



# *Colorado Access to Justice Commission*

## *Meeting Minutes*

January 5, 2018

Present: Jon Asher, Fred Baumann, Loren Brown (phone), Justice Will Hood, Liz Krupa (phone), Claire Levy, Richard Murray, Diana Poole, Molly Ryan, Dave Stark, Penny Wagner, Sam Walker

Guests: Joanne Crebassa, Toni-Anne Dasent, Judge Gale Miller, Andy Rottman, Kathleen Schoen, John Tull

Welcome was extended to new Commissioner Dave Stark, appointed by the Supreme Court. Justice Hood gave recognition and thanks to retiring Commissioner Judge Gale Miller for his 9 years of service. Among Judge Miller's accomplishments as a Commissioner, was his promotion of the Supreme Court Pro Bono Recognition Program for law firms.

***Minutes of November 3, 2017 Commission meeting were approved.***

***Publication of Justice For All (JFA) Strategic Plan:*** There was discussion as to how the JFA Strategic Plan could best be shared, what format (printed or electronic) and in what level of detail, with different audiences, such as funders, legislators, judicial officers and bar leadership. Kathleen Schoen confirmed that \$2,300 is available for publication of the Plan. Suggestions as to others with whom the plan might be shared included local and state governments, social services providers, libraries, domestic violence shelters, and medical legal partnerships. It was concluded that the final decisions regarding publication will be made by the JFA Leadership Team.

***JFA Implementation Grant and Identification of Implementation Pilot Priorities:*** John Tull reported that the proposals in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) for a JFA implementation grant are due January 31, 2018, with grants expected to range from \$50,000 to \$150,000, and up to \$200,000 if extraordinary need is demonstrated. The RFP calls for the identification of up to two implementation pilot priorities and a discussion of how each priority fits into the overall effort to change a state's access to justice landscape in a significant, sustainable way. The Commission discussed at some length possible pilot projects drawn from the Plan. Suggestions included pilots focused on coordination and communication (both external and internal); on research to quantify the economic impact of failing to adequately meet civil legal needs; on the Rural Legal Development Project outlined in the Plan; on the development of a multi-door triage, referral and channeling system; on technology and increasing the capacity of the Colorado Legal Help Center; and on pilots in one or more judicial districts implementing a variety of different strategies included in the Plan. Among the issues discussed were the extent to which implementation of particular strategies would proceed without an

NCSC grant; sustainability; data collection and evaluation; and the integration of non-traditional stakeholders.

The Commission authorized the JFA Leadership Team to work with John Tull in making the final decision on pilot priorities and drafting the proposal that will be submitted to the National Center for State Court's in response to the RFP.

**Update – Funding and Related Issues:** John Asher reported that Congress passed another short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) in December to continue the present level of federal funding for legal aid. However, the CR will expire in the next two weeks, and it is still unknown how things will play out. Diana Poole reported that COLTAF has seen a slight uptick in trust account revenue, driven primarily by COLTAF's Prime Partner and Benchmark Banks, which pay interest rates on their COLTAF accounts that are indexed to the Federal Funds Target Rate.

**Update - Colorado Legal Help Center:** Justice Hood reported that content developer Sean Slagle, at the Supreme Court Library, is devoting half of her time to the Colorado Legal Help Center website. In addition, Supreme Court Librarian Dan Cordova is having 100,000 business cards printed to be distributed to Sherlocks, Court staff and librarians across the state. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet regarding development and promotion of the website.

**Update – Pro Bono Recognition Reception:** Justice Hood reported that this year's reception is scheduled for April 19, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., in the atrium of Ralph L. Carr Justice Center.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Courts Committee:** Penny Wagner reported that the committee will be meeting on January 22, 2018.

**Communications Committee, Resource Committee, Local ATJ Support Committee:** No report.

#### **Other Business -**

##### **ATJ Coordinator Position:**

Justice Hood and Andy Rottman reported that the Joint Budget Committee of the legislature has approved funding for an (internal) ATJ Coordinator at State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO). In addition, the JFA Strategic Plan provides for seeking funding for an additional ATJ Coordinator to accomplish goals not included in the SCAO ATJ coordinator's position.

**Self-represented Litigant Network Conference:** Penny Wagner reported that the conference will be held February 21 – 23, 2018 in San Francisco. Anyone interested in attending should contact Penny.

**Equal Justice Conference:** Kathleen Schoen reported the Equal Justice Conference will be held in San Diego, May 9 – 12, 2018. Anyone interested in attending should contact Kathleen.

**Next meeting: March 16, 2018,** location to be determined.