

**Montana Supreme Court
Access to Justice Commission
Large Conference Room, Office of the Court Administrator
301 S. Park, Third Floor, Helena, MT
December 6, 2019 ~ 10:00am - 12:00pm**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Introductions: Justice Baker (Tab 1)
 - a. Approval of 9/20/19 meeting minutes: Justice Baker (Tab 2)
- II. Law Library and District Court Rules update: Sarah McClain – 5 minutes
- III. ATJC Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Self-Represented Litigants: Ann Goldes-Sheahan and Nolan Harris – 5 minutes
 - b. Policy and Resources: Abigail St. Lawrence – 10 minutes
 - c. Communications and Outreach: Melanie Reynolds – 5 minutes (Tab 3)
- IV. Strategic Planning: Niki Zupanic and Tara Veazey – 30 minutes
- V. Government Attorney CLE program and Pro Bono Summit report: Justice Baker/Patty Fain – 5 minutes (Tab 4)
- VI. Review 2020 Meeting Dates
 - a. March 6, 2020
 - b. June 5, 2020
 - c. September 18, 2020 (Joint Meeting with JIC)
 - d. December 4, 2020
- VII. Public Comment

Tab 1

Montana Access to Justice Commission

MEMBERS

Justice Beth Baker, Chair

Term expires: 30-Sep-2021

Montana Supreme Court Justice

bbaker@mt.gov

406-444-5570

Ed Bartlett

Term expires: 30-Sep-2021

Business/Communications Leader

efbartlett@charter.net

406-431-6014

Georgette Boggio

Term expires: 30-Sep-2022

*Representative of Native American
communities*

gboggio@elkriverlaw.com

406-259-8611

Hon. David A. Carter

Term expires: 30-Sep-2020

Court of Limited Jurisdiction Judge

dacarter@co.yellowstone.mt.gov

406-256-2895 (w)

406-697-6087 (c)

Rick Cook

Term expires: 30-Sep-2020

Clerk of a District Court

rcook@mt.gov

406-622-5024

Rep. Kim Dudik

Term expires: 30-Sep-2020

Montana House of Representatives

kimberly.dudik@gmail.com

406-239-5771

Sen. Terry Gauthier

Term expires: 30-Sep-2020

Montana Senate

mrmac570@me.com

406-461-0744

Aimee Grmoljez

Term expires: 30-Sep-2020

Business/Communications Leader

agrmoljez@crowleyfleck.com

406-457-2030 (w)

406-459-5958 (c)

