

ORIGINAL

MINUTES

Montana Supreme Court Public Meeting

July 1, 2014

Justice Building, Attorneys' Lounge, 4th Floor

215 N. Sanders

Helena, Montana

FILED

JUL 15 2014

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Justice McGrath called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Chief Justice McGrath and Justices Baker, Cotter, McKinnon, Shea and Wheat were in attendance. Also in attendance were: Paul Burdett, Haley Nelson and Amy McNulty, Law Clerks of the Montana Supreme Court; and Jacqueline Lenmark, Chair of the Board of Bar Examiners.

Item 1: Minutes for the April 15, 2014 Public Meeting

The Court unanimously approved the Minutes of the April 15, 2014 Public Meeting.

Item 2: AF 06-0090 In re: Appointments to Commission on Practice

Chief Justice McGrath opened the floor to discussion about the re-appointments of Rich Ochsner, James Jacobsen and Ward E. Taleff to the Commission on Practice. With appreciation for their continued service, the Justices unanimously approved the order re-appointing these individuals to the Commission for terms expiring on June 30, 2018.

Item 3: AF 06-0263 In re: Appointments to Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

Chief Justice McGrath opened the floor to discussion about the re-appointments of the Honorable Douglas G Harkin, Bernie Cassidy and Kelly Addy to the Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction. With appreciation for their continued service, the Court unanimously approved the order appointing these individuals to the Commission for terms expiring on June 30, 2018.

Item 4: AF 07-0300 In re: Appointment to Board of Bar Examiners

Chief Justice McGrath opened by stating that Randy Cox has resigned as Chair of the Board of Bar Examiners and has recommended Cindy Thiel to fill his position on the Board. The Chief Justice concurred with Randy Cox's recommendation. The Court unanimously approved the appointment of Cindy Thiel to the Board of Bar Examiners. The Court expressed its gratitude to Randy Cox for his many years of service and to Jacqueline Lenmark for taking on the position of Chair of the Board.

Item 5: Access to Justice Commission

Chief Justice McGrath asked Justice Baker to discuss the Access to Justice Commission's proposed change to Rule 23. Justice Baker summarized the proposal and suggested that

the Court publish the proposed amendment for public comment for a period of sixty days. The Court unanimously approved.

Item 6: Upcoming Public Meetings

Chief Justice McGrath noted that a brief public meeting will be held July 15th to consider appointments to the Criminal Jury Instruction Commission and the Appellate Defender Commission. Regarding the proposal for amendments to the judicial substitution rule, the Chief advised that the State Bar of Montana has agreed to conduct a mediation between the members of the Montana State Bar and district court judges. The Court will postpone its consideration of the issue until after the mediation.

Item 7: Public Comments

Jacqueline Lenmark, Chair of the Board of Bar Examiners, thanked the Court for appointing Cindy Thiel to the Board. Chief Justice McGrath adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Duly Submitted,
Paul Burdett and Amy McNulty
Law Clerks