

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Helena, MT

September 16, 2022

Members Participating: Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Hon. Holly Frederickson, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Heidi Ulbricht, Valerie Armstrong, Peggy Tonon, and Brian Smith.

Members Absent: Hon. Jim Rice, Scott Twito, and Hon. Steve Bolstad

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on August 19, 2022, were reviewed. Peggy Tonon moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Connolly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Fall Certification Conference – Update

Shauna Ryan reported that the testing committee - Peggy Tonon, Brian Smith, Scott Twito, and Valerie Armstrong – met the day before and reviewed and approved the test questions. Conference registration information will be sent out to the judges on September 26th. Judges will be requested to return registration forms with payment and enroll in Moodle no later than October 31, 2022. The judge members will stay to discuss the details of the new judge orientation at the end of today's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Waiver of Training for Fall 2022 COLJ Conference

Hon. J. Colleen Herrington: On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the waiver request be approved. The Commission concurred.

Jeff Hindoein resigned from the Commission

New commission member, Jeff Hindoein, resigned from the Commission due to a change in jobs. He is leaving the city attorney's office and going to work in the private sector. Judge Miller suggested reaching out to the MMIA for a recommendation for a replacement. Peggy Tonon is going to reach out to the city attorney in Hamilton, Karen Mahar, to see if she might be interested. Shauna Ryan will contact Alan Hulse at MMIA for a recommendation.

CPS/DN Reform

Judge Mantooth reported that there was an upcoming CPS/DN Reform meeting next week. They are not trying to change what the legislative interim committee has done but are reviewing the recommendations as there may be numerous changes proposed during the next legislative session in DN cases, to include allowing all courts to remove children from homes on application of a search warrant. A lengthy discussion followed. Brian Smith will be attending the meeting and will report back at the next Commission meeting.

New Judge Training Update

Judge Connolly reported that she had completed the training with Judge Waggener in Manhattan and would be going back to Three Forks next week to finish training with her in that court.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Friday, October 21, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

February 7, 2024