Hon. Leslie Halligan

Term expires: 30-Sep-2020

District Court Judge

lhalligan@mt.gov

406-258-4771

Paul F. Kirgis

Term expires: 30-Sep-2021

*Alexander Blewett III School of Law
University of Montana*

paul.kirgis@mso.umn.edu

406-243-5291

Hon. John Kutzman

Term expires: 30-Sep-2021

District Court Judge

jkutzman@mt.gov

406-454-6897

Katy Lovell
Term expires: 30-Sep-2022

Aging Services Bureau

klovell@mt.gov
406-444-7787

Daniel McLean
Term expires: 30-Sep-2022

State Bar of Montana

dan.mclean.esq@gmail.com
406-449-4165

Kyle Nelson
Term expires: 30-Sep-2022

Montana Justice Foundation

knelson@goetzlawfirm.com
406-587-0618

Alison Paul
Term expires: 30-Sep-2022

Montana Legal Services Association

apaul@mtlsa.org
406-442-9830, Ext. 15

Melanie Reynolds
Term expires: 30-Sep-2021

*Representative of organizations
working with low-income
individuals*

melanie.reynolds@q.com
406-461-0417

Melissa Schlichting
Term expires: 30-Sep-2021

Office of the Attorney General

mschlichting@mt.gov
406-444-3602

Hon. Stacie Smith
Term expires: 30-Sep-2019

*Montana-Wyoming Tribal
Judges Association*

ssmith@fortpecktribes.net
406-768-2400

ATJC SUPPORT

Niki Zupanic
Montana Justice Foundation

Staff Support
nzupanic@mtjustice.org
406-523-3920

Kevin Cook
Montana Law Library

IT Support
kcook@mt.gov
406-444-9285

Carin McClain
Montana Justice Foundation

Staff Support
cmclain@mtjustice.org
406-523-3920

Krista Partridge
Montana Legal Services Association

Staff Support
kpartrid@mtlsa.org

ATJC Standing Committees

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Melanie Reynolds, Chair	melanie.reynolds@q.com
Georgette Boggio	gboggio@elkriverlaw.com
Katy Lovell	klovell@mt.gov
Sarah McClain	smcclain@mt.gov
Daniel McLean	dan.mclean.esq@gmail.com
Emma O'Neil	coneil@mtlsa.org
Melissa Schlichting	mschlichting@mt.gov
Mēghan Scott	mscott@mtlsa.org
Hon. Stacie Smith	ssmith@fortpecktribes.net
Niki Zupanic	nzupanic@mtjustice.org

LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Kelsi Steele, Chair	kelsi.steele@mso.umt.edu
Hannah Cail	hannah.s.cail@gmail.com
Kate Ellis	kate@cplawmt.com
Patty Fain	pfain@mt.gov
Jessica Fehr	jessica.fehr@mt.gov
Diana Garrett	dgarrett@mtlsa.org
Hon. Leslie Halligan	lhalligan@mt.gov
Shannon Hathaway	shannonh@montanalegaljustice.com
Stefan Kolis	stefankolis@gmail.com

Debra Steigerwalt	dsteigerwalt7@gmail.com
Angie Wagenhals	awagenha@mtlsa.org
Jessica Walker-Keleher	jwalker.keleher@gmail.com
Hillary Wandler	hillary.wandler@umontana.edu

POLICY AND RESOURCES

Abigail St. Lawrence, Chair	abigail.stlawrence@gmail.com
Hon. Beth Baker	bbaker@mt.gov
Ed Bartlett	efbartlett@charter.net
Jon Bennion	jonbennion@mt.gov
Rep. Kim Dudik	kimberly.dudik@gmail.com
Sen. Terry Gauthier	mrmac570@me.com
Aimee Grmoljez	agrmoljez@crowleyfleck.com
Paul F. Kirgis	paul.kirgis@mso.umt.edu
Joel Krautter	joel.krautter@mtleg.gov
Alison Paul	apaul@mtlsa.org
Michelle Potts	mpotts@mtlsa.org
Niki Zupanic	nzupanic@mtjustice.org

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

Ann Goldes-Sheahan, Co-Chair	agoldes@montanabar.org
Nolan Harris, Co-Chair	nharris2@mt.gov
Abby Brown	abby@mtwaterlaw.com
Alex Clark	aclark@mtlsa.org
Rick Cook	rcook@mt.gov
Ed Higgins	ehiggins@mtlsa.org
Hon. John Kutzman	jkutzman@mt.gov
Kay Lynn Lee	kaylynnlee04@yahoo.com
Sarah McClain	smcclain@mt.gov
Hon. Kaylan Minor	kaylan.minor@mt.gov
Kyle Nelson	knelson@goetzlawfirm.com
William Willard	william.willard@mt.gov
Staff Support: Carin McClain	cmcclain@mtjustice.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Niki Zupanic, Chair	nzupanic@mtjustice.org
Hon. Beth Baker	bbaker@mt.gov
Hon. David Carter	dacarter@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Ann Goldes-Sheahan	agoldes@montanabar.org
Alison Paul	apaul@mtlsa.org
Melanie Reynolds	melanie.reynolds@q.com
Debra Steigerwalt	dsteigerwalt7@gmail.com

Tab 2

Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission
September 20, 2019
Large Conference Room, Office of the Court Administrator
301 S. Park, Third Floor, Helena, MT
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Justice Beth Baker, Rep. Kim Dudik (phone), Alison Paul, Hon. David Carter (phone), Hon. Leslie Halligan (phone), Katy Lovell, Dean Paul Kirgis (phone), Rick Cook (phone), Melissa Schlichting (phone), Dan McLean, and Hon. Stacie Smith (phone).

