

**Access to Justice Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**November 4, 2019**

The Access to Justice Commission met at the Supreme Court Building November 4, 2019. The members attending the meeting in person, by video, or by phone were, Justice Lynne Boomgaarden (Chair), Justice Kate Fox, Stuart Day, Judge Timothy Day, Angie Dorsch, Walter Eggers, Jessica Keith, Representative Dan Kirkbride, Judge Richard Lavery, Ray Macchia, Brad McKim, Lauren McLane, Janet Montgomery, Ronda Munger, Kelly Neville, Devon O'Connell, Judge Paul Phillips, Dona Playton, Tony Ross, Kayla Spencer, Farrah Spencer, Sharon Wilkinson, Mackenzie Williams, Kevin Murphy, Gabe Rody-Ramazani, and Lannette Cress.

1. **Welcome:** Justice Boomgaarden welcomed the group and expressed her appreciation to all the members who assisted with the Strategic Plan and the process of moving the Commission forward in the natural evolution of continuing to collaborate and improve access to civil justice in the State of Wyoming. Justice Boomgaarden also welcomed the new Wyoming State Bar President, Kelly Neville, and Professor Lauren McLane, who is the new UW law school representative on the Commission
2. **Report from Wyoming State Bar (WSB) President:** Kelly Neville reported the WSB continues to actively support the pro bono efforts of the Commission through participation in events over Pro Bono Week including the free legal aid clinic. The WSB's Modest Means Program (MMP) has 85 attorneys enrolled, providing low-cost assistance to individuals who do not qualify for free legal services. Another area of support is through the pro bono expense reimbursement program, which offers compensation for out of pocket costs incurred by attorneys who have provided pro bono work. A strategic plan was updated in June which includes two prongs that will directly affect attorneys who do pro bono work: the first being an attorney wellness program and the second a commitment to providing support and resources to the small and solo attorney practices.
3. **Legal Needs Assessment Status Update:** Ray Macchia and Angie Dorsch updated the Commission on the progress of the Legal Needs Assessment. Ray, Walter Eggers, Kevin Murphy (Ameri Corp Volunteer), and Angie have had several meetings with Data Corp, the Legal Needs Assessment provider. Data Corp has held two focus group sessions (four sessions remain) and are in the data-collection phase of the project, awaiting information from surveys that have been distributed and key stakeholder interviews. The group is finalizing the professional survey that will be distributed to judges, clerks, attorneys and legal aid attorneys and staff. The assessment should be complete in May of 2020.
4. **2019 Report and Plan:** Brad McKim (Chair) introduced the Strategic Planning Subcommittee: Angie Dorsch, Walter Eggers, Janet Montgomery, Judge Paul Phillips, Judge Tim Day, Representative Dan Kirkbride.
  - a. **Subcommittee Overview**—The committee was charged with preparing a report to recap the progress of the previous five-year plan and to set a path for the Commission moving forward. Substantial progress was made under the previous plan, with Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW) taking off on strong footing. The committee dispensed the idea of presenting another five-year plan and

focused instead on clarifying the purpose of and best role going forward for the Commission. The committee believes the relationship between the Commission and EJW needs to evolve from the current push by the Commission to EJW to, instead, a pull by EJW from the Commission. The Commission will exercise limited oversight over EJW.

**b. *Commission Input:*** Mackenzie Williams, Stuart Day, Walter Eggers, Dona Playton and Angie Dorsch responded favorably to the draft Report and forward-looking objectives as working group leaders. They discussed how the proposed objectives would affect their current projects. The Law Improvement working group has a white paper in progress and would like to see that through to completion. Ronda Munger spoke in support of the Plan and encouraged the Commission to celebrate their good work. Brad McKim, Justice Fox, and Sharon Wilkinson agreed with Ronda's comments. Justice Fox questioned the Commission's role in terms of legislative work: What are the limits in proposing legislative changes? Tony Ross supported the streamlined approach and urged the Commission to consider appointment of one member from the Senate and one from the House to support and facilitate the flow of legislation. Representative Kirkbride agreed with Tony's suggestion and supported the efforts of the Commission in downsizing while still being true to its mission.

**c. *Next Steps***

- Mackenzie Williams will research the legal limits of the Commission proposing legislation and will revise the Commission's bylaws according to the Report and new objectives.
- Stuart Day (with the assistance of Walter) will finalize the Report; completing the table of contents, summary and conclusion.
- Justice Boomgaarden will work and accept ideas on how to proceed with publishing the Report to the Chief Justice, the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House and the Governor, and on appropriate follow up with stakeholders after the Needs Assessment is completed.

Justice Boomgaarden proposed the March 2020 meeting concentrate on substantive progress toward winding up the work of the working groups and those areas in which EJW would like the Commission to focus resources and efforts for the next six months. Once the Needs Assessment is complete, another meeting will be scheduled to address its findings as related to the Commission's objectives.

## **5. Other Business**

**a. *Expiring Terms and Reappointments***—Justice Boomgaarden will be visiting with the members whose terms will expire at the end of the year, if their appointment is continuing pursuant to the revised bylaws. Appointments not continuing, according to the updated by laws, will simply lapse upon expiration.

## **6. Future Action Items (Justice Boomgaarden)**

### ***a. Upcoming Events***

- ABA Day, Washington, DC—April 21–23, 2020
- National AJC Meeting, Atlanta, GA—May 7–8, 2020

### ***b. Next meeting—March 23, 2020***