

## MINUTES

Commission on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction  
Great Northern Hotel, Malta  
June 20, 2008

Chairman Johnny Seiffert brought the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Members Present were:** Hon. Johnny Seiffert, Hon. Gayle Stahl, Hon. Scott Wyckman, Hon. David Ortley, Peggy Tonon and Barbara Pepos.

**Members Absent:** Hon. Doug Harkin, Hon. Mary Jane Knisley, Hon. Perry Miller, Shaun Donovan, Paul Luwe and Supreme Court Liaison Justice Jim Nelson were excused.

**Staff Present:** Beth McLaughlin

**Others Present:** Hon. Greg Mohr and Hon. Linda Budeski

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the April 28, 2008 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Judge Ortley and seconded by Judge Wyckman that the minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Order of Protection Automated Process:** Judge Seiffert reviewed the letter he sent to the Attorney General on behalf of the Commission requesting assistance with modifying the Idaho automated forms. The AG has not yet responded to the request. The Commission recommended that Judge Larry Carver, chairman of the Automation Committee, set up a meeting of the group and proceed with developing the forms.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fall 2008:** The Commission reviewed the Fall 2008 agenda proposed by the Curriculum Committee. After making several changes, the Commission approved the agenda and authorized staff to schedule speakers.

**Spring 2008 evaluations:** The Commission reviewed the Spring 2008 evaluations. The Commission approved continuing the use of Survey Monkey to conduct evaluations.

**Certification Forms:** Beth provided an update to the Commission about a recent request from an assistant US Attorney about whether a judge was certified or not because the judge's certificate was not filed with the clerk. The Commission discussed several steps for reminding judges to file the certificates after certification schools. The Commission will discuss again prior to the 2010 certification school.

**Terms and Appointments for Members:** Several terms for members are currently up. The Hon. Scott Wyckman is not requesting reappointment. Commission members expressed their appreciation to Judge Wyckman for his service. The Commission is recommending the following members be reappointed:

Hon. Perry Miller - City Judge – Small Community  
Hon. Gayle Stahl – Justice of the Peace – Small Community  
Prof. Margaret Tonon – State Bar Representative  
Hon. David Ortley – Justice of the Peace – Large Community

The Commission will make a recommendation about the remaining member at large seat at the August meeting.

Commission members reviewed the order establishing the Commission and noted several concerns. Commission members directed staff to prepare an updated order for review by the Commission. The proposed order would be presented to Justice Jim Nelson for consideration by the Supreme Court.

**TO DO: Staff will draft a proposed order for consideration by the Commission.**

**MMA Training Process:** Hon. Greg Mohr provided the Commission with an overview of the training process for new judges. The current trainers are Hon. Carol Anderson, Hon. Larry Carver, Hon. Karen Orzech and Judge Mohr. He reported that when a new judge is appointed a training judge is assigned to visit the judge for an extensive training and review process. Generally, the visits take two days and follow-up is provided as needed. Judge Mohr reported that the goal is to have well-trained competent judges in all locations. Commission members expressed their appreciation to Judge Mohr and the other training judges for handling this important part of judicial training.

**Specialized Training:** Judge Ortley requested that the Commission consider adding training about judicial decorum and behavior to an upcoming conference. He noted that this type of training may assist judges in avoiding problems that result from not understanding appropriate behavior in the courtroom and with litigants. The Commission concurred and asked staff to look for different training options.

**Annual Revenue Report:** Ms. Pepos reported that a clerk had received a request from the city for an annual revenue report. She requested advice from the Commission. Judge Seiffert noted that local governments receive monthly reports that can be added up over the year. Commission members expressed concern that courts are seen as revenue generating entities. Judge Ortley stated that he always made it clear to the county that the court could not and would not guarantee a set level of revenue as that was not the role of the court. Members concurred.

**Bulletin Board:** Judge Seiffert noted that he had been reviewing activity on the bulletin board and it was still low. He requested the Commission make a decision at the August meeting about whether to continue to service.

**TO DO:** Staff will place the matter on the August agenda.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held Friday, August 15, 2008 in Helena at 8:30 a.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.