

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Via Zoom

March 17, 2023

Members Participating: Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. David Grubich, Peggy Tonon, Hon. Jim Rice, Melissa Rosaaen, Hon. Kerry Burman, Brian Smith, Hon. Jessie Connolly, and Greg Sullivan.

Members Absent: Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Steve Bolstad, and County Attorney Representative (no appointment yet).

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

Judge Mantooth called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on February 17, 2023, were reviewed. Brian Smith moved that the minutes be approved. Peggy Tonon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COCOLJ County Representative Vacancy

The Montana County Attorneys Association recommended that Jeanne Torske fill the vacant seat on the Commission for a county representative. Judge Miller moved that the recommendation be forwarded to the Supreme Court for appointment. Peggy Tonon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Rule 5. Waiver – Rule Revision: Provision/Exception for Retiring Judges

Peggy Tonon reported that the waiver committee plans to have some draft language for the Commission's consideration at the meeting in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Temporary Certificate and Waiver of Training for New Judge

Hon. Virginia Cook (Dillon City): On behalf of the waiver committee Peggy Tonon recommended the temporary waiver be approved. The Commission concurred.

Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2023 Conference

Hon. Jim Seykora – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended that the waiver be approved. The Commission concurred with the recommendations.

Spring Conference Agenda – Update

Shauna Ryan reported that all the presenters had now been contacted and were confirmed. Anna Saverud was contacted and agreed to give the marijuana law update. The agenda is set. The newly appointed judges will be given an option to take the certification test on Monday afternoon prior to conference or during the MMA business meeting on Wednesday. Shauna Ryan will make arrangements with those judges.

Legislative Update

There was discussion among the members about the status of various bills pending before the legislature and the potential effect on the limited jurisdiction courts. There will be an extensive legislative update provided by the MMA lobbyist at the Spring COLJ Conference.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Monday, April 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Great Falls.

February 7, 2024