

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction
Great Falls, MT
May 2, 2011

Members Present were: Hon. Larry Carver, Hon. Perry Miller, Hon. Greg Mohr, Hon. Gary Olsen, Hon. Marie Anderson, Hon. Steven Fagenstrom, Jennifer Boschee, Peggy Tonon, Bernie Cassidy and Kelly Addy.

Members Absent: Supreme Court Liaison Justice Jim Nelson, Hon. Doug Harkin and Randi Hood

Staff Present: Beth McLaughlin and Karen Sedlock

Guests: Hon. Donna Marsh and Hon. Michelle Snowberger

Judge Miller called the meeting to order at noon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: The minutes from the March 18, 2011 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Judge Olsen and seconded by Judge Mohr that the minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Correspondence from Richard Motta: Commission members reviewed a copy of a letter from Richard Motta forwarded by Tammy Hinderman. No action was required.

Record Retention Schedule: Judge Miller noted that he was going to request feedback about records retention issues at the Montana Magistrates' Association meeting and would report back at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Waivers: Beth reviewed the waivers approved for the conference. Hon. Donna Marsh noted that she was attending the meeting to request a waiver to attend a funeral.

Forsyth City Court Issue: Beth provided the commission with a notice of appointment from the city of Forsyth for Tara Batey. The notice provided for a term ending on December 31, 2014. Ms. Batey notified staff that the city rescinded the appointment and would be appointing the Hon. Gayle Beckham. Commission members discussed the matter and whether Ms. Batey should be attending the conference. Commission members asked Judge Mohr to follow-up with Ms. Batey to get more information and request that she fill out a waiver of training. Mr. Addy agreed to contact the Forsyth city attorney to find out more information about the appointment and to make sure the city understands the nature of judicial appointments. Judge Carver made a motion to notify Judge Beckham of the

potential problem; motion was seconded by Ms. Boschee and passed unanimously. Judge Miller agreed to follow up with Judge Beckham to provide her with information about the status of the appointment.

TO DO: Mr. Addy will contact the city attorney and report back at the next meeting. Judge Mohr will contact Ms. Batey and Judge Miller with contact Judge Beckham.

Consumer Debt Materials: Beth asked if any members would be willing to assist in the development of self help materials for parties involved in debt collection actions. The Attorney General's Office and the Montana Legal Services Association are interested in developing materials. Judge Olsen, Judge Fagenstrom and Judge Snowberger said they would be willing to help.

Montana Prevention Coalition MOU: Commission members considered a request from the Montana Prevention Coalition to join them in MOU for projects to prevent underage drinking. Commission members were unsure whether it was an appropriate judicial activity. Prof. Tonon suggested that the commission table the matter until staff could gather more information about what the coalition wanted from the courts.

TO DO: Staff will find out more about the project and report back at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the COCOLJ will be June 17th in Helena at the OCA office starting at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.