Commissioners Absent: Ed Bartlett, Georgette Boggio, Kyle Nelson, Sen. Terry Gauthier, Aimee Grmoljez, Hon. John Kutzman, and Melanie Reynolds.

Others Present: Justice James Shea, Stuart Segrest, Patrick Armstrong, Brian Coplin, Ann Goldes-Sheahan, Nolan Harris, Carin McClain, Krista Partridge, Angie Wagenhals, Mēghan Scott, Tara Veazey (phone), Patty Fain (phone), Sarah McClain, Abigail St. Lawrence, Hon. Kaylan Minor, and Niki Zupanic.

Call to Order & Introductions

Justice Baker called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum of Commissioners was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so the approval of minutes was postponed until later in the meeting.

MLSA Update

Alison Paul reported on a new grant that MLSA received from the Legal Services Corporation to develop resources and a network of agencies and volunteers to provide civil legal assistance to disaster victims in Montana. Alison added that MLSA has hired a project coordinator with extensive disaster preparedness experience to spearhead this 30-month project. Brian Coplin offered to share resources and asked for the coordinator's contact information.

Alison also reported that MLSA is working with the Court Administrator's Office to address the problem of courts throughout the state failing to provide free translation services upon the request of litigants. MLSA is receiving reports from clients that they are being told they must pay for their own translators. MLSA is drafting an English-Spanish pro se form for use in requesting translation services. Alison said that MLSA may need to bring a claim if we continue to see this problem. Judge Halligan added that a wide variety of translators are needed, not just Spanish, and suggested that we should reach out to hospitals for help in finding additional resources. Patty Fain asked about certification requirements for translators and whether there is a difference between an interpreter and a translator. Sarah McClain replied that interpreter refers to spoken language, and translation refers to written language and added that certified interpreters and translators aren't required in Montana courts.

Finally, Alison said that the DV Working Group met in August and that the group has found value in their discussions, but that they aren't as active in project work due to turnover in the group.

Mēghan Scott, MLSA's Justice for Montanans (JFM) Project Director and Rural Incubator Program for Lawyers (RIPL) Coordinator, gave an update on both programs. Mēghan reported that 19 new JFM members were just sworn in and that we have a new partner agency, Montana Fair Housing in Butte, for a total of 6 partners. Mēghan reviewed the summary of outcomes achieved by the members during the last term of service (copy attached). Justice Baker asked how the JFM members leverage pro bono attorneys and Mēghan explained that the members organize monthly pro bono clinics in Billings, Missoula, Helena, and quarterly clinics in Bozeman, Kalispell and Great Falls. Mēghan added that we have to re-compete for the AmeriCorps grant every three years and for our competitive application this year, we plan to expand the program by adding another partner and three more member positions. For the RIPL program, Mēghan reported that we have recruited two new Fellows who will start with "boot-camp" training during the first week of October. She explained that we are adjusting the program to focus more on Modest Means referrals to deliver services statewide, rather than trying to place attorneys in rural locations. Dean Kirgis asked why we haven't placed Fellows in rural and Eastern Montana, and Alison replied that despite our best recruiting efforts, no one from those areas applied. Alison added that the two RIPL fellows who started in the spring of 2019 have already taken 200 Modest Means referrals. Ann Goldes-Sheahan added that there are many rural areas in Western Montana without enough attorneys and that the greatest volume of requests for sliding fee services is still in the more populated areas of Montana.

Justice Initiatives Committee Update

Ann Goldes-Sheahan provided an update from the Justice Initiatives Committee (JIC). She noted that there is a lot of overlap between the JIC and the Access to Justice Commission and its committees and added that the JIC wants to collaborate more with the Commission and other access to justice stakeholders. Ann pointed out that the JIC has a new statement of purpose and strategic plan that is included in the meeting materials. She added that the new edition of the Montana Lawyer is focused on access to justice issues. Stuart Segrest reported that the CLE for Government Employees, last offered two years ago, is coming up in October and will focus on pro bono opportunities for state-employed attorneys and on clearing up misunderstandings about state policies around pro bono work. The CLE will also include instruction on how to do limited scope work. Justice Shea added that 20 chief counsels from various state agencies plan to attend. Ann also reported that the State Bar is moving forward with a licensed lawyer portal for referrals. Stuart asked for feedback on the JIC strategic plan and Justice Baker said that it looks very good and is the most detailed plan she's seen from the committee. She noted that the focus on pro bono is especially welcome and that it complements the efforts of the Commission. There were no other comments.

