



Colorado Access to Justice Commission

May 2, 2008
Minutes

Commissioners Present: Hon. Barney Iuppa, James Peters, Constance Talmage, Charles Garcia, Jon Asher, Karen DuWaldt, Hon. Gregory Hobbs, Hon. Daniel Taubman, Hon. JoAnn Vogt, Fred Baumann, Bernadette Gonzales, Greg Martin, and John Zakhem.

Telephone: Elsa-Tenreiro Martinez, Ilene Bloom, Hon. Angie Arkin

Guests: Pax Moultrie, law clerk to Justice Hobbs; Greg Martin, CBA Deputy Executive Director; and Cheryl Law, CBA ATJ Liaison

New Member

Commission Chair Connie Talmage welcomed new member Bernadette Gonzales from Adams County. Bernadette was appointed to the Commission by Governor Ritter.

Minutes

March 7, 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

Website

Connie reported that the ATJ website contains detailed contact information and term dates for each commissioner. After some discussion, it was decided that term dates will remain on the website and commissioners will review their information and notify Cheryl Law of any changes they want made to their personal information.

Equal Justice Conference and ATJ Chair Meeting in Minneapolis

Judge Taubman, Connie Talmage, Kathleen Schoen, Jon Asher and Fred Baumann plan to attend the Equal Justice Conference co-sponsored by the ABA and NLADA. Judge Taubman, Kath, Jon and Fred will also attend the ATJ Chair meeting planned for Friday. Kath and Judge Taubman will facilitate a break-out session for the ATJ Chairs' meeting.

Statewide ATJ Hearings

Connie recognized all those who participated in the ten hearings and the preparation of the final report, *The Justice Crisis in Colorado*. She extended a special thanks to Michael Valdez and Kath Schoen of the CBA.

Connie noted that the 2008 Colorado State budget was signed by Governor Ritter. The funding for civil legal services was increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000!!! The Commission discussed developing a strong proposal to increase funding for civil legal services as Chief Justice Mullarkey has expressed an interest in finding additional funds.

Supreme Court Pro Bono Initiative Committee

Justice Hobbs reported that on May 5th the Supreme Court will recognize seventy five firms and in-house counsel groups that fulfilled their pro bono pledge. He also plans to recognize all firms that have made the pledge. Justice Hobbs will submit the list of firms to be published in *The Colorado Lawyer*.

Second Season of Service

Judge Vogt reported that the committee is looking at updating the list of volunteer attorneys, and inquiring about organizations that can provide pro bono opportunities, including transactional legal work. The Commission discussed issues involving malpractice insurance and training for the volunteers.

Elsa Tenreiro-Martinez volunteered to update the *pro bono* opportunities list with the help of a law student. She agreed to complete the revisions before the next meeting.

Courthouse Committee

Judge Angie Arkin reported that the committee is putting together a bench book for judges dealing with *pro se* litigants. The committee is also working on a needs assessment. She mentioned that State Judicial is redesigning the court's website and stressed the importance of the Commission's getting involved in this project.

Local ATJ Support

Judge Taubman reported on the following three items:

- 1) The local ATJ committees are pursuing ideas to implement the recommendations in the *Justice Crisis in Colorado* Report. Among the ideas being considered are programs to assist *Pro Se* litigants, posting a library on the Internet for Legal Research, and establishing a staffed self-help center at the Adams County Courthouse.
- 2) The Committee discussed whether to have another Statewide ATJ Conference similar to the one in 2006. Judge Taubman recommended holding it in early fall 2008 or spring 2009.
- 3) The Committee expressed an interest in participating in Inga's suggestion to have the Public Information Committee hold local ATJ presentations and follow-up on the hearings.

Judge Taubman invited commissioners to review the *Management Information Journal* and the information it contains on ATJ commissions and initiatives. He also encouraged commissioners to contact Kath Schoen and submit articles for *The Colorado Lawyer*. In addition, he suggested that when funds are available the Commission consider specific funding for an ATJ employee to supplement the assistance the Commission currently receives from the CBA. Greg Martin noted that, because of the hearings and the report, the CBA provided extensive support to the ATJ Commission during the last year.

Public Information

Charlie Garcia reported that the committee is working with Judge Taubman to implement Inga's suggestion to conduct local presentations. Committee members Inga Causey, Lindsey Webb (DU Law School), and Monica Marquez (Office of Attorney General) are working together with DU and CU law schools to recruit interns and volunteers to assist with the presentations.

Preparations are being made to attend the Swearing in Ceremony in May, and Elsa is scheduled to give a presentation on the need to volunteer.

The committee continues to identify deserving students to receive the BarBri scholarships and to work with both DU and CU to seek applications for the scholarships.

Need for Volunteers for Committees

Connie will send an email to local ATJ committees and encourage their members to participate in the ATJ committees. She will also ask that the request for volunteers be circulated on the CBA listserv. Judge Arkin asked that judges and magistrates also be invited to volunteer.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the second Friday of the month (due to the Fourth of July holiday), which is Friday, July 11, 2008, at noon, at the Colorado Bar Association's Executive Conference Room, 1900 Grant St., Suite 900, Denver, Colorado.