



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

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### Access to Justice Commission Meeting Minutes Friday, June 15, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

#### **Commission Members Present**

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

#### **Guests Present**

Barbara Buckely  
Phyllis Gurgevich  
Stephanie McDonald  
Christine Miller  
Shelly Newton  
Emily Reed  
Bridgette Reyna-Meadows  
Christine Smith  
Summer Youngquist

#### **Staff Present**

Brad Lewis



### **Call to Order**

The Access to Justice Commission meeting was called to order. It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda to allow Judge Kushner to report on electronic filing as she was available only for a limited period.

### **Electronic Filing by Non-Lawyers**

Judge Kushner reported that there has been a roadblock in the Eighth Judicial District Court related to advancing on e-filing for pro se litigants. While Judge Kushner did share it was the position of the Commission to allow pro se litigants to e-file, and both Chief Judges were in support, the Rules Committee was nearly evenly split on the issue, pro and con. The concerns of the Committee seemed mostly related to potential fraud issues, specifically how to assure none occur and mis-appropriation of people's names, though there may be other concerns as well. Positive points such as improving access to justice and other good operational reasons were discussed in support. In the end, two motions were put forth, one in favor and one opposed. Neither motion passed. The next step was to discuss further at the September All Judges meeting. It was recommended for that meeting that the Access to Justice Commission should issue a memo recommending adoption of e-filing and that it should be supported by other letters from the Second Judicial District Court, including e-filing User Agreement, and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

### **2017-2018 Nevada Civil Legal Needs Assessment/Stakeholder Meetings**

The Commission was then updated on the draft materials from the legal needs study by Dr. Ken Smith of The Resource for Great Programs, the contracted researcher. Dr. Smith shared a high-level overview and update of the findings. This included, in great detail, the growth in the number of people in need of and eligible for legal aid in Nevada, the disparity between the need and the capacity to deliver on that need – The Justice Gap – and the economic impacts found. We discussed improving the reach and impact of legal services and how to best expand resources as we endeavor to serve the most urgent legal needs. A brief review of feedback from the stakeholder meetings was shared. Finally, preliminary “fundable initiatives” identified by the providers were shared. All of the discussions and findings have source and background documents that are available upon request from the Access to Justice Commission.

Input was sought on key next steps that Commission members believe are important for moving forward. Commission feedback included partnering with school districts on food stamps, enhancing pro bono donations on dues statements, growing IOLTA funds and greater collaborative relationships with partnering organizations, including representatives of those same organizations could be considered for joining the Commission along with other non-lawyer community members. It was also suggested further work on communicating the economic impact and multipliers was required including inclusion of sourcing information.



Then, four pacing events toward project completion were identified: meeting with legal aid providers to explore implications of the findings, finalizing preliminary final draft materials for sharing at the State Bar of Nevada's Annual Meeting in Chicago, scheduling monthly legal aid provider calls in August, September, and October designed to develop an actions plan based on the findings, and a discussion of the proposed actions at the Commission's November meeting.

### **Commission Membership Nominations**

Nominating Chair Julie Cavanaugh-Bill shared that a number of term expirations were set for July of 2018. Each candidate was reached out to in order to determine their interest in renewing. All wanted to renew. We continued the discussion of casting a wider community and statewide net to include, particularly non-lawyer members, while expanding the Commission. Areas of interest included public relations for legal needs study media planning assistance, gaming, unions, financial institutions, etc. An update from the Nominating Committee was provided including the sharing of candidates under consideration. It was determined that the Nominating Committee would reconvene to make specific recommendations of candidates to be voted on. It was noted that SCR 15 as amended and approved by the Commission would need to be updated before formally inviting new members to join. Finally, Chair Cavanaugh-Bill thanked Connie Akridge as she was instrumental in helping the Nominating Committee identify specific candidates in the targeted categories.

### **Consent Agenda**

We then returned to the Consent Agenda. The March 9, 2018 Commission minutes included in the consent agenda were voted on. It was moved, seconded and unanimous that the minutes be approved.

### **Reports**

*E-Filing Subcommittee* – see above.

### **Other Business**

James Conway shared that the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers hired Bailey Bortolin as Statewide Advocacy, Outreach and Policy Director. She replaces John Sasser.

### **Informational Items**

Informational items included the following:

- Legal Aid Provider Highlights
  - Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
  - Nevada Legal Services
  - Southern Nevada Senior Law Program
  - Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans
  - Washoe Legal Services
- Self-Help Center Statistics
- Pro bono survey
- Appellate Law Pro Bono Program
- AG Military Pro Bono Program



- Legal Services Corporation Letter and Support from Supreme Court of Nevada
- New – *The IOLTA Report: Justice for All?* for Nevada Bankers Association E-Newsletter
- E-Filing Subcommittee Recaps 3/15/18, 4/23/18, and 5/4/18
- IOLTA Subcommittee Meeting Recap 4/17/18
- Quarterly Legal Aid Provider Meeting Recap 4/20/18
- Kentucky Derby Event 5/5/18
- Honoring of Bank of Nevada at LACSN 5/8/18 LINK - <http://tinyurl.com/y9qc2o9y>
- IOLTA Rate Review Meeting Recap 5/22/18
- Nevada Bar Foundation IOLTA-participating bank meetings held 5/24/18 and 6/12/18
- Monthly IOLTA Summary
- Public Awareness