Approval of Minutes

Justice Baker confirmed that a quorum was now present and asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the March and June meetings. There were no comments or corrections. Alison Paul moved to approve the minutes from both meetings and Rick Cook seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.

Law Library Update

Sarah McClain gave an update on the Self-Help Video Project. She explained that the videos include general legal information and also provide line-by-line instruction on specific pro se forms,

including the fee waiver form and the most popular family law forms. The videos are on YouTube and will also be made available on Instagram. Links to the videos will also be placed on MontanaLawHelp.org alongside the appropriate forms. Letters of appreciation from Justice Baker on behalf of the Access to Justice Commission were sent to the JFM members and the Supreme Court law clerk who worked on the videos.

A link to a summary of case law related to pro se litigants and procedural standards, prepared by Justice Shea's intern, was included in the meeting agenda. Kaylan Minor said that she would like to include the summary in her presentation for courts of limited jurisdiction and Stuart Segrest offered to send her a recording of the CLE that was presented on this topic.

Self-Represented Litigants Committee

Nolan Harris reported that the family law form edits are nearly complete. Improvements include more plain language, a streamlined process for combining forms, and more judge-friendly decrees. The finalized forms will be presented at the next district judges' meeting on October 9, and the forms will be published after the judges have a chance to review them.

Law School Partnerships Committee

Angie Wagenhals gave an update from the Law School Partnerships Committee. She said that the committee is focused on finding clients and opportunities for first to third year law students. Kelsi Steele is working with the committee on Missoula pro bono clinics and opportunities for students to shadow licensed attorney mentors. Angie also said that MLSA's Emeritus Pro Bono program, Second Chance Justice, is working with Klaus Sitte who will supervise law students providing advice to tenants on housing issues. Dean Kirgis added that the primary limitation to student pro bono work is a shortage of supervising attorneys and that student interest is overwhelming. Justice Baker suggested that the RIPL Fellows may be able to help supervise. Patty Fain noted that a VISTA volunteer in veteran's advocacy will be working on building capacity for the veteran's legal clinic. Judge Halligan suggested that a solicitation letter from the court inviting attorneys to work in specific areas might be a good way to get volunteers.

Policy and Resources Committee

Abby St. Lawrence provided a report on the activities of the Policy and Resources Committee. She said the committee has been meeting regularly to debrief the outcome of the legislative funding request and to begin planning for the next legislature. She said that it will be important to start educating legislators much earlier in the process and to have more one-on-one conversations with legislators. Abby directed the Commission to the new bill draft in Tab 4 of the meeting materials and pointed out that the proposed plan is to split the bill in two and to start the legislation in different committees. One bill will establish the civil legal aid grant program and a companion bill will include the appropriation, enabling the legislation to begin in either the House or Senate. Abby also highlighted language in Section 2.5 that prohibits funds from being used to sue the state, except under specific circumstances, and directs that the funds would not go to for-profit firms. Justice Baker offered a revision to the bill draft, proposed by Ed Bartlett who was unable to attend the meeting: on page 2, Section 2.2, remove the words, "has a primary focus of". Justice Baker asked for a motion to approve the bill draft as revised. Rep. Kim Dudik so moved and Dan McLean seconded the motion. Justice Baker voted the proxies of Judge Halligan and Ed Bartlett in favor of the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

Communications and Outreach Committee

Niki Zupanic gave an update from the Communications and Outreach Committee. The committee's priority will be to review and revise the communications materials used to support the legislative funding request and the committee will share feedback and suggested improvements with the Policy and Resources Committee. She said that the committee is looking at ways to better incorporate data from the economic impact study into the outreach materials, and they are also reviewing the Commission website to find ways to make the information more accessible. Justice Baker added that we need to refine the messaging used for legislative outreach. The information presented to legislators during the 2019 session was too dense and not concise enough to be useful. Sarah McClain said that the State Law Library staff is in charge of updating and maintaining the website and offered to work with the committee on possible design enhancements.

