

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ) Helena, MT April 22, 2024

Members Participating: Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Hon. David Grubich, Peggy Tonon, Hon. Kerry Burman, Brian Smith, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Greg Sullivan, Hon. Maureen O'Connor, Jeanne Torske, and Justice Jim Rice.

Members Absent: Melissa Rosaaen

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Judge Mantooth called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m.

Public Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on March 15, 2024, were reviewed. Brian Smith moved that the minutes be approved. Peggy Tonon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Spring Conference Agenda – Update

Judge Mantooth gave a brief overview of the conference agenda and what to expect. A couple of the topics may prompt some robust discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Temporary Certificate and Waiver of Training for New Judge

Hon. Clay Herbst (Park Co. JP) – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the temporary waiver be approved. The Commission concurred.

Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2024 Conference

Hon. Linda Cantin, Hon. Brad Marking, and Hon. Rebecca McEuen – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended that the waivers be approved. The Commission concurred.

Montana Rules of Evidence Book Update

Shauna Ryan reported that the Rules of Evidence book needed revisions, as an update has not been done since 2018. Shauna Ryan talked with Cynthia Ford who indicated she would be willing to contract with the Commission to update the book. There is money in the training budget as well so cost would not be an issue.

The Commission was in concurrence. Shauna will reach out to Ms. Ford to discuss costs as well as the timeframe to complete the update.

Montana Justice Institute – UM Law School

Shauna Ryan reported that the last Montana Justice Institute (MJII) was held in June 2015. It provides an educational opportunity for COLJ judges to expand their knowledge in the areas of criminal procedure, evidence, and civil procedure. The Institute is held at the UM Law School with classes being taught by several professors at the law school. In the past, the OCA received grant funding to pay for MJII. Shauna asked if the Commission thought it would be worthwhile to coordinate another Institute the summer of 2025. The Commission thought it was a great opportunity for the judges in past years and that we should move forward with the planning of another one. Shauna will work with Beth McLaughlin on the grant application, as well as Peggy Tonon, to get the ball rolling.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Friday, June 21, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.