



**UALR-Bowen School of Law
1201 McMath Avenue
Friday, November 21, 2008
Room 507
11:30 A.M.**

Minutes

Attending

Charles Goldner (chair), Judge Jim Spears (vice chair), Will Bond, Bill Brown, Jean Carter, Justice Annabelle Clinton Imber, Nate Coulter, Zina Frazier, Leon Johnson, Kelly Olsen, Susie Pointer, Lee Richardson, Danyelle Walker, (Staff – Ron Lanoue, Chad Owens, and Vincent Morris)

The Commission moved the meeting from Conference Room 515 to Room 507.

Mr. Goldner welcomed the Commission at 11:45 a.m. He asked the Commission to review the minutes from the last meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the minutes from Aug. 15, 2008, by unanimous vote.

Because the chair of the Pro Bono Committee was absent, Mr. Goldner revised the agenda and asked the Legal Services Committee to begin.

Legal Services Committee

Ms. Pointer began by discussing Civil Gideon in Arkansas. She asked the Commission to adopt a Resolution in support of Civil Gideon that would then be sent to the Arkansas Bar Association. Ms. Carter suggested that the resolution also be submitted to all county bar associations across the state. Mr. Goldner suggested **revising the resolution to ask Arkansas' county bar associations**, in addition to the ArBA, to endorse Civil Gideon. Upon recommendation of the Legal Services Committee, received by the Chair as a seconded motion, the Commission, by unanimous vote, adopted the amended resolution and approved **sending it to the ArBA and county bar associations.**

Ms. Pointer updated the Commission about the committee's work on Pro Hac Vice. She said that the committee is surveying circuit judges in Arkansas about how they handle Pro Hac Vice. Judge Spears suggested **including in the survey a question about who collects money from Pro Hac Vice.**

Ms. Pointer asked Mr. Richardson to discuss a proposed statewide fundraising campaign. Mr. Richardson proposed a fundraising campaign in which the ArBA, LAA,

CALS, the pro bono organizations, IOLTA, and the Arkansas Trial Lawyers participate. He pointed out that a coordinated campaign could raise more money than individual campaigns. Justice Imber stated that participating in a cooperative campaign is consistent with the Commission's purpose. Mr. Goldner suggested that the campaign take place during National Pro Bono Month (Oct. 2009). **Upon recommendation of the Legal Services Committee, received by the Chair as a seconded motion, the Commission approved by unanimous vote the Legal Services Committee's efforts to coordinate a statewide fundraising campaign.**

Ms. Pointer discussed how legal services funding from IOLTA and the federal government has decreased. Because of these decreases, the Legal Services Committee suggested that the Commission seek to recoup lost funding through the Governor's Emergency Fund. Ms. Carter and Mr. Coulter pointed out that such a request may interfere with the Commission's legislative efforts. Rep. Bond suggested requesting funds from the Governor only if the Commission's legislative efforts fail.

Pro Bono Committee

Ms. Carter spoke on behalf of the Pro Bono Committee. She updated the Commission on Mr. Frank Sewall's efforts to obtain the ArBA's contact list. Instead of obtaining the list, the ArBA agreed to email documents to its members on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Carter discussed Arkansas' rules concerning former and inactive attorneys. She pointed out that retired attorneys are called Senior Members of the Bar. She stated that the Commission does not need an emeritus rule change. Instead, she said, CALS, LAA, and the pro bono organizations need to conduct an outreach and recruitment campaign for Senior Members of the Bar. Justice Imber added that such a program could work much like the senior executives program in Arkansas.

Ms. Carter discussed the National Pro Bono Celebration, which will occur in October 2009. **Upon recommendation of the Pro Bono Committee, received by the Chair as a seconded motion, the Commission approved endorsing and participating in the National Pro Bono Celebration.**

Education Committee

Justice Imber updated the Commission on the distribution of the Annual Report. Mr. Goldner read a thank-you letter from Rep. Steve Harrelson, who received an Annual Report.

Justice Imber informed the Commission that instead of a new Annual Report for 2008, the Education Committee had decided to insert a one-page addendum into the 2007 Annual Report. The committee made this decision to save money.

Justice Imber told the Commission that Chief Justice Hannah has agreed to speak about the Commission to the Budget Committees in the State Legislature.

Legislative Committee

Rep. Bond told the Commission that he is leaving the Legislature because of term limits. He assured the Commission that Sen. Thompson will guide the Commission's bill through the Senate and to the House of Representatives. He noted that the House will be more reluctant to pass a fee increase. He pointed out that, so far, the Governor has remained neutral toward the Commission's proposal. He suggested that both Judiciary Committees in the Legislature could help pass the bill; therefore, he asked the Commissioners to contact members of these committees.

Court Assistance Committee

Mr. Lanoue demonstrated an incomplete version of "Equal Justice Watch," a new website created by the Commission. He then asked for comments and suggestions. Mr. Richardson suggested that, for the southwest counties covered by Lone Star Legal Services, the Commission **replace Lone Star Legal Services with Center for Arkansas Legal Services**. Mr. Goldner suggested **changing the educational data to show residents who had not achieved a high school education**. Mr. Coulter suggested **creating a "Friends of the Program" section**, in which business people, judges, clerks, and board members who support the Commission could be listed. He also suggested **including an online sign-up form for people who want to express support**. Ms. Frazier suggested **including the number of legal aid requests and the number of requests denied** in each county. Rep. Bond suggested **including information about surrounding states**. He suggested **making a drop-down menu of the representatives' and senators' names**. He also suggested **including a draft of the Commission bill with an estimate of its financial benefits**. Ms. Carter suggested **including blurbs from the circuit judge surveys**. Rep. Bond suggested **sending each legislator a link to his or her own webpage on the site**. Mr. Goldner suggested **referring specific parts of the site to relevant committees for vetting**.

Judge Spears updated the Commission on its grant applications. Mr. Morris spoke about possibilities for restructuring the Commission's staff based on new grants.

Other Business

Mr. Goldner updated the Commission about the new IOLTA Compliance Statement. He directed the Commission to the bottom portion of the statement, which will help the Supreme Court collect data about pro bono activity.

Mr. Goldner **postponed the other business until the next meeting**, and adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Action Items

1. Revise Civil Gideon resolution to include county bar associations. Send it to the ArBA and county bar associations.
2. Send survey to circuit judges about Pro Hac Vice. Include question about who collects money from Pro Hac Vice.
3. Legal Services Committee to coordinate a statewide fundraising campaign. Include ArBA, LAA, CALS, the pro bono organizations, IOLTA, and the Arkansas Trial Lawyers.
4. Encourage CALS, LAA, and the pro bono organizations to conduct an outreach and recruitment campaign for Senior Members of the Bar.
5. Endorse and participate in the National Pro Bono Celebration.
6. Commissioners to use their influence with members of Judicial Committees to pass Commission's bill.
7. See Court Assistance section for suggestions on improving "Equal Justice Watch."
8. Discuss postponed documents at next Commission meeting.