

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction
The Eagles, Miles City, Montana
April 25, 2005

President, the Hon. Johnny Seiffert, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Hon. Johnny Seiffert, Hon. Mary Jane Knisely, Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. David Ortley, Hon. Gayle Stahl, Prof. Margaret Tonon, Hon. Doug Harkin, Hon. Scott Wyckman, Sharon Skaggs.

Members Absent: Justice Jim Nelson, Shaun Donovan and Paul Luwe were unable to attend.

Staff: Karen Sedlock and Beth McLaughlin.

Guests: Jim Oppedahl, Hon. Tori Marion, Hon. Larry Carver, Hon. Michelle Snowberger, Hon. Carol Anderson, Hon. Joyce Perszyk, Hon. Mary Garfield, Hon. Gary A. Olsen, and Ted Clack.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Hon. Perry Miller and seconded by Hon. Gayle Stahl that the minutes of the March 18, 2005 meeting be adopted as written. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Hon. Michelle Snowberger stated a number of courts have Lexus or Westlaw Access. Is it possible to provide Internet research training to judges of limited jurisdiction on a district or regional basis?

TO DO: Beth McLaughlin will check with Judy Meadows at the Law Library to see if she is interested in providing this type of training.

Hon. Michelle Snowberger stated it would be helpful to have access to the COCOLJ minutes. She requested they be posted on the Supreme Court website along with the agenda for upcoming meetings.

Judge Snowberger stated her concern about the waivers that were given to two judges who do not plan to attend a portion of the school. Judge Harkin explained the one-hour waivers were granted to allow the judges to catch a 3:00 plane departing from Miles City. Otherwise, both judges would have to stay overnight and incur another day of expenses.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Jim Oppedahl gave a legislative update and a report on the rollout of FullCourt. It has been installed in 105 courts and the remaining courts should be completed within the next 6 months. IT staff is currently installing the Billings Municipal Court and will begin installing Flathead County Justice Court next month.

Justice Court in Cascade County is scheduled for June and Cascade Municipal and smaller courts are scheduled after July 1st. Draft specification for Central Repository is projected to be completed by September, 2005.

OLD BUSINESS:

Masking Convictions: Since Mr. Donovan was unable to attend the April meeting; this matter will be moved to the May meeting.

Education Policy: RE: Number of Pro Tems & Rule. This item was also tabled and shall be placed on the May meeting agenda.

Juror Handbook: Hon. Mary Jane Knisley provided each COCOLJ member with a copy of the Billings Municipal Courts' Juror Information and Document Samples. Beth McLaughlin suggested the information be placed on the Supreme Court web site. Beth will get the information from Nikki, Judge Kinsley's Administrative Assistant, and it will be discussed further at the May meeting.

TO DO: Beth will get information from Nikki on the Billings Municipal Courts' Juror Information and Document Samples.

Waivers: This matter will be moved to the May meeting for a report from the Waiver Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

PHADD Program: The Driver Improvement agency has requesting that the COCOLJ give them some time at a future school to discuss the new THADD program, which has been certified through the State. Mr. Greg Noose is interested in participating in the training.

Big Sky Check Recovery & Collections: Hon. Johnny Seiffert brought a note that was received by the Court Clerk from Big Sky Check Recovery & Collections asking if they would post a sign notifying people that they will prepare Summons & Complaints for Small Claims or Justice Court. Judge Seiffert advised his clerk not to post the notice. After a short discussion, it was agreed that during Judge Seiffert's presentation to the Justices' of the Peace, he would inquire if their clerks received similar requests, and if so, do they see it as a problem?

This subject will be placed on the May agenda for follow-up.

MIP/UA Testing: Hon. Johnny Seiffert is concerned that the Billings Alternatives satellite site requests first time MIP's to have an ordinary baseline UA test, at the parent's expense, to get into their program. Because this is happening to juveniles, it was recommended that a training session on this subject be placed on the agenda for the fall school.

Curriculum Committee Meeting: A curriculum committee meeting shall be set at 3:00 pm the Thursday, June 17th, the day prior to the June COCOLJ meeting in Helena.

Leadership Institute: Kathryn Story from the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Memphis is inquiring if Montana wants to consider applying for the 2006-07 Leadership Institute in Judicial Education class. If Montana is interesting, now is the time to begin laying the groundwork for a team to come to Memphis in 2006. The matter will be placed on the May agenda to find out if any judges are interested.

TO DO: Karen will ask the LIJE to provide further information about what would be expected from a team and what they would learn.

Regional Training: Hon. Johnny Seiffert asked if there were any funds available to put on regional training? This matter will be placed on the May agenda.

TO DO: Peggy Tonon will check with Dean Eck to see if there is any training money left from the University. Beth McLaughlin will check on other funding sources.

Hon. Douglas Harkin will discuss the subject of web-based learning at the Spring 2005 School in Miles City and find out how many judges are interested and what subjects they are interested in. Judge Harkin is willing to build a web-board and monitor it as a source of information for limited court judges.

Long-Range COLJ Conference Planning: Karen Sedlock reported on the dates and sites of conferences that **have been secured**. They are as follows:

Fall 05	Holiday Inn, Billings
Spring 06	Holiday Inn, Missoula
Fall 06	Heritage Inn, Great Falls (certification)
Fall 07	Copper King Lodge, Butte
Spring 09	Grouse Mountain Inn, Whitefish
Fall 09	Huntley Lodge, Big Sky

Other sites were discussed and **tentative locations were suggested:**

Spring 07	Rock Creek Lodge, Red Lodge
Spring 08	KwaTaqNuk Inn, Polson
Fall 08	Colonial (?), Helena
Spring 10	Holiday Inn, Billings
Fall 10	Heritage Inn, Great Falls (certification)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.