

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF MONTANA SUPREME COURT PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 1:15 p.m.

Joseph P. Mazurek Justice Building

215 North Sanders, Helena

Attorney's Lounge, 4th Floor

FILED

MAY 10 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Justice Mike McGrath called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. All Justices were present. Chris Manos was also present.

The Minutes for the December 15, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Court discussed the vacancy on the Public Defender Commission. Chief Justice McGrath's suggestion that the Court nominate Mark Parker, the former president of the bar association, was unanimously approved.

The Court discussed the vacancy on the Commission on Technology. Chief Justice McGrath reported that Beth McLaughlin, the Court Administrator, recommended Rep. Kenneth Homlund for the appointment. Chief Justice McGrath's suggestion that the Court appoint Rep. Homlund was unanimously approved.

Chief Justice McGrath opened the meeting to public comment.

Justice Rice brought to the Court's attention that attempting to implement changes to the rules for admission to the Montana bar before the next bar exam is administered in July 2016 may be problematic.

Chris Manos elaborated that March 15 is the deadline for applying to sit for the July 2016 bar exam, and that many applicants have already applied for admission in reliance on the current rules.

Justice Baker agreed that in order to keep a level playing field and in the interest of giving affected parties sufficient notice, any changes to the rules for admission to the Montana bar that might be recommended should perhaps be delayed until the administration of the February 2017 bar exam.

Justice Rice reminded the Court that no decision about the timing of any recommended changes needs to be made at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Duly Submitted,
Caitlin Boland Aarab, Law Clerk