



Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

Date: Friday, October 19, 2012

Time: 9 am – 11:30 am



Three main video-conference locations

<p>Las Vegas Regional Justice Center 17th Floor, Conf. Rooms A&B 200 Lewis Ave., Las Vegas, 89101</p>	<p>Carson City Supreme Court Law Library Room #107 201 S. Carson Street, Carson City, 89701</p>	<p>Reno 2nd Judicial District Court Judges Conference Room 200-A 75 Court Street, Reno, 89501</p>
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Minutes

Commission members in attendance

Justice Michael Douglas Co-Chair
 Justice James Hardesty Co-Chair
 Anna Marie Johnson
 Brett Kandt
 Buckley Barbara (Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, for Melanie Kushnir)
 Elana Hatch
 Hon. Frank Sullivan
 Ira David Sternberg
 Jessica Perlick
 Paul Elcano
 Prof. Anne Traum
 Sugar Vogel (by telephone)

Staff

Kristina Marzec ,Director

Non-voting guests in attendance

Hon. Cynthia Leung
 Dara Goldsmith, President, Justice League of Nevada
 Emily Hancock
 Gudenkoff, Gregory, Justice League of Nevada
 Jessica Perlick, PILA
 Julie Cavanaugh-Bill, Justice League of Nevada (by telephone)
 Katelyn Franklin, PILA Liaison
 Keegan Flaherty, ALPS Foundation services (by telephone)
 Kim McKelvey, ALPS Foundation services (by telephone)
 Sally Rahm, Attorney General Office

Call to Order

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9:25 am.

Legal Aid Service Provider Updates

Nevada Legal Services reported it passed the recent round of LSC audits. The LSC Rocky Mountain Meeting of Executive Directors focused on the elections and the concerns related to upcoming elections. NLS funding will be fairly stable if Democrats retain control of congress. The program received another \$60,000 for next year for tribal court which wasn't requested but welcomed. Accordingly NLS will continue criminal and civil representations in tribal court matters through 2015.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada reported over 800 young adults and children were helped under its programming assisting those qualified under the DREAM ACT. This was a partnership with UNLV law students and the Office of the Mexican Consulate. LACSN also has a pilot project to assist the long-standing concern of foster children currently mandatorily admitted to mental health facilities and over-medicated on psychotropic drugs. The focus is to have a single doctor per child, instead of private vendors with incentive to see more and prosecute more. Nevada was denied the domestic violence grant, as happens every third cycle. The building is progressing well. The program has room for eight law students and applications for about fifteen. New funding for foreclosure mediation recently came through.

The Southern Nevada Senior Law Program reported the transition to a 501(c)(3) continues to be smooth with no interruption in services. The current building was sold to Tony Hsieh who renegotiated the lease with SNSLP at a rate of \$1 dollar/year rent, utilities and all maintenance paid.

Washoe Legal Services reported some in-house changes for efficiencies. They have doubled up on intake to process more clients. Finances are in good shape and business is proceeding normally. New funding received from money under the recording division, final amounts to be seen. The program has filled a second domestic violence advocate position and will be adding a new child advocate in the new year.

Washoe Senior Law Project The county set up an advisory subcommittee to review and report on the future of the project. Options discussed to date are to stay with the county, go to one or more legal aid providers, or, whether the county should apply for grants and sub-contract.

Rural Services Report Anna Marie Johnson presented a special report on NLS services to the rural counties for 2012 to date and discussed the new poverty reports the federal funders are using. NLS staff is out in the rural counties every week and cases are regularly processed as noted in the case statistics provided. The statistic on poverty provided are based on 2010 census, which is what federal funders are using.

Of note is that federal funders found NLS is spending too much money on rural services. This is not unique, as it did the same to Montana and Utah. While the NLS passed the recent audit, this was a goal item that will be followed up by LSC with a directive to increase services to Clark County. This presents a dilemma for NLS and its response to concerns regarding level of service in the rural counties. Another challenge is that many of the people who contact NLS in rural counties simply do not income qualify for services and must be turned away.

Legislative Issues

The legal aid providers reported there were currently no pending legislative items for Commission action, but there may be some after November elections. The Co-Chairs requested that they be kept apprised of bills that may affect access to justice issues. There may also be some funding considerations to accommodate Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements.

IOLTA

Justice League Nevada reported on the IOLTA memoranda in the agenda. As to grants, the Board will make final decisions in a few days. Last year JLN granted 1.7 million. There are three new applicants, two who applied last year but were denied, and fourteen who applied and were granted last year. Two entities applied and granted last year were not funded this year. Grant details will be provided by year end.

Most of the work on JLN branding and donor development is completed. There are currently 1,000 people registered in the donor database, with a new board campaign for donor development in process. Given the first few months of the fixed rate dropping to .70 from .75, the Commission should anticipate a 7% decrease in 2013 IOLTA income. JLN will need to look at alternate sources of income for next year. JLN would also like to fund law related education as well.

Emeritus

Justice Douglas reported on his conversations with the Washoe Public Defender regarding the need for volunteers and will update the Commission next meeting.

Speakers Bureau

Judge Sullivan, chair of public speakers bureau working group, reported that he was finalizing the list of speakers and would provide those shortly. There were some concerns expressed by judges about soliciting private law firms. Judge Sullivan will be doing presentations in November to private firms. Julie Cavanaugh-Bill reported she has a list of interested speakers in the rurals. Additionally, local judges are gathering statistics on how those courts are affected by non-represented litigants. The State Bar has offered website and publications support for this project.

Moved and approved to adopt a format similar to those provided in the meeting agenda offering speakers in substantive-specific areas, and, request the State Bar Board of Governors to consider joining on the bureau.

Communications and Marketing

Ira Sternberg reported that pro bono marketing and public relations assistance was secured with The Firm, at a rate of 5 hours per month through October 2013. Additionally, a videographer he recommends is available to do a campaign video for the Commission at a reduced rate. A plan for a campaign recommendation was discussed, including the existing Say Yes initiative the State Bar launched to encourage dues check off donations and 2013 volunteer services, the existing national ONE campaign, or a new Nevada-specific campaign. The Commission expressed there should be a uniform, cross-agency statewide message relating to pro bono that incorporates solicitation, ownership, and obligations. Messaging should focus on need, urgency for services, volunteerism and donations.

Moved and approved that Ira Sternberg and staff will meet with The Firm and present recommendations to be considered in addition to Say Yes and ONE. All legal aid provider staff, Justice League of Nevada, and the State Bar of Nevada will be asked to vote on the final campaign.

Pro Bono Week

The Commission discussed the pro bono week calendar and encouraged those present to attend as many events as possible during the week. An article recapping pro bono week activities will be submitted to Nevada Lawyer for publication.

Adjourned 11:05