

**Access to Justice Commission
Minutes
December 17, 2010**

The Access to Justice Commission met at the Supreme Court Building on December 17, 2010. Those attending the meeting in person and by phone were Chief Justice Marilyn Kite, Justice Jim Burke, Judge Scott Skavdahl, Judge Wes Roberts, Walter Eggers, Larry Wolfe, Amanda Roberts, Stuart Day, Dona Playton, Rick Lavery, Joann Odendahl, Ronda Munger, Rennie Polidora, and Becky Craig.

Opening Remarks

Justice Burke opened the meeting by welcoming all of the participants. He informed the group that the Access to Justice Commission's Report that was due to the Legislature by November 1, 2010 was delivered as required, and that the next report is due on May 1, 2011. Joann Odendahl reported that from July 1, 2010 through October 30, 2010, \$332,000 in civil legal services fees have accumulated in the account. Judge Roberts pointed out that many of the payments that were received by the courts from July 1st to October 30th were for citations that were issued prior to the assessment of the civil legal services fees; therefore, the funds that will accumulate for a similar period of time in the future, should be considerably greater.

Wyoming Center for Legal Aid Board Members

Justice Burke advised that there was a statewide invitation issued to solicit people who would be interested in becoming board members for "The Center." The decision was made to limit the initial number of board members to seven, and to have that group then fill out the board as they deem appropriate. Chief Justice Kite reported that the board members are: Patrick Day, Stuart Day, Leigh Anne Manlove, Ray Fleming, Rae Lynn Job, Chris Reimer, and Mark Aronowitz.

Website Development

Justice Burke reported that Stuart Day, Dona Playton, and Ray Machia have been working on development of the website. A number of the Commission members and Supreme Court IT staff met earlier in the day by video conference with Christine Mandiloff of the Montana Legal Services Corporation. During the meeting she explained the pros and cons of Montana's website platform. Joann suggested to the Commission that the two new state law librarians, who have expertise in working with legal services and with website development, would be available to work with Stuart, Dona, and Ray on the project. They would have the ability to market the website around the state through the local county libraries. Justice Burke explained that there will be a stakeholder group formed that will consist of the various entities around the state that have a direct interest in serving this client base.

Access to Justice Commission Members — Expired Terms

Ronda Munger reported that there are six members of the Commission whose terms end on December 31, 2010. They are: Chief Justice Marilyn Kite, Judge Tim Day, Sleeter Dover,

Bill Hiser, Amanda Roberts, and Gen Tuma. Ronda recommended asking Commission members to continue for another term, and explained the individual replacements based on position or title. The draft Order listed the following individuals: Chief Justice Marilyn Kite, Judge Tim Day, Sleeter Dover, Brian Hultman, Amanda Roberts and Gen Tuma. Judge Roberts moved and Stuart Day seconded a motion to recommend the Supreme Court sign the Order, if these individuals are willing to serve. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee on Local Access Efforts

Justice Burke stressed that even though the Legislature is providing additional funding, it is not going to be sufficient to satisfy the existing needs, and that pro bono efforts and pro se representation are integral to this endeavor. He advised the Commission that Rick Lavery, Judge Mike Davis and Judge Tim Day have formed a subcommittee to look at this issue. Rick reported that the subcommittee has met regularly since October, and has drafted a proposal that recommends that pilot projects be initiated by each district, since each district seems to have its own unique concerns. Recommendations could then eventually be made to the Commission as to what is most effective for certain localities of the state. Discussion was held on the projects that the First, Third and Ninth Judicial Districts have already begun to implement.

Other Matters

Larry Wolfe spoke about the 211 service. This is a statewide telephone number that people can access to direct them to the appropriate service provider for their particular need, which also includes legal services. This project is going statewide in January, and it would be beneficial to make sure that The Center is linked into this system.

Meeting adjourned.