Strategic Planning Committee

Niki Zupanic and Tara Veazey updated the group on the Justice for All (JFA) project to support the Commission's strategic planning effort. Niki directed the group to Tab 5 of the meeting materials for an amendment to the strategic plan (on page 11 of the plan) that was proposed at the June meeting, but was not voted on due to the lack of a quorum. Tara reviewed the slides that were presented at the June meeting and were included in the additional meeting materials. Justice Baker asked for a motion to approve the amendment to the strategic plan. Alison Paul so moved and Katy Lovell seconded the motion. Justice Baker voted the proxies of Judge Halligan and Ed Bartlett in favor of the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

Tara explained that because the JFA project built on an established foundation of strategic planning and legal needs studies, we were able to save project resources to begin implementation of the plan. The implementation priorities for Tara to undertake with the remaining grant funds are: simplification of court rules and procedures; education of judicial and court staff with the development of a judicial bench guide/toolkit for working with self-represented litigants; the potential formation of a technology planning committee or subcommittee; development of a statewide comprehensive civil legal justice budget for use in legislative and internal planning; and facilitated planning for the Commission and each of its standing committees. Justice Baker noted that the grant from the National Center for State Courts ends in May 2020 and that the Commission is very fortunate to have Tara on board to begin implementation activities for the duration of the grant. Finally, Tara highlighted an example of a simplification initiative for informal trials in domestic relations cases that is being piloted or implemented in a number of states, including Alaska. Justice Baker said that Tara is going to have a judges panel look at this initiative and bring information back to the Commission.

Karla M. Gray Award Nomination Process

Justice Baker asked the group for comments and suggestions on improving the nomination process for the Karla M. Gray Award. She noted that the nominations are coming in too late and suggested that the Commission set an annual deadline for nominations prior to the June meeting. Ann Goldes-Sheahan said that in the past when the State Bar tried to move up the deadline, they didn't receive very many nominations. She added that they needed to do a better job of publicizing the new deadlines and that this change is needed. Ann suggested that a mid-May deadline for nominations would be appropriate, in time for the planned June 5, 2020, Access to Justice Commission Meeting.

Justice Baker thanked Ann and the State Bar for their focus on access to justice at the Annual Meeting Awards Banquet and congratulated Dan McLean for receiving the Jameson Award.

Public Comment and 2019-2020 Meeting Dates

Justice Baker asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Justice Baker reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and Kaylan Minor pointed out that the planned December 6, 2019, meeting may conflict with the State Bar Board of Trustees meeting. Justice Baker said she would follow up with the State Bar. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Tab 3

Access to Justice Commission

Civil Justice Improvements Act of 2021

What will this bill do?

- This bill adjusts court filing fees for inflation and allocates a portion of those fees for services that provide legal information and assistance to Montanans who cannot afford an attorney to help with their civil legal issues.
- Assistance may include protecting survivors from domestic abuse, securing financial support for children, protecting seniors from consumer scams, and helping returning veterans obtain benefits they've earned.

Why do we need this bill?

- Following a two-year series of listening sessions across the state, the Montana Access to Justice Commission found that giving people the tools to address their legal problems has a positive impact on all court users, prevents lawsuits from being filed and cases from going to court, and saves the state money in the long-run.
- More and more Montanans come to court to address critical needs without the assistance of a lawyer. Lack of legal assistance significantly decreases the likelihood these problems will be resolved.
- When some court users must navigate a complex legal system alone, the added time and resources needed to handle those cases negatively impacts other court users waiting their turn in a crowded docket.

How will this bill be funded?

- This bill does not raise taxes or take money from the general fund.
- This bill increases court filing fees in some district court civil cases by adjusting for inflation the original fee set by the Legislature. Fees would increase only for case types that have seen no fee increase for decades.
- Increases will impact only court users who can afford to pay a filing fee. Those unable to pay can still request the court to waive filing fees.

