



Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

Minutes

Friday, March 24, 2017 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Meeting Sites: State Bar of Nevada Offices: Las Vegas (3100 W. Charleston, Blvd., Las Vegas) and Reno (9456 Double R. Blvd., Reno)

Commission Members in Attendance

Justice Michael Douglas
Justice James Hardesty
Julie Mogensen
John Desmond
Judge Patrick Flanagan
James Conway
AnnaMarie Johnson
Noah Malgeri
Julie Cavanaugh-Bill
Anne Traum
Sugar Vogel
Connie Akridge
Jeremy Reichenberg
Judge Joanna Kishner
Judge Tod Young

Attending Guests

Andy Mierins
Emily Reed
Max Couvillier
Bill Curran
Barbara Buckley
Wynn Tashman
Nikki Harris
Summer Youngquist
Shelly Young
Elana Graham
Stephanie McDonald
Patricia Lee
Kimberly Farmer

Staff Members Present

Angela Washington

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Access to Justice Commission meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Justice Douglas and a roll call was conducted thereafter. Justice Douglas provided opening remarks and then moved into the agenda.



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Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the approval of the November 4, 2016 Access to Justice Commission Meeting minutes. Following a review of the minutes, it was moved and seconded that the meeting minutes be approved. A vote was conducted and the matter passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Youth LGBT Presentation. Wynn Tashman, J.D. Candidate at William S. Boyd School of Law and Doctoral Student of Educational Psychology at UNLV presented his Kushnir Fellowship proposal to the Access to Justice Commission. The proposal was centered on programs to address homelessness of LGBT youth in southern Nevada. Within his presentation, Mr. Tashman highlighted a few very important statistics from the 2017 Williams Report: 1,724 people ages 18-24 are transgender; 13.4% of youth identify as LGBT; and 40% of LGBT youth are homeless. Mr. Tashman's proposal highlighted services that would directly address survival issues of youth that have these problems, including self-help services, pro bono services; education and legislation. After discussion about partnership opportunities, it was suggested that Mr. Tashman connect with the LGBT Section of the State Bar of Nevada and provide input to anticipated amicus briefs on LGBT issues.

Access to Justice Commission Vacancies. The Commission discussed the three current vacancies on the Commission and suggestions for filling those seats. Judge Tammy Riggs was nominated by the Nevada Limited Jurisdiction Judges Association to fill the Limited Jurisdiction Judge vacancy. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that Judge Tammy Riggs be named as the Limited Jurisdiction Judge representative. A vote was conducted and the matter passed unanimously. Bob Fulkerson, of PLAN, Terry Johnson of the Nevada Gaming Control Board and Randy Reinoso were all named as suggestions for current vacancies. Members of the Commission will reach out to each to determine whether the suggested persons are interested in serving on the Access to Justice Commission.

Additionally, the Commission discussed the expansion of the Access to Justice Commission membership. The body discussed including other representatives from State Bar Sections, including, but not limited to the Family Law Section, the Gaming Law section, Bankruptcy Law Section, Appellate Law Section and the Trial Lawyers. Also, the Commission discussed including representatives from other professional industries including the social services industry, the business industry and the banking/gaming industry. A subcommittee was established to look further into the Commission expansion; the subcommittee includes Julie Cavanaugh-Bill, James Conway, Connie Akridge and Noah Malgeri.

2017 Legal Needs Assessment. The Commission reviewed the legal needs assessment proposal from *The Resource for Great Programs* which led to discussion about:

1. How the assessment will be conducted;
2. Whether and how the legal services providers will use the assessment findings;
3. Whether elements of the proposal can be amended to include Nevada specific data;
4. Additional demographic data for the study;
5. How the surveying will take place; and
6. Where the study's respondents will be found.

It was decided that a subcommittee would be assembled to meet with Dr. Ken Smith of *The Resource for Great Programs* to answer questions and finalize details so that a revised proposal can be presented to the Commission at the June meeting.

Retreat Topics and Discussion



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Following lunch, attendees discussed various state and national access to justice issues including:

- A. Pro Bono Updates from the legal services organizations;
- B. Programming reports from:
 - 1. UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
 - 2. The Appellate Law Pro Bono Program – Prof. Anne Traum noted that the program could handle more cases at this time. It was suggested that she advise the Appellate Judge Silver and the rural court judges of availability.
 - 3. Rural Concerns/Website/Statewide Forms Project – Judge Tod Young noted that a number of forms have been completed and disseminated to judges in all districts except the 2nd and the 8th. A second round of contact has been made to the judges seeking comment.
- C. Guardianship/ Funding
- D. Nevada Bar Foundation Funding/IOLTA – Connie Akridge shared what the Nevada Bar Foundation’s focuses have been, including fundraising in the legal community.

Lastly, the group discussed funding for legal aid services and potential shortfalls. Justice Hardesty noted that he and Justice Douglas would assemble a subcommittee to address potential reductions or losses so that a plan can be put in place to address those issues.