

**Access to Justice Commission  
UALR Bowen School of Law  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting  
Friday, November 12, 2004  
2:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

In Attendance:

**Members:** The Honorable Waymond Brown, Steve Carter, Nate Coulter, Zina Frazier, Chuck Goldner, The Honorable Craig Hannah, J. Leon Johnson, Martha McCaskill, The Honorable Jim Spears, and Danyelle Walker.

**Ex-officio Members:** Michael W. Mullane, Kelly Olson, Susie Pointer, and Mona Teague.

**Guests:** Mickey Quattlebaum and Vince Morris

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Goldner at 2:00 p.m.

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2004.**

Chuck Goldner presented the minutes of the October 15, 2004 meeting. Nate Coulter moved the minutes be approved as written. Zina Frazier seconded the motion.

**II. Election of Commission Secretary.**

Chuck Goldner discussed the need to create the position of secretary for the commission. Susie Pointer moved that the position of secretary be created. Judge Waymond Brown seconded the motion. On voice vote, the position was approved. Nate Coulter nominated Mickey Quattlebaum. Martha McCaskill seconded the motion. No further nominations were made; on voice vote, Quattlebaum was named Secretary.

**III. Set regular quarterly meeting date.**

Chuck Goldner stated that regularly scheduled meetings of the commission were needed during the first year of development. Goldner recommended the commission meet each quarter beginning in January 2005 on the third Friday of the month. Martha McCaskill moved that the commission meet quarterly on the third Friday of the month, beginning on January 21, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. Judge Waymond Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed. The next meeting of the Access to Justice Commission will be held at the UALR Bowen School of Law at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 2005.

#### **IV. Review ATJ funding in other states.**

Mickey Quattlebaum provided a summary of Access to Justice efforts and funding sources in other states (attached). Quattlebaum noted that 78% of the states have ATJ commissions or activities. 64% of the states have unified (mandatory) bar associations. Regarding ATJ commissions/activities:

- 26% receive court funding; 0% are fully funded by the court
- 33% receive legal services funding; 7% (including AR) are fully funded by Legal Services
- 41% receive Bar Foundation or IOLTA funding;
- 72% receive Bar Association funding; 41% are fully funded by the Bar and/or the Bar Foundation.
- 68% of those that are funded or partially funded by the Bar Association are from Unified (Mandatory Bar) states

Chuck Goldner reminded the commission members that the commission itself had no source of funds. The members acknowledged the need for funds to support the activities of the commission.

Nate Coulter indicated that a budget is essential when seeking funding. Coulter requested the commission obtain more budget information from other states. Goldner further requested information regarding any return on the dollars invested in the ATJ activities. Quattlebaum will research the issue further. In cases where a budget is not available, the monetary value of the support provided will be established. Quattlebaum will report her findings during the January 2005 meeting.

#### **V. Report on projects undertaken by Arkansas' legal service providers.**

Zina Frazier discussed the projects currently undertaken by Arkansas' legal service providers to facilitate access to justice by low income Arkansans. Vince Morris provided the commission members a virtual tour of the Online Legal Library. Projects discussed included:

- Pro Bono Partnership
- Online Legal Library for the Public
- Online Legal Library for Pro Bono Attorneys
- Development of standardized forms and pro se materials

#### **VI. Discuss goals and strategies to achieve.**

Chuck Goldner distributed two lists of action items to be considered. Goldner indicated there were - First Priority and the Second Priority Items. Goldner requested the commission members look to the broad categories and rate them in importance or indicate if the members believed they should all be addressed initially. After much discussion it was determined the lists should be revised. Mike Mullane pointed out that there are only four options for someone to gain access to the court system: 1) Through a private attorney; 2) Through a legal services attorney; 3) Through a pro bono attorney; and through 4) Pro Se

Mullane invited the group to consider the activities of the commission as a three-pronged approach to meeting our goal of equal access to justice. Mullane described the commission efforts as the legs of a three-legged stool that supported the low-income Arkansans access to the justice system. The first leg or focus of the commission is working through the private, pro bono attorney. The second focus requires looking at the effectiveness and efficiency of the current civil legal services system in Arkansas. The third and final focus includes easier access to the court system for the pro se litigant. This third focus includes simplifying court processes and standardization of forms.

Commission members agreed that this three-pronged approach would be most effective. Mickey Quattlebaum and Zina Frazier will redraft the priority lists around these three categories. Nate Coulter agreed to review the action item lists prior to submitting them to the commission members before the January meeting. Working committees will be established at that time.

Mona Teague requested information regarding the request made to the Arkansas Supreme Court to establish and assign fees generated by the out of state attorney license fee to legal services in Arkansas. Mike Mullane reported that he had resubmitted his request to Chief Justice Betty Dickey. Mullane further explained that, for a number of reasons, the fees generated by the out of state attorney license fee in Arkansas are unlikely to generate the kind of money generated through Mississippi's pro hac vice fee.

Mona Teague stated it was critical that funding be obtained for legal services. Teague expressed concern that waiting until January to establish committees left us little time to introduce something this legislative session. Goldner and Mullane stated that it was already too late to get something introduced this legislative session. Goldner indicated that we should begin planning for the 2007 legislative session.

## **VII. Closing**

There being no further business, Goldner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Mickey Quattlebaum  
Secretary