



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Access to Justice Commission Meeting Minutes Friday, March 9, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

Present

Justice Michael Douglas
Justice James Hardesty
Connie Akridge
Julie Bobzien
Randy Boesch
Julie Cavanaugh-Bill
James Conway
Doreen Spears Hartwell
Annamarie Johnson
Judge Joanna Kishner
Joseph McEllistrem
Noah Malgeri
Judge Tammy Riggs
Judge Bridget Robb
Judge John Schlegelmilch
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Anne Traum
Adam Tully
Sugar Vogel
Judge Nathan Tod Young

Guests Present

Barbara Buckely
Phyllis Gurgevich
Stephanie McDonald
Shelly Newton
Emily Reed
Summer Youngquist

Staff Present

Brad Lewis

Call to Order/Roll Call – Part I

Justice Douglas called the Access to Justice Commission meeting to order. Brad shared that Judge Kishner had a brief report from the E-Filing Subcommittee to share but that she was in court today and could only step out for a brief period of time. He asked the Commission if anyone had an objection to reordering the agenda to hear from Judge Kishner upon her arrival and then returning to the agenda as outlined. Hearing none, as we were ready to proceed, Judge Kishner came on the line.



Electronic Filing by Non-Lawyers

Judge Kishner shared that she and Judge Steinheimer, also on the E-Filing Subcommittee, had been discussing approaches used in the Second Judicial District and what might be possible in the Eighth Judicial District. Judge Kishner shared that in the Eighth Judicial District there are particular concerns related to fraudulent filings. She shared that discussions in earnest were awaiting other rule change discussions underway and that the issue would be approached further at the Wednesday, March 14 All Judges meeting. It was shared that e-filing in the Second Judicial District must first begin with a wet signature, after which all future documents are filed electronically. A brief discussion ensued about finding some way to advance on e-filing in the Eighth, even if some concerns remain in place. It was suggested that perhaps a pilot program of some sort could be put into place and trialed to see what is learned and take the next best steps after that. It was suggested that it might make the most sense to try something within the family courts. It was further noted that both a Federal as well as a rural representative should be added to the E-Filing Subcommittee.

Call to Order/Roll Call – Part II

After the e-filing discussion, we returned to the regular agenda order. A roll call was conducted. Justice Douglas and Justice Hardesty offered brief welcomes, commented on the good work of all, and the meeting shifted to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Justice Douglas called for any comments or questions on November 21, 2017 Commission minutes included in the consent agenda. Hearing none he called for a vote. It was moved, seconded and unanimous that the minutes be approved.

2017-2018 Nevada Civil Legal Needs Assessment/Stakeholder Meetings

Brad shared that Dr. Ken Smith of The Resource for Great Programs, our research vendor for this project, was unavailable due to participating in a conference in Florida. Therefore, Brad shared the latest iteration of the study PowerPoint slides which revealed early findings and were the basis for the upcoming stakeholder pre-release previews of the study. The general feedback on the PowerPoint presentation is that it was good information, but with a few suggestions for improvement before it was shared publicly at the stakeholder meetings. Brad agreed that all updates would be made.

Justice Hardesty then suggested that he thought the slides were a good basis for Nevada to educate our elected Federal representatives in support of continued funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), that the consequences to not supporting were dire for Nevada. Brad was tasked with editing down the slides and authoring a cover letter for sending in advance of the vote. Annamarie Johnson noted that the vote was expected on Thursday, March 22, so that it would need to be done quickly, which was agreed. Justice Hardesty suggested a tag line to be used, “the hardest hit in Nevada get hit the hardest”.



Commission Membership Nominations – Composition Rule Change

The Nominations Subcommittee has been working toward the long discussed “expansion” of the Commission. This does not necessarily mean more Commission members, but realigning the rule slots to include more non-lawyer, community-wide, and Statewide members. To that end, the Subcommittee developed a suggested revision to Rule SCR 15 to translate the new vision into action. A markup of the old rule with the recommended changes was shared with the Commission for input and a vote.

