

**Access to Justice Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2010**

The Access to Justice Commission had a conference call at noon on May 27, 2010. Those who participated were Justice Jim Burke, Justice Marilyn Kite, Judge Scott Skavdahl, Judge Wesley Roberts, Judge Timothy Day, Walter Eggers, Gen Tuma, Amanda Roberts, Stuart Day, Rick Lavery, Ronda Munger, Becky Craig, Leigh Anne Manlove, Bill Hiser, Laura Pontius (sitting in for Dona Playton) and Rennie Polidora.

Opening Remarks

Justice Burke opened the meeting.

Equal Justice Works Conference

Justice Burke attended this conference in Arizona in mid-May. Two recommendations he received at the conference from other attendees were that 1) the new “organization” in Wyoming really needs to get an Executive Director on board as soon as possible, and 2) the Commission should wait before having a Stakeholder’s meeting. Justice Burke asked Stuart Day to share what he learned at the conference.

Stuart discussed his conversations with a State Law Librarian from Montana that he met and said that she would be very helpful in the future. She is willing to help and advise coordination between the new organization and state libraries in order to reach more potential clients.

Status of Non-Profit Development

Justice Kite is working with Chris Reimer on setting up the non-profit. Currently the sub-committee has no immediate needs. The group will be meeting again in early June.

Website Update

Stuart is working with Dona Playton to update the website created by probono.net in conjunction with LSC. The remaining grant money awarded by LSC is approximately \$30,000. LSC is okay with the AJC/ Bar Foundation having the money which has been “held” by Montana for more than a year while waiting to be used. Stuart mentioned whether or not the committee should consider starting fresh and creating an entirely new website, perhaps not related to probono.net.

Leigh Anne Manlove added that probono.net is a unique entity because it specifically works with LSC and legal service providers in every state.

Rennie’s Role

Justice Burke discussed the hiring of Rennie Polidora for the summer to help the Commission and sub-committees with any tasks they have or that come up. Her employment will be funded by using a portion of the money given by the Federal Courts.

Rennie is aware that she will have to answer to several “bosses” and will prioritize assignments as they come in. Her contact information will be shared with the sub-committees so they can

correspond directly with her. It would also be helpful for the sub-committees to “cc” Rennie when they correspond with each other so she will be aware of each group’s status and progress.

Stakeholder Meeting

Based on the information Justice Burke received at the conference in Arizona, he wanted to know 1) if AJC should still be planning on having the meeting, and 2) if so, what should be the focus of the meeting.

Walter Eggers still believed that the Commission should have a stakeholder’s meeting in Casper in August. He agreed that the content and focus of the meeting should be specific. Walter also wants to get feedback from stakeholders regarding what services should be priorities.

Justice Kite agreed that the AJC still should hold the stakeholder’s meeting, but she had two considerations: 1) consider expanding the time allotted, maybe from 4-8 p.m., and avoid having it on a weekend, 2) be specific with the agenda, maybe having a few “options” that will guide the discussion as opposed to an open forum.

Rick Lavery reminded everyone that this is an election year so AJC should be prepared for candidates who want to be involved or express their opinions regarding HB61.

Name of Non-Profit

Finally, the conference call shifted to a discussion of what the name of the new organization should be. So far there have been some submissions but no decision has been made.

Bill Hiser felt that the name should reflect the fact that this organization will be providing legal services for the indigent. Therefore, words like “aid” and “assistance” are useful.

Ronda Munger presented “Wyoming Center for Legal Aid” because it accurately reflects the low-income facet as well as the single point of entry.

No decisions were made but a list of possibilities will be circulated.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00.