

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Billings, MT

September 25, 2023

Members Participating: Hon. Kelly Mantooth, 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 and Hon. Perry Miller.

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on August 18, 2023, were reviewed. Peggy Tonon moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Fagenstrom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Temporary Certificate and Waiver of Training for New Judge

Hon. Stephen Becker (Darby City) – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended the temporary waiver be approved. The Commission concurred.

Request for Waiver of Training for Fall 2023 Conference

Hon. Traci Harada, Hon. Kerry Burman, Hon. Jay Sheffield, Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Arthur Behar, Hon. Luke Savage, Hon. Holly Happe, and Hon. Pamela Waggener – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended that the waivers be approved. She did recommend that both Judge Savage and Judge Waggener provide medical documentation to go along with the waivers, for consistency. The Commission concurred with the recommendation.

Suggestions for Future Training

Peggy Tonon asked if the Commission would be considering an ethics presentation in the spring. If so, she would reach out to Justice Pat Cotter now to see about her availability and willingness to help. The Commission felt ethics training once a year is necessary and helps fulfill the attorney judges' ethics requirements from the State Bar.

Greg Sullivan reported that they had recently worked with the Bozeman Police Department, the MSU Police Department, and judges in the courts of the limited jurisdiction to hire folks from the Family Violence Center at Arizona State University to come and provide a training on APRAIS (Arizona intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System) – which is a risk assessment for offenders in domestic violence type cases. They will be providing a two-day training in October in anticipation that law enforcement and courts in Bozeman area would begin using the APRAIS risk assessment. The City of Billings and Yellowstone County already use the assessment. The folks putting this together think it's a good opportunity to make sure that everyone involved is managing the risk to victims of domestic violence in the best way possible. The Commission may want to consider having some similar training during a conference in the future.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Friday, November 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in Helena.

February 7, 2024