Judge Tammy Riggs asked whether the reference to the “Nevada Judges Association” (NJA) mentioned in concert with the limited jurisdiction judge appointment actually meant NJA or if, in fact, it meant “Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction” (NJLJ). Justice Hardesty confirmed that, indeed, the intention was for it to be NJLJ.

With that change, it was moved and seconded that the Access to Justice Commission recommend new rule SCR 15 as revised to be adopted.

Commission Membership Nominations – Candidate Review

Nominating Subcommittee Chair Julie Cavanaugh-Bill shared that the Subcommittee has been working on surfacing names to align with the new composition. Several candidate names have been floated. It was suggested that perhaps the easiest was to proceed toward voting on new members, was to gather their resumes, the nominator, the candidates interest (if asked), and the recommended slot to be filled to share with the full Commission. It would need to be determined how many new additions are desired at this time and if any of the nominees would replace those with terms expiring July 1, 2018. The Subcommittee will work on this follow up. Justice Douglas also suggested that with this information, perhaps an e-ballot for voting may suffice moving forward.

It was shared that holding an orientation for new Commission members might be helpful. While the Commission does have and shares written orientation materials, it was thought that perhaps a call or even face to face interaction, with the opportunity for a two way dialogue and for the new Commission member to ask questions may be beneficial. Brad is happy to do this moving forward.

Reports

- *E-Filing Subcommittee* – see above
- *Appellate Law Program* – UNLV Professor Anne Traum shared that the ALP is popular and has had 167 referrals, 100 lawyers participate and has published decisions and remands.
- *Statewide Self-Help Web Launch* – Judge Nathan Tod Young shared that <http://selfhelp.nvcourts.gov/> is now launched for Statewide use. He thanked Stephanie McDonald at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada’s Family Law Self-Help Center for all of her efforts.



- *AG Military Pro Bono Program* – Annamarie Johnson of Nevada Legal Services shared that the recent Ask-A-Lawyer events were successful with 93 veterans attending in Las Vegas and more than 100 attending in Reno. Cases taken have tended to be consumer issues.

Other Business

No other business was raised.

Informational Items

Chief Justice Douglas asked for a lightening round of the top one or two hot items for each legal aid provider. The following was shared:

- LACSN – Guardianship is the hot topic with 475 clients already in the pipeline.
- SNSLP – Search for a new office remains key focus.
- VARN – Had a very successful 2017.
- WLS – Revamping pro bono program.
- NLS – Remodeling office, in temporary location at the moment, will end up with more offices and better utilized space.
- ATJC – 42 pro bono cases were placed at the Family Law Conference in Bishop, CA. \$1510 was raised from the sale of logo stemless wine glasses at the event for the One Campaign.

Chief Justice Douglas shared that related to guardianship, progress is being made Statewide on rules and forms. (38 new forms to date.) A Guardianship Officer is in place as is a forensic specialist used for investigations in both the North and South. Vetting of new rules and forms is ongoing and mandatory use of new forms is coming soon. He thanked LACSN for their efforts with the Guardianship program and asked if the money is flowing, which was answered in the affirmative.

Finally, Chief Justice Douglas closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their efforts, especially all of the volunteers who helped make the legal needs study a success.

Informational items included the following:

- Legal Aid Provider Highlights
 - Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
 - Nevada Legal Services
 - Southern Nevada Senior Law Program
 - VARN
 - Washoe Legal Services
- Quarterly Legal Aid Provider Meeting Recap 1/19/18
- Self-Help Center Statistics
- Equal Justice Conference/National Meeting of State Access to Justice Commission Chairs
- IOLTA Subcommittee Meeting Recap 1/9/18
- Monthly IOLTA Summary
- Public Awareness Initiatives

2018 Access to Justice Commission Meetings (All meetings 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

- Friday, March 9
- ***Friday, June 15 – NEW DATE! (Formerly June 8.)***
- Friday, November 9