



**Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Friday, July 26, 2013 9 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Harvey's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, Nevada**



**Draft Minutes**

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Justice Michael Douglas, Co-Chair  
Justice James Hardesty, Co-Chair  
Valerie Cooney  
John Desmond  
Anna Marie Johnson  
Melanie Kushnir  
Elana Graham  
Ira David Sternberg  
Sheri (Sugar) Vogel  
Jeremy Reichenberg  
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Judge Jim Wilson  
Judge Tom Stockard

**Commission Members Attending via Teleconference**

Paul Elcano  
Dara Goldsmith  
Anne Traum  
Judge Frank Sullivan  
Judge Connie Steinheimer  
Judge Camille Vecchiarelli

**Attending Guests**

Judge Nathan Tod Young  
Katelyn Franklin, Public Interest Law Association, Boyd School of Law  
Sandra Mae Pickens, Board of Directors, VARN  
Ben Alvers, Associate Executive Director, VARN  
Barbara Buckley, Executive Director, LACSN  
Marshal Willick, Board of Directors, LACSN  
Bill Curran, Board of Directors, NLS  
Sally Ramm, Nevada Attorney General's Office  
Christopher Reade, Reade & Associates  
Kim McKelvey, ALPS Foundation (via teleconference)  
Keegan Flaherty, ALPS Foundation (via teleconference)  
Justice Miriam Shearing, Board of Directors, SNSLP (via teleconference)  
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada

**Staff Member Present**

Angela Washington, Access to Justice Director

### **Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

The Access to Justice Commission Meeting was called to order at 9:08 am, by Access to Justice Commission Co-Chair, Justice Michael Douglas. Thereafter, Justice Douglas and Justice Hardesty provided opening remarks to those in attendance.

### **Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes**

One correction was made to the March 11, 2013 Access to Justice Commission Meeting Minutes:

*(Page 5)*

#### ***UNLV PILA Rural Services Spring Break Student Retreat***

*The ATJ Commission donated \$500 to the PILA program. Dean Smith informed the Commission that six students will be traveling to the rural areas during spring break. They will be participating in a tribal law project, visiting the Supreme Court, assisting NLS **VARN** with its legal aid fair, and joining in a community service project with an elementary school. She will report on their projects at the Commission's next meeting.*

The motion to accept the March 11, 2013 Access to Justice Commission meeting minutes with the aforementioned corrections, and the May 30, 2013 IOLTA Taskforce meeting minutes was moved and seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was carried.

### **Legal Service Delivery Reports**

Legal Service Delivery Reports were provided by the following legal service providers: Paul Elcano, Executive Director of Washoe Legal Services; Barbara Buckley, Executive Director of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada; Anna Marie Johnson, Executive Director, Nevada Legal Services; Sheri (Sugar) Vogel, Executive Director of Southern Nevada Senior Law Program; and Valerie Cooney, Executive Director of Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans. All reports included the service areas and geographical service areas of each agency as well as the number of clients served over the course of the last year. Additionally, there were reports on the year' accomplishments as well as reports on upcoming events and ongoing programs.

### **Discussion Items**

#### ***Delivery of Services to the Rurals***

The discussion of delivery of legal services to the rurals resulted in the establishment of the Subcommittee on Rural Concerns. The subcommittee will be co-chaired by Judge Tom Stockard and Judge James Wilson and will be tasked with identifying challenges and devising access to justice solutions specific to the rural communities of Nevada. The subcommittee will consist of all judges from Nevada's rural communities and the following ATJ Commissioners and volunteers:

Jeremy Reichenberg  
John Desmond  
Dara Goldsmith  
Marshal Willick

Valerie Cooney  
Anna Marie Johnson  
Barbara Buckley  
Sandra Mae Pickens

Justice Douglas and Justice Hardesty will meet with the co-chairs prior to the first subcommittee meeting. All legal service providers were asked to provide to the Access to Justice Director updated reports of services to the rural communities of Nevada. These reports will be provided to the members of the subcommittee for their meeting.

#### *ONE Promise Nevada Campaign*

A status report of the ONE Promise Nevada program was provided by Barbara Buckley, ONE Nevada subcommittee member and Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director of the State Bar of Nevada. The discussion led to the suggestion that the subcommittee convene soon to develop next step processes for the campaign.

#### *ATJ Commission Goals: Short and Long Term*

Commissioners were directed to the survey results of the commission's short term and long term goals. The survey was taken at March 2013 Access to Justice Commission meeting.

#### **Action Item**

##### *ADKT – Peremptory Challenge*

An ADKT proposing an amendment to Nevada Supreme Court Rule 48.1(2), which would change the procedure for change of judge by peremptory challenge by providing for the waiver of court fees in such actions, was proposed to the commission for vote. It was moved and seconded to adopt the ADKT amending Supreme Court Rule 48.1(2). A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

#### **Reports**

##### *Public Speakers Bureau*

Judge Sullivan provided that fourteen volunteer attorneys from the south have agreed to become speakers for the bureau. There was not a report on the northern or rural areas. The ONE Promise Nevada message and information on the establishment of a court of appeals in Nevada will be promoted at upcoming speaking events. Additionally, Justice Hardesty noted that a subcommittee meeting would need to take place with Seth Floyd, Senators Jones and Hutchinson and the Speakers Bureau subcommittee.

The invitation to join the Speakers Bureau subcommittee was extended to the Access to Justice Commission members and the following accepted the invitation to join the subcommittee:

Valerie Cooney  
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Anna Marie Johnson  
Melanie Kushnir  
Jeremy Reichenberg

##### *Justice League of Nevada/IOLTA*

An overview of the IOLTA report was provided. It was noted that recruitment is underway as the board should consist of eleven members and there are currently nine board members in place.

The commission discussed funding sources amid the IOLTA reporting. It was determined that a detailed report on the disbursement of filing fees will be secured from county treasurer's offices in an effort to realize funding solutions.

*UNLV PILA Spring Break Retreat Report*

Katelyn Franklin provided the PILA report on behalf of the Public Interest Law Association of Boyd Law School. During its retreat, PILA visited rural areas and assisted with a legal fair in northern Nevada.

*Appellate Pro Bono Committee*

Justice Michael Douglas reported on the progress of the Appellate Pro Bono Committee. The Appellate Pro Bono Committee is seeking to establish a process for appellate pro bono representation.

*Supreme Court Forms Website*

Justice Michael Douglas informed the commission that a forms website project has been launched. This website will link all other court websites to all forms for use within the state. He referenced the supporting materials in the agenda packet and noted that the website is close to completion.

**Informational Items**

Justice Douglas referenced all listed informational items on the agenda.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.