

**Colorado Access to Justice Commission  
Minutes  
May 17, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Justice Melissa Hart, Wes Hassler, Dave Stark, Dick Gast, Judge Dan Taubman, Richard Murray, Jon Asher, Sam Walker, Lauren Schmidt, Claire Levy (phone), John Zakhem (phone), Judge Tim Schutz

**Guests Present:** Emy Lopez (JFA Access Pilot Project Coordinator), Hope Griffin (Justice Hart's law clerk)

**Colorado/Denver Bar Association Staff Present:** Toni-Anne Dasent (MVL Executive Director), Lindsey O'Brien (CBA Program Coordinator), Kath Schoen (Director, CBA Local Bar Relations & Access to Justice)

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the March 8, 2019 Commission meeting were approved

**Reports: 2019 Equal Justice Conference:** Various commission members discussed their takeaways from the Equal Justice Conference. Expressing concerns about the sustainability and future funding of the commission, one commissioner noted that the majority of state commissions have at least one full-time staff member. There was also discussion about the substantial increase in nonlawyer navigator programs in the country as well as access to justice commissions (40 states). Justice Hart explained that there has been discussion to change the provision of legal services definition in the state ethics rules. Judge Taubman expressed that he received a lot of positive feedback on Colorado's state and local programs at the conference.

**Update and discussion: ABA's Free Legal Answers:** Judge Taubman presented on the ABA's Free Legal Answers program, explaining that the program enables lawyers to answer legal questions submitted by qualifying users online. The program is nationally run by a full-time ABA administrator. Currently, 38 states participate in the program and over 67,000 requests for information have been submitted. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is meeting to discuss the possibility of launching the program in Colorado and having a Colorado law firm administering the program. The firm would need to dedicate at least 15 hours a week to intake, assignment, and monitoring of the submissions.