

## MINUTES

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

**Kalispell, MT**

**September 23, 2019**

**Members Present:** Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Holly Frederickson, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Peggy Tonon, Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Hon. Heidi Ulbricht, and Charlie Harball.

**Members Participating Via Telephone or Video:** Peter Ohman and Tina Reinicke

**Members Absent:** Mary Ann Ries and Hon. Jim Rice

**Staff Present:** Shauna Ryan

**Guests:** None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting on June 21, 2019, were reviewed. Judge Fagenstrom moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Bolstad seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Request for Temporary Waiver of Training for New Judge**

Hon. Brenda Norby, Hon. Kjerstie LeDesky, and Hon. John Lesofski: Peggy Tonon approved the temporary waivers of training for Judges Norby, LeDesky and Lesofski. The Commission concurred.

#### **Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2019 Conference**

Hon. Rebecca McEuen and Hon. Lori Adams: Peggy Tonon moved to approve the waiver committee's recommendations. Judge Connolly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **Request for Waiver of Training for Substitute Judge**

Hon. Luke Savage (Kale Rasmussen): Peggy Tonon explained that Judge Savage has a difficult time getting anyone to serve as a sub judge in Sidney. Therefore, the county commission appointed Kale Rasmussen as deputy clerk of court, in name only, so that he would meet the qualifications required for substitute judges in

justice court. The waiver committee approved the waiver. After some discussion, the Commission agreed that the waiver should be approved in this case.

### **Training for New Judges**

Judge Miller expressed concern about the large number of new judges and ensuring they all receive appropriate training when they initially take office. Judge Frederickson is the chair of the MMA training committee; Judge Mantooth, Judge Connolly, Judge Bolstad, Judge West, Judge Landa and Judge Miller serve on the committee as well. Judge Miller inquired about funding for the training. Shauna Ryan indicated that as far as she knows there is no issue with the Court reimbursing the travel for those training judges. Judge Frederickson felt it would be helpful if we could recruit the retired judges to help with some of the training. Judge Ulbricht asked whether live videos were considered for training. They haven't been so far, but it might be something to consider down the road for the more remedial or follow up training. Peggy Tonon asked for clarification on the issue. The issue is that we need to get training judges to the new judges in a timelier manner and in order to do that Judge Frederickson would like to be able to utilize and pay the retired judges to help. Again, there likely would not be an issue in reimbursing travel and lodging, but the State would be unable to compensate a training judge for their time. The discussion then led to the fact that new clerks are also in need of training. The clerks are a county/city asset. Apparently Judge Carter is going to be addressing the training needs of the clerks during the MMA meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be November 15, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

November 14, 2019