

Access to Justice Commission
Minutes
January 27, 2009

The Access to Justice Commission met by conference call on January 27, 2009. In attendance were Justice Jim Burke, Justice Marilyn Kite, Judge Wes Roberts, Rick Lavery, Denise Burke, Sleeter Dover, Leigh Anne Manlove, Amanda Roberts, and Ronda Munger. Evora Thomas and Reginald Haley from Legal Services Corporation joined the call as well.

Welcome New Members

Justice Burke opened the meeting with a warm welcome to Judge Wes Roberts and Dean Denise Burke as new members of the Commission. Justice Burke provided a brief history of the work of the task force and the newly formed Commission. The Commission discussed the possible skills set that an executive director for legal services may need to possess. Justice Burke relayed the information that he received from Rev. Jon Laghlin regarding the Laramie County Community Partnership. Justice Burke believes the Partnership may be able to provide information about the unmet legal needs in Laramie County. Denise Burke provided information on the Office of Public Guardian, which was once a part of the Attorney General's office. She told the Commission that the Voluntary Guardianship Corporation, administered by Sue Mydland, now provides those services.

Order Appointing Access to Justice Commission

The Commission received an electronic, final draft copy of the Order Appointing Access to Justice Commission members. Receiving no additional requests for changes to the order, Justice Burke will be submitting the order to the Chief Justice for signature.

Initial Face-to-Face Meeting of the Commission

After some discussion, the Commission decided to schedule the first face-to-face meeting on February 27, 2009, at the Supreme Court Building in Cheyenne. During the February meeting, the Commission plans to discuss the major goals and direction of the Commission. Justice Burke requested the members in attendance to submit agenda items and ideas for the February meeting. Ronda Munger will provide the Commission with electronic copies of the New Mexico State Plan for Providing Civil Legal Aid, the New Mexico 10 Step Plan, and Leigh Anne Manlove's article on Unmet Legal Needs in Wyoming. Justice Burke asked the Commission to read those documents for the next Commission conference call.

Legal Services Update Provided by Evora Thomas and Reginald Haley of LSC

Evora Thomas and Reginald Haley from the Legal Services Corp. in Washington, DC joined the conference call and provided information on the application process for the federal grant funds to be awarded to a permanent provider in Wyoming. At present time, Ray Machia is acting as Wyoming's interim director. Legal Services Corporation published a Notice of Availability of Competitive Grant Funds for the Calendar Year 2009 for Service Areas in Wyoming. Sleeter Dover agreed to provide that document to the Wyoming bar via email and to post the document on the Bar's Website. Leigh Anne

Manlove will put the document on the Wyoming Bar Foundation's Website. Denise Burke agreed to put it on the UW Law School's website, and Ronda Munger will have it put on the Court's website. Applicants for the Wyoming Competitive Grant funds must submit a Notice of Intent to Compete by March 2, 2009. The deadline for the grant proposals is April 13, 2009. More information can be found at Competition@lsc.gov or www.grants.lsc.gov.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Access to Justice Commission (AJC) will be February 10, 2009 at noon.