

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Helena, MT

August 19, 2022

Members Participating: Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Hon. Holly Frederickson, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Valerie Armstrong, Peggy Tonon, Brian Smith, Hon. Jim Rice, Scott Twito, and Jeff Hindoién.

Members Absent: Hon. Heidi Ulbricht.

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

Judge Miller called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He started by introducing and welcoming newly appointed member, Jeff Hindoién. Mr. Hindoién holds the city representative seat on the Commission, replacing Charlie Harball who retired at the end of June.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on June 17, 2022, were reviewed. Judge Fagenstrom moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Mantooth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Fall Certification Conference and New Judge Orientation – Update

Judge Frederickson will put together the new judge orientation agenda with help from Judge Miller. Other judges helping with orientation are Judge Mantooth, Judge Bolstad, Judge Burman, Judge West, Judge Hummel, and Judge Fagenstrom.

Shauna Ryan reviewed the certification conference agenda and reported on who we have received test questions from to date. The certification test committee will meet on Thursday, September 15th at 1:00 p.m. to review questions. Moodle, the testing platform, was recently updated. Shauna will be meeting remotely with the Moodle trainers to discuss the best way to register judges in advance of the test.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Temporary Certificate and Waiver of Training for New Judge

Hon. Pamela J. Waggener (Three Forks and Manhattan City Judge): On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the temporary waiver be approved. The Commission concurred. Judge Connolly agreed to serve as the training judge for Judge Waggener. Judge Frederickson contacted Judge West to train Judge Waggener but had not received confirmation from him yet. Judge Connolly indicated that she would be willing to train Judge Waggener. She will follow up with her in next week or so.

Request for Waiver of Training for Fall 2022 COLJ Conference

Hon. Melissa Gallagher: On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the waiver request be approved. The Commission concurred. Judge Gallagher's current term expires at the end of December 2022; and she is running unopposed for re-election. Since each judge is required to be certified every four years, she will need to complete and return a new Request for Temporary Certificate and Waiver of Training to cover her while she is deployed. The waiver would grant her 6 months from January 1, 2023, to prepare for and take the certification test upon her return. She plans to mail in the Notification of Election form after the election and will be sworn in remotely (via Zoom) in January.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Friday, September 16, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

February 7, 2024