the Auditor's Office. Ronda Munger will be meeting with the District Court Clerks on June 15th & 16th, and will cover these changes with them, as well. Larry Wolfe has prepared a letter to the Federal District Court to request that \$12,000 of the remaining funds being held by the Bar Foundation be used to hire Rennie Polidora, with the remaining \$10,000 balance being used to support the stakeholders' meeting. It will be necessary to enter into an agreement with the Law School in order to hire Rennie for the summer months.

Website Development

Justice Kite reminded the Commission that it promised the Legislature that a website and pro se forms would be a critical part of the program.

Stuart Day reported that there are federal monies that are available for development of pro se forms and for a website, but that there may be a deadline of the end of the year for their availability. The Bar Foundation would be willing to receive the funds, which could then be held until a decision is made on who will host the website. Dona Playton explained that she is involved with revamping of the wyominglawhelp.org website; possibly the AJC could hook in through this website, and then it would just be a matter of developing the content. The Bar Foundation would be willing to oversee this project. Law students could be hired for research and to further develop and update the website as needed.

Sleeter Dover reported that the Board of Directors of the State Bar gave approval to the Ad Hoc Family Law Committee to update the divorce forms that are available online. Dona Playton pointed out that it is the LSC grantee that services this website, however, they would prefer that someone else receive the federal monies and develop it because of time constraints.

Justice Burke asked Stuart Day and Dona Playton to take on the task of development of the website and the forms, with close assistance from Sleeter Dover and the Wyoming State Bar. Sleeter, Stuart and Dona will meet in Cheyenne on May 19, at 10:30 a.m. at the State Bar Office.

Other Matters

The Governor is tentatively scheduled to speak at the AJC luncheon at the State Bar Meeting in September. Sleeter has asked the Governor to put an emphasis on attorney involvement, other than just in the courtroom.

Judge Roberts assured the Commission that legal services are up and running in Fremont County, and that in his experience in a recent case, it worked wonderfully.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.