Who will benefit?

- All court users will benefit by helping the courts operate more efficiently.
- Montanans struggling to make ends meet will benefit by getting the help they need to stay in their homes, support and protect their children, break free of domestic violence, receive veteran benefits, avoid consumer scams, and access help in rural areas with few legal services.
- Addressing civil legal needs strengthens entire communities by helping to improve safety, create stability, and secure financial independence for the people and families who live and work there.

Who supports this bill?

- A similar bill in 2019 also was supported by business leaders, judges, public officials, and organizations representing veterans, domestic violence survivors, children, senior citizens, and victims of consumer scams, including:
 - Montana Supreme Court
 - Montana Judges Association
 - Montana Magistrates Association
 - Montana Association of Clerks of District Court
 - State Bar of Montana
 - Montana Chamber of Commerce
 - Montana County Attorneys Association
 - Montana Defense Trial Lawyers Association
 - Montana Trial Lawyers Association
 - Governor Steve Bullock
 - Attorney General Tim Fox
 - Montana AARP
 - Montana Association of Christians
 - Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
 - Montana Generational Justice
 - Montana Justice Foundation
 - Montana Legal Services Association
 - Cascade County Law Clinic
- There were no opponents to the bill last session.

What is the Access to Justice Commission?

- Created in 2012 by the Montana Supreme Court, the 18-member Commission represents the legislature, state and local courts, office of the Attorney General, tribal communities, the State Bar of Montana, the business community, the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and legal service providers.
- The Commission evaluates the ability of Montanans to access our court system and coordinates efforts to improve efficiencies to help all court users in getting their legal issues addressed.

For more information

- Visit: courts.mt.gov/supreme/boards/a2j
- Email: atjcommission@mt.gov

Tab 4

Statewide Pro Bono Program

Montana Supreme Court

To: Access to Justice Commission
From: Fain, Patricia
CC: Carin McClain
Date: November 15, 2019
Re: Government Attorney Summit & CLE

On October 2 and 3, 2019 the Statewide Pro Bono Program and the State Bar of Montana Justice Initiative Committee hosted a Government Lawyer Pro Bono Summit and CLE. The first day included a roundtable discussion of 15 Montana Chief Legal Counsels concerning *pro bono* specific to government attorneys. The second day included a full day CLE designed to: encourage pro bono participation by government attorneys; and educate government attorneys about the ethical, practical, and substantive elements of providing pro bono legal assistance to people of limited means.

The full-day had CLE 58 in-person and 27 online attendees. The CLE explored the following topics:

- *Pro bono* statistics and challenges for government lawyers:
 - *Pro bono* myths and ethical considerations for government lawyers
- The intersection of Alternative Dispute Resolution, mediation and Limited scope representation for the government pro bono lawyer: Ethical and practical challenges
- Tenant advocacy – prepare for a *pro bono* opportunity
 - Working with clients in poverty and crisis
 - Judicial panel: *Hon. Justice James Shea*; *Hon. Michael McMahon*, 1st Judicial District Court; *Hon. Anne Peterson*, Helena Municipal Court; *Hon. Michael Swingley*, Justice Court

Thank you to the State Bar of Montana Public Interest Section and the State Bar of Montana Equal Justice program for sponsoring the lunch for both days. Patty Fain and Angie Wagenhals are currently following up with all attendees to explore volunteer opportunities. In addition, it was also discovered at the CLE that there are a number of government attorneys in attendance nearing retirement age and outreach specific to government attorneys for the Emeritus Attorney program may be fruitful. Patty Fain and MLSA are coordinating a one hour government-attorney specific CLE to outline the Emeritus program. Date to be determined, but likely the end of January.

