

# **MINUTES**

## **Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)**

**Helena, MT – via ZOOM and In-Person**

**February 18, 2022**

**Members Participating In-person, Via Telephone or Video:** Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Kelly Mantooh, Valerie Armstrong, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Hon. Holly Frederickson, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Peggy Tonon, Hon. Jim Rice, Charlie Harball.

**Members Absent:** Brian Smith, Scott Twito, and Hon. Heidi Ulbricht.

**Staff Present:** Shauna Ryan

**Guests:** None

Judge Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting on January 28, 2022, were reviewed. Judge Fagenstrom moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Mantooh seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **Personal Attendance at Conferences – Review Final Amended Rule and Resolution**

Shauna Ryan provided the final version of the amended rule along with the final version of the resolution with the suggestions incorporated from the last meeting. The rules and the resolution will be sent out with the Spring COLJ Conference information to the judges.

#### **Bond Book**

Judge Fagenstrom reported that the new version of the bond book has again been modified and finalized and is available on the Supreme Court's website.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Election of Officers**

Judge Mantooh moved that Judge Miller continue to serve as chairman. Judge Fagenstrom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Judge Frederickson advised that due to her retirement at the of the year, she would rather not serve as vice-chairman this year. Judge Fagenstrom moved that Judge Mantooh be nominated to serve as vice-chairman. Judge Connolly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Judge Miller will serve as chairman and Judge Mantooh will serve as vice-chairman through February 2023.

#### **Waiver Committee**

Judge Mantooth moved that Peggy Tonon, Scott Twito and Valerie Armstrong be appointed to serve on the waiver committee. Judge Connolly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **Spring 2022 COLJ Conference – Update**

Shauna Ryan reported that the agenda was set, and all the presenters have been contacted. Justice Gustafson is going to cover the session on “ability to pay” and has asked Justice McKinnon to co-present with her. The hotel has a room set aside on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, for any new judges ready to take the certification test. Shauna thought there would be several who would be interested. Discussion followed on how the Commission would handle new judges who will be required to test twice in the same year due to their appointment dates. Would the Commission consider just extending the waiver of training beyond the 6-month requirement for those who are appointed early in a certification year? The waiver committee will hold a conference call to decide if they will consider allowing judges more time to test if it means testing twice in a short period of time. Maybe it doesn’t matter, if a judge is required to test in September and then again November, so be it. Judge Miller suggested that the Commission table this issue until the March meeting to allow the waiver committee to discuss it first. Peggy will arrange a conference call with the waiver committee and report back at the next meeting.

### **Request for Temporary Certificate and Waiver of Training for New Judge**

Hon. Lee Burroughs (Golden Valley JP/Ryegate City) and Hon. Christopher Gregory (Belgrade City): On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the temporary waivers be approved. The Commission concurred. Judge Frederickson advised that Judge Mantooth would be the training judge for Judge Burroughs and Judge West would be the training judge for Judge Gregory.

### **Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2022 COLJ Conference**

Hon. Holly Frederickson: On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the waiver request be approved. The Commission concurred. Judge Frederickson advised that she actually needs the waiver all day on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, rather than 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, as originally indicated on the request form. Shauna Ryan will make note of the date change on the waiver.

**Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be Friday, March 18, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

May 23, 2022