

ATJC Policy & Resources Committee Meeting  
By Teleconference, and at MLSA offices in Helena  
January 28, 2015; 2:30 PM

**In Attendance:** Alison Paul, Michelle Potts, Matt Dale, Janice Doggett, Amy Sings In The Timber. Also in attendance: Kate Kuykendall and Iris Marcus.

**Matt moved to approve the minutes. Alison seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Economic Impact Study Update**

Michelle would like to solicit feedback on the study, and put it before the Commission. Amy asked people to look at the study and email comments to the group. Kate will circulate the study again, and specifically request feedback on a timeframe. Janice has comments she will email to the group. The Committee will think about how things are said, how to order things, etc. When the Committee approves it, it will go the Commission for approval at the March Commission meeting.

**Task Update**

Amy summarized the Commission's decision about the legislative ask. The Commission determined it would not ask for funds in this session, but will undertake an educational campaign over the next two years in preparation for a strong ask in the next session. This Committee is tasked with laying the groundwork for that campaign and making recommendations to the Commission soon.

The Committee discussed whether going before an interim committee this session is part of the Committee's charge. It was determined that the Committee should make a recommendation one way or the other. Alison and Matt said we have to do something soon to get on an interim committee agenda, and suggested we don't have the capacity to put much toward that right now. Amy will talk with Jon Bennion about this and report back to the Committee by email. Matt mentioned that Margie MacDonald is the Chair of the Law & Justice Interim Committee, and the group agreed she would be a soft sell. It would follow naturally from Alison's testimony on the family law issue.

The Committee discussed how to approach developing the campaign. Matt shared that the Outreach & Communications Committee is working to lay groundwork by contacting each Commissioner to identify networks and capacity for information sharing.

Amy said that in the past, we've done similar campaigns. We're looking at the same players, with a few additions. Amy listed who she remembers participating in the previous listening sessions, but she wasn't the only one there. Alison and Patty Fain were involved as well. Missoula, Kalispell, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings, and Helena are the places these sessions were held. The petition to the Court to create the ATJC may include helpful information about how these sessions happened and who was invited and participated. Erin Farris-Olson has the detail information. We're shooting for 2016 for these sessions.

Alison suggested focusing on the interim committee thing, and focusing on this later when MLSA can devote some staff time. We need to find out what legislators we want to influence, and we don't know that yet. The O&C committee will be able to have groundwork ready by 2016 now.

Amy said she would like to put together a plan. Alison agreed. She would like to see the Court commit some resources for this effort. Patty worked on it before; can she again?

Amy asked if anyone has ideas about funding sources to support the listening sessions. Matt said the DoJ can probably provide some support for this effort, but will need a budget. Office of Consumer Protection can contribute with Jon acting as a check/balance on Matt's offer. Disability Rights MT may have funding; Beth McLaughlin may have funds available somewhere as well. Meeting room space and travel, with food are the major costs. Amy said it would be really great to record them on video. MLSA can contribute staff and send someone with a camera to record them.

### **Update**

Amy shared that the Committee had talked about a dues assessment before getting sidetracked talking about a legislative ask. We had decided to do some quiet talking about what kind of support we could expect rather than charging ahead. Leslie Halligan has been working on this. The State bar Trustees makeup has changed significantly recently. It had looked fairly positive previously. However, right now, the MJF and the State Bar have opened dialogue about IOLTA once again. The dues assessment idea will be taking a back burner once again.

Alison suggested revisiting the list of options this Committee started with after the Legislative session is over. Janice suggested working to educate the SBM executive committee one on one. Alison said it'll be important to find the right person to make the ask. Leslie Halligan and Matt Thiel may be inclined to take the issue up as an active push. She understands the need. Janice noted that Shane Vanetta may still be interested, but needs to be approached carefully.

### **Other Business.**

There was no other business.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.