**The Supreme Court of Montana
Office of the Court Administrator**

**Beth McLaughlin
Court Administrator**



**PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Phone (406) 841-2950
Fax (406) 841-2955**

TIG #18018 Milestone 2

Court Help Connect Host-Sites

Prepared by Nolan Harris, CAO Project Manager

Stage 1 Deployment: Test Run and Set-Up

1. **Hearst Free Library** (Anaconda, MT) – 21/25 (Assessment scores)
 - a. High-need location in the Third Judicial District due to the number of referrals to the Court Help Program for legal assistance services. Location assessments were sent to both the Hearst Free Library and Anaconda County Courthouse; assessment table was emailed to Clerk of Court Susie Krueger. Library director, Sam Walters, engaged in discussions in March 2019. Courthouse contact, clerk of court, did not respond until discussions with library were finalized.
 - b. Location is selected for initial deployment because it is the closest location to Helena, MT, and will allow CAO Project Manager and participating AmeriCorps to full-proof deployment routine/procedures.

Stage 2 Deployment: Western Montana

2. **Bitterroot Public Library** (Hamilton, MT) – 23/25
 - a. Library has been a partner in previous projects (Library Outreach Campaign and Legal Kiosks) and director, Mark Wetherington, is a willing partner. Location assessment table completed by CAO Project Manager through conversation with director; meets all the necessary criteria.
3. **North Lake County Public Library** (Polson, MT) – 22/25
 - a. Library has been a partner in previous projects (Library Outreach Campaign and Legal Kiosks) and director, Abbi Dooley, is a willing partner. Location assessment table completed by CAO Project Manager through conversation with director; meets all the necessary criteria.
4. **Beaverhead County Courthouse** (Dillon, MT) – 21/25
 - a. Helena AmeriCorps travels frequently to this location and has seen an increase in appointments making this a high-need location in the Fifth

Judicial District. Clerk of Court, Carly Anderson, is a willing partner. Location assessment table completed by CAO Project Manager through conversation with clerk of court; meets all the necessary criteria.

Stage 3 Deployment: Central Montana

5. **Fergus County Courthouse** (Lewistown, MT) – 15/25
 - a. Courthouse proven successful as a site for previous legal aid projects with MLSA. Clerk of Court, Phyllis Smith, has experience with implementation of the projects which will be an invaluable asset for the deployment of resources.
6. **Harlowton Public Library** (Harlowton, MT) – 21/25
 - a. Harlowton is right in the middle of a rural judicial district in central Montana. The librarian, Kathleen Schreiber, is an excited, willing partner in this project. This workstation will function as the regional conduit for legal resources for a 75-mile radius. Location assessment table completed by CAO Project Manager through conversation with director; meets all the necessary criteria.

Stage 4 Deployment: Northern Montana (Hi-Line)

7. **Pondera County Courthouse** (Conrad, MT) – 22/25
 - a. Host-site will serve as one of the regional hubs to receive direct legal assistance for northwest Montana. Just east of the Continental Divide, the courthouse will serve well as a host-site, having scored high on all the assessment criteria and reporting some of the higher referral numbers to the Court Help Program in northern Montana.
8. **Hill County Library** (Havre, MT) – 21/25
 - a. Library has been a partner in previous legal aid projects (Legal Kiosks and Library Outreach Campaign) and is continuing to be a willing partner in serving the local self-represented population. Normally a location for remote services through the Court Help Program, the statistics gathered on Court Help Program surveys highlight Havre as having a need for legal services.
9. **Valley County Courthouse** (Glasgow, MT) – 22/25
 - a. Court Help Program AmeriCorps normally provide remote services in Glasgow at a high cost to the Judicial Branch due to the distance from the closest self help law center. Placement of the workstation with willing courthouse staff will be a tremendous advantage for the implementation of Court Help Connect workstation.

Stage 5 Deployment: Eastern Montana

10. **Library of Miles City** (Miles City, MT) – 22/25

- a. Placing workstations in the library will be a change in setting as the old Legal Kiosk was located in the courthouse, but library staff is excited to be partnering for this project. Library staff scored high on location assessment criteria, is eager to begin helping litigants and receive training, and is willing to be flexible to help Court Help Connect succeed.

11. **Dawson County Courthouse** (Glendive, MT) – 24/25

- a. Local judge and court staff are eager partners and score high for all assessment criteria. Buy-in from courthouse stakeholders will be a tremendous asset for the implementation and continued success of Court Help Connect.