

Access to Justice Commission
Minutes
January 13, 2009

The Access to Justice Commission met by conference call on January 13, 2009. In attendance were Justice Jim Burke, Judge Scott Skavdahl, Rick Lavery, Walter Eggers, Sleeter Dover, Leigh Anne Manlove, and Ronda Munger. Ray Machia also participated.

Order Appointing Access to Justice Commission

Justice Burke opened the meeting by discussing the draft Order Appointing the Access to Justice Commission. Ronda Munger explained how and why the terms of Commission members were selected. Justice Burke solicited comments or proposed changes from the group.

Bylaws Subcommittee

Justice Burke suggested the Commission have a face-to-face meeting soon. The possible topics for that meeting would be to discuss the possible direction and core values of the Commission, what types of subcommittees or work needs to be done, and whether or not to hold public hearings. Rick Lavery suggested the Commission line up a facilitator for that meeting. Sleeter Dover offered to come up with some possible facilitators. Rick Lavery, Walter Eggers, Leigh Anne Manlove and Ronda Munger were asked and agreed to become a bylaws subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet to come up with an initial draft of the bylaws or operating procedures for the Commission.

Legal Services Update Provided by Interim Provider Ray Machia

Ray Machia, of Legal Aid of Wyoming, Inc., joined the conference call and provided the Commission with an update regarding his work as the interim legal services provider. He is currently working on a month-to-month contract with Legal Services Corp (LSC). Each month he is being given a different set of priorities to carry out, such as updating the policies and procedures, statistical data collecting, etc. Mr. Machia expressed some frustration and concern with getting funding from LSC in a timely manner, and also expressed a willingness to begin taking new cases, which is currently LSC will not allow. The application for the permanent provider is due at the end of February, with the full RFP submission due on March 15th.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Task Force/Access to Justice Commission (AJC) will be January 27, 2009 at noon.