

MINUTES

Montana Supreme Court Public Meeting
Justice Building, 4th Floor, Attorney's Lounge
Helena, Montana
December 16, 2014

FILED

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Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Justice McGrath called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Justices Baker, Cotter, McKinnon, Rice, Shea, and Wheat were in attendance.

Also present were Erin Farris-Olsen, Jamie Iguchi on behalf of the Montana Access to Justice Commission (Law School Partnerships Committee), Chris Manos on behalf of the Montana State Bar Association, Chris Wethern, Staff Attorney for the Montana Supreme Court, and Patricia Klanke and Kelly Driscoll, Law Clerks of the Montana Supreme Court.

Item 1: Minutes

The Court unanimously approved the Minutes of the December 2, 2014 Public Meeting.

Item 2: Recommendation of the Access to Justice Commission for a voluntary pro bono reporting process by applicants for admission to the Montana Bar.

Justice Baker circulated an Order discussing the recommendations of the Access to Justice Commission. The Order directs the State Bar of Montana and the Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator to develop a process to give all applicants to the Montana Bar an opportunity to submit a voluntary statement of any pro-bono law-related activities. The Order further directs the Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator and the State Bar to develop the necessary process and monitor any costs associated with the activity.

Jamie Iguchi gave comment on the role of the law school in formulating the recommendations, noting that the committee included a professor and a student. Erin Farris-Olsen gave comment on the timeframe for implementation, noting that the February 2016 implementation date provided sufficient time.

Justices Baker, Cotter, Shea, Wheat, and Chief Justice McGrath signed the Order. Justice Rice circulated a Dissent and was joined by Justice McKinnon.

Items 3: Clerical Corrections to Montana Rules of Civil Procedure

Chris Wethern, Staff Attorney for the Montana Supreme Court, advised the Court on clerical errors in the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. She stated that public comment was unnecessary at this time, as the Court had previously received comments regarding

the errors. An Order was circulated authorizing the corrections. All Justices present signed the Order.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Duly Submitted
Kelly Driscoll
Law Clerk