

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Heritage Inn – Great Falls

April 24, 2023

Members Participating: Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Hon. David Grubich, Peggy Tonon, Melissa Rosaaen, Hon. Kerry Burman, Brian Smith, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Greg Sullivan, and Jeanne Torske.

Members Absent: Hon. Jim Rice

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

Judge Mantooth called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He introduced and welcomed new member Jeanne Torske. Ms. Torske was appointed on March 28, 2023, and replaces Scott Twito on the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

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

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

Peggy Tonon distributed a proposed revision/addition to Rule 5 of the Rules for Court of Limited Jurisdiction Training and Certification of Judges. This would add language specifically for the certification conference and test for any judge who resigns, is retiring at the end of his term or who is defeated in a contested election. Upon receipt of information by the Commission, no formal waiver would be required from those judges. The waiver committee moved that the new rule be adopted. The commission concurred.

Request for Waiver of Training for Substitute Judge – Revised Form

Peggy Tonon distributed the revised form as discussed at the last meeting. The form will be distributed to all the judges at the conference.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring Conference Agenda – Update

Shauna Ryan reported that the only names missing from the agenda were the mental health professionals assisting Judge Bolstad with his presentation – Cassidy Blomgren and Julie Trosper. Everything else is set. Several judges will be taking their certification test this week – Judge Virginia Cook will test Monday at 1:00 p.m.; Judge Gallagher, Judge Mohler and Judge Howard will test at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2023 Conference

Hon. Ray Trumpower – Peggy Tonon reviewed the waiver and did not feel she had enough information on the situation to make a recommendation. She will request additional information from him and update the Commission once she knows more. After more discussion with the Commission as a whole, Peggy agreed to request that Judge Trumpower provide in writing the action he has taken thus far to make it to the conference. The Commission is not going to decide the issue until they receive additional information.

The waiver committee will be receiving waivers from Judge Lesofski and Judge Stahl. Judge Lesofski is recovering from shoulder surgery and Judge Stahl broke a front tooth and is attempting to see a dentist as soon as possible. Both waivers will be addressed at the meeting in June.

Legislative Update

The legislature is still in session. Judge Mantooth is hopeful that a number of bills will keep moving forward. Both he and Rebecca Meyers, the lobbyist, will give a more thorough update on Thursday during the conference.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Friday, June 16, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

February 7, 2024