

# MINUTES

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

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

**April 26, 2021**

**Members Participating In-person, Via Telephone or Video:** Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Hon. Holly Frederickson, Peggy Tonon, Hon. Kelly Mantooh, Tina Reinicke, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Heidi Ulbricht, Scott Twito, Charlie Harball, and Brian Smith.

**Members Absent:** Hon. Jim Rice.

**Staff Present:** Shauna Ryan

**Guests:** None

Judge Miller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting on March 19, 2021, were reviewed. Peggy Tonon moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Connolly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Spring 2021 Conference – Update**

Shauna Ryan reported that instead of the typical 3 breakouts on Wednesday there will only be 2. There will be a general roundtable moderated by Judge Mantooh and Judge Bolstad and the other will be Judging 101 moderated by Judge Frederickson, Judge Miller, and Judge Connolly.

Shawn Reagor with the Montana Human Rights Network agreed to talk about transgender issues/preferred pronouns on Thursday.

#### **Legislative Updates**

Judge Mantooh reported that SB 402 passed 3<sup>rd</sup> reading today. Commission members are encouraged to contact their local senator and request a “do not concur” on the amendments added by the house in SB 402. Representative Hertz added an amendment to HB 632 – the main money bill that deals with the ARPA funds and how to spend the \$1.9 billion that’s coming into the state – that says any local government entity cannot hire a lobbyist and pay for them with the funds from that entity. However, an elected official can go to the legislature or contact the lobbyist. That is now in conflict with what SB 402 says.

#### **Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2021 COLJ Conference**

Hon. Stacey Nerison, Hon. Nathan Hammontree, Hon. Sharon Richardson, Hon. Larry Jensen, Hon. Wanda Drusch, Hon. Jeanne Walker, Hon. Rebecca McEuen, Hon. Jim Seykora – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the waiver requests be approved. The Commission concurred.

### **Discussion on Mask or No Masks During the Conference**

There was some discussion about concerns that may arise related to face masks. The Chief Justice's mandate is specific to the judges' courtrooms, jury pools and personal workspace within the courtrooms and the Commission does not believe the requirements apply to judicial conferences or training held in other locations. The Commission suggests we simply comply with the mandates at the local level. Yellowstone County is currently not requiring face masks. If someone has a specific concern about masks or no masks at the conference, then they can request a waiver from Shauna Ryan. Judge Miller will make an announcement at the start of the conference.

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

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be Friday, June 25, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

May 23, 2022