

MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (COCOLJ)

Helena, MT

March 21, 2025

Members Participating: Hon. Kelly Mantooth, Hon. Steve Bolstad, Hon. Kerry Burman, Hon. Steve Fagenstrom, Hon. Jessie Connolly, Brian Smith, Greg Sullivan, Hon. Maureen O'Connor, and Nicole Siefert.

Members Absent: Melissa Rosaaen, Jeanne Torske, Hon. David Grubich, and Hon. Jim Rice.

Staff Present: Shauna Ryan

Guests: None

Judge Mantooth called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on February 21, 2025, were reviewed. Judge Bolstad requested the minutes be amended to include him as present and participating. Judge Bolstad moved to approve the minutes as amended. Judge Fagenstrom seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Judge Deskbook - Update

Judge Mantooth reported that he heard back from Judge He Does It and Judge Sullivan. They are close to finishing the project. Judge Mantooth will follow up with them and see if it's possible for them to provide a draft for the Commission to review at its next meeting.

Spring Conference Agenda

Judge Bolstad requested that Judge Swingley be given time during the conference to speak about the incident that recently occurred at the Lewis and Clark County courthouse. Judge Bolstad and Judge Connolly offered up some of their time slot for him. Judge Mantooth will contact Judge Swingley.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Waiver of Training for Spring 2025 Conference

Hon. Ben Pezdark – On behalf of the waiver committee Nicole Siefert recommended the waiver be approved. The Commission concurred.

Legislative Updates

Judge Mantooth went through several bills that will have an impact on the Judiciary. A lengthy discussion followed. Judge Mantooth, along with lobbyist Rebecca Meyer, intends to provide a detailed update during the COLJ conference in April.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Monday, April 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in Butte.