



Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission
Friday, November 1, 2013 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM



Video Conference:

Las Vegas

Regional Justice Center, 17th Floor
Supreme Court, AOC Rooms A & B

Carson City

Supreme Court

Law Library, Rooms #104/#105

Reno

2nd Judicial District Court

75 Court Street – Room 220B

Conference Call:

Conference Call Number: 877.594.8353 / Participant Code: 35688281

Draft Minutes

Commission Members in Attendance:

Justice Michael Douglas, Co-Chair
Justice James Hardesty, Co-Chair
John Desmond
Judge Patrick Flanagan
Paul Elcano
Elana Graham
Ira David Sternberg
Anne Traum
Sugar Vogel
Shaina Plaksin
Dara Goldsmith
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Judge Camille Vecchiarelli
Judge James Wilson
Judge Leon Aberasturi
Judge Bill Rogers
Judge Al Kacin
Judge Michael Montero
Judge Steve Dobrescu
Judge Nathan Tod Young
Judge Tom Stockard
Ben Albers

Attending Guests

Trevor Atkin, Justice League of Nevada
Nicole Lambley, Justice League of Nevada
Barbara Buckley, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Max Couvillier, Board of Directors, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Alan LeFebvre, Board of Governors, State Bar of Nevada
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada

Staff Member Present

Angela Washington, Access to Justice Director

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Access to Justice Commission Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm by Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez and a roll call was conducted.

Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2013 Access to Justice Commission with the amendment that Judge Nathan Tod Young was present for the meeting. The vote was taken and the matter passed unanimously. Further it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2013 One Campaign Subcommittee Meeting minutes. The vote was taken and the matter passed unanimously. Finally, it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 Subcommittee Meeting on Rural Concerns. The vote was taken and the matter passed unanimously.

Statewide Legal Service Delivery Reports

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada – Barbara Buckley provided the report for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Max Couvillier was introduced to the Commission as the new President of the LACSN Board of Directors. Also, Ms. Buckley shared that the LACSN Annual Report is available and can be found on the LACSN website. The annual report highlights the organization’s milestones over the course of the year, which include taking over the operation of the Family Law Self Help Center in Clark County and the hiring of a full time attorney director. Additionally, LACSN is in the process of revising every form on the Family Court website. LACSN’s Pro Bono Awards Luncheon will take place December 6th at the Rio.

Nevada Legal Services – There was no one present from Nevada Legal Services at the meeting.

Southern Nevada Senior Law Program – Sugar Vogel provided the report for Southern Nevada Senior Law Program (SNSLP). SNSLP moved to a temporary office location on the corner of 6th Street and Bridger Street. Following the annual meeting, SNSLP was informed that it needed to move out within twenty-four hours and was moved to a temporary location. During the moves, services were not interrupted outside of the two days that the organization moved. Additionally, SNSLP reported that the organization submitted a grant to serve not only Clark County, but rural Clark County as well, including Pahrump. SNSLP has served Laughlin, and has an ongoing service plan for Laughlin. Additionally, SNSLP has partnered with Nevada Legal Services in serving seniors and was very honored to be one of the recipients of the Champions of Justice Award during pro bono week.

VARN – Ben Albers provided the report for VARN. Valerie Cooney has transitioned to part time status with VARN. Additionally, Odessa Ramirez, Assistant Executive Director recently retired. VARN intends to hire a staff attorney in January and intends to fill the pro bono director position as well. Recent activities at VARN include a legal remedies presentation in Elko; a presentation via video conference to Fallon and Elko on Domestic Violence and Its Effect on Communities. VARN also reported that it will host a legal aid fair in Carson City on November 2, 2013.

Washoe Legal Services – Paul Elcano provided the report for Washoe Legal Services (WLS). WLS is representing over 400 children in Child Advocacy Proceedings. Additionally, WLS launched a senior services shop at the beginning of the year. Finally, WLS has plans to purchase the building they currently occupy.

Discussion Items

Justice League of Nevada / IOLTA Report

Dara Goldsmith provided the Justice League of Nevada (JLN) report to the Commission and provided that prior to last Access To Justice Commission meeting, the Justice League of Nevada's Board of Directors made the decision to move forward with hiring an Executive Director. Shortly thereafter, the ALPS point persons who had provided services to Justice League of Nevada gave notice that they were leaving the ALPS organization. The position for Executive Director of JLN was posted and three candidates were interviewed. Thereafter, two finalist candidates were selected; JLN is in the process of weighing the candidates. In terms of costs, it was reported that JLN has been operating at a 6% cost or expense, which includes ALPS, the audit and other expenses. Those expenses will move to 9% upon the hiring of an executive director.

JLN's Finance Committee met and recommended a granting range for 2014: between \$1.75 million and \$1.95 million. Additionally, the decision was made not to fund any law related education for 2014. JLN's budget was approved at its September Board meeting and in terms of granting, JLN guaranteed 75% of funds to the "Big Five" legal services organizations. [Trevor Atkin (Secretary, JLN Board of Trustees) and Nicole Lambley (Vice Chairperson, JLN Board of Trustees) were present and contributed to the discussion.]

Discussion from the commission members ensued regarding JLN's decision to move forward with hiring an executive director. After initial discussion, the motion was made to allow JLN to commit to the hiring of an executive director. The motion was seconded and the co-chairs entertained discussion on the motion. Following the discussion of the motion, a vote by poll was taken. Twenty voted for the motion and two abstained. The motion carried.

IOLTA Rate

The IOLTA interest rate was discussed at this meeting and it was decided that the meeting that was originally scheduled for November 21, 2013 to discuss the IOLTA interest rate was abated. The motion was made and seconded to leave the IOLTA interest rate at .70%. The vote was taken and the motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions. The participating financial institutions will be notified in accordance with the established time limits.

Reports

ATJ Commission Vacancy Appointments

The Access to Justice Commission is in need of filling vacancies on the commission, namely, one layperson vacancy and two at large vacancies. Commission members were asked to provide suggestions for the filling of the vacancies within ten days. Consideration should be given to a person from Washoe County to fill the layperson position and one at large representative from Clark County and one at large representative from Washoe County.

Subcommittee on Rural Concerns

Judge Stockard provided a report on the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Rural Concerns that was conducted on September 10, 2013. Judges from nearly every rural district attended and discussed the needs and challenges of finding legal resources for the rural communities. It was noted that at this meeting, the Judges committed to cooperate with lawyers in urban counties to make it easier to provide services to people living in the rural counties to the extent that technology will accommodate.

ONE Promise Nevada Campaign

The report on the ONE Campaign was provided and included past and future events and publications supporting the campaign.

Pro Bono Week (Celebration)

The report on the Pro Bono Week Celebration was provided and offered a summary of the events that took place. Special recognition was offered to The Firm for its public relations services donation and to Commission member, Ira David Sternberg for his efforts during the week.

Public Speakers Bureau

Judge Sullivan sent the report for the Public Speakers Bureau which provided that speaking engagements took place at the Las Vegas Rotary Club regarding the Access to Justice Commission, the ONE Campaign and the Nevada Court of Appeals. Future meetings have been established with the Las Vegas Rotary Club.

Informational Items

Justice Douglas referenced all listed informational items on the agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.