

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Helena, MT – via ZOOM and In-Person

November 19, 2021

Members Participating In-person, Via Telephone or Video: Hon. Holly Frederickson, Peggy Tonon, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Tina Reinicke, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Heidi Ulbricht, Hon. Jim Rice, and Charlie Harball.

Members Absent: Hon. Perry Miller, Brian Smith, and Scott Twito.

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

Judge Frederickson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on September 27, 2021, were reviewed. Judge Mantooth moved that the minutes be approved. Judge Bolstad seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tina Reinicke resigning on February 18, 2022; Resigning as president of MJC & MCCA on December 10, 2021

Tina Reinicke stated that Judge Jenks is one of the two best bosses she's had in her life and treats her team like gold. Tina felt like the three new judges coming on deserve a court administrator up to whatever systemic changes the new judges want to undertake. She added that she has had an amazing 10 years and is thankful she had the opportunity to engage with the Commission as it's been one of the high points of her tenure. Now she gets to walk away proudly and go do what's next! Judge Fagenstrom commented that there are a lot of clerks that have gone on to be JP's and asked if there might be politics in her future? Tina responded that her goal initially will be to focus on her writing and help take care of her dad who lives in Superior and is in failing health. In an ideal world, she will be on the Lochsa next summer, in her little 1965 camp trailer, professionally picking morels. The Commission thanked her for her service and dedication; she will be missed!

Request for Waiver of Training for Fall 2021 COLJ Conference

Hon. Jean Kerr and Hon. Larry Pahut – On behalf of the waiver committee, Peggy Tonon recommended that the waivers be approved. The Commission concurred with recommendation.

New Judges - Update

Courts with new judges starting in December/January:

Missoula Municipal Court: Hon. Jennifer Streano, Hon. Eli Parker, and Hon. Jacob Coolidge – will take office on 1/1/22. Judge Bolstad and Judge Hummel will provide training sometime in January.

Dillon/Beaverhead Co. Justice Court: Hon. Randi Braddock – will take office on 12/1/21

Whitefish Municipal Court (to replace Wm. Hileman) – will be appointed 12/6/21. Judge Bolstad and Judge Hummel will provide the training in December.

Troy City Court (to replace Robbee Pennock) – will be appointed mid-December

MMA Training Committee

Due to the large number of new judges recently, Judge Frederickson and Judge Connolly will schedule a conference call with the MMA approved trainers to coordinate training for all the new and incoming judges.

Personal Attendance at Conferences – Incorporate Resolution into the Rules

Judge Fagenstrom moved that this matter be tabled until the January meeting to allow time to circulate both a complete set of Rules of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Training and Certification of Judges along with the proposed resolution (with Peggy Tonon's suggested edits) to all the members for consideration. Judge Connolly seconded the motion and it carried. Shauna Ryan will send both out in advance of the January meeting.

Fall 2021 Conference – Survey Monkey Results

It was suggested that we incorporate and conduct a mock OOP hearing during the next conference to build on the OOP training held in September. There were also suggestions that there be more basic training for new judges. The Commission discussed incorporating new judge training during the conference as a breakout. Overall, there were many positive comments, and the feedback was good and constructive.

Bond Book

Judge Fagenstrom reported that the bond book committee met the day previous – starting at 8:00 a.m. and finished up a little after 7:00 p.m. The bond book is ready to go to the Supreme Court for its review and approval. Judge Frederickson asked if once the bond book is approved if it's sent out to law enforcement anymore. The bond book is available electronically via the Supreme Court's website – https://courts.mt.gov/external/lcourt/training_guides/bondbook.pdf. Judge Connolly thought it was published for the courts and it was then up to the courts to provide a copy to law enforcement. Judge Fagenstrom thought that it was published for everyone at one point in time. Tina Reinicke said that she does provide it to the Missoula police department because it's never a predictable time when it will be available as updated. Justice Rice thought it would be helpful if when the bond book is sent to the court that new bonds and any changes that have been made be identified and a summary of those changes be provided to the court to expedite the review of the book. Judge Fagenstrom indicated that the committee utilizes a spreadsheet that contains everything they address during the meetings – changes, removals, or additions – and the spreadsheet is what Claudia Anderson will use to create the changes in the bond book. He will make sure that Claudia knows the Court would like that spreadsheet included with the book for its review.

Curriculum for Spring 2022

The Commission drafted an agenda for the spring conference in Missoula. Shauna Ryan will begin contacting presenters and provide an update at the January meeting.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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

January 18, 2022

DRAFT