

Access to Justice Commission
Minutes
August 18, 2009

The Access to Justice Commission met by conference call on August 18, 2009. In attendance were Justice Jim Burke, Justice Marilyn Kite, Judge Wes Roberts, Judge Tim Day, Rick Lavery, Walter Eggers, Sleeter Dover, Leigh Anne Manlove, Stuart Day, Dona Playton, Rennie Polidora, and Ronda Munger.

LSC Grant

Justice Burke opened the meeting with an update on the LSC grant. Legal Aid of Wyoming LLC was awarded the grant. There was an article in the Wyoming Tribune Eagle announcing the grant. Justice Burke spoke with Ray Macchia and Ray reported that they had received over 700 applications for assistance, but only about 10% met the financial qualifications. Ray also reported that he must have his Board in place by the end of September. The Wyoming Bar will appoint four members of that Board. Rick Lavery reported that the Bar officers and commissioners will meet in Evanston during the State Bar Convention. Judge Day suggested that an AJC member be appointed to that Board.

Resource Development Subcommittee

Walter Eggers reported that the Resource Development Subcommittee will meet the week of August 24th by phone and will discuss their ongoing projects; filing fee table, county expenditures, etc.

Delivery Systems Subcommittee

Dona Playton reported the Delivery Systems Subcommittee has been working on the details of automating pro se forms and the pro se packets. Dona has spoken with Sheila Fisher, a template developer out of Pennsylvania, and reports that Sheila was in the process of using LSC money to provide services to Wyoming Legal Services in automating some documents for Wyoming. She is not close to finishing the project, but Dona reported that there is still about twenty-seven thousand dollars in grant funds for the project. It is possible that Ray can hire someone to work with the Montana people on this project. Ray and Allison (MT) are meeting on August 21st and will work on some of the details. The website that will house the automated documents is described in the white paper.

Grant Status – Attorney Admission Fund

Walter Eggers reported that the grant application has been submitted to the Federal Court Attorney Admission Fund Committee. He has not heard anything yet, but he expects they will be meeting in the next week or so. Judge Day added that he had spoken with a few of the committee members and thought that the response to the request was very favorable.

Contact with the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribal Court

Judge Roberts reported that he is working with Judge St. Clair in forming the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribal Court Subcommittee. The committee is scheduled to meet at the

end of August. They are also anticipating a public hearing to be held in Lander or Riverton sometime in October. The legal services that are required for the tribes have a much broader coverage – they include some criminal defense work, child support enforcement, etc.

Public Hearings Subcommittee

Walter Eggers reported that the public hearing subcommittee is putting together plans and invitations for the public hearing in Evanston, scheduled for September 14th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Roundhouse and Railyards. Rick Lavery, also State Bar President, encouraged everyone to try to attend the public hearing and the bar convention.

Wyoming State Bar Foundation

Stuart Day reported that the Wyoming State Bar Foundation will meet in Evanston and discuss its role in the access to justice initiative currently moving forward. Stuart reminded the AJC that the Bar Foundation and the AJC will be sponsoring a vendor table with materials to be handed out to the lawyers. Ronda Munger requested volunteers to help staff the table during the week. Justice Kite volunteered.

Access to Justice Luncheon

Rick Lavery provided information on an access to justice luncheon scheduled for the Thursday, September 17th, in Evanston. Associate Justice Jess H. Dickinson from the Mississippi Supreme Court is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at that luncheon. The AJC will be introduced and the pro bono awards will also be given at that luncheon.

Other Business

Justice Burke reported that he traveled to Sheridan to meet with the Sheridan County Bar Association. The local group is eager to get involved in helping with the access to justice issues in Wyoming. Justice Burke explained the current activities of the AJC and encouraged them to get involved. Justice Burke also met with legislators on his trip to Sheridan. Justice Burke reported the meetings were very positive.

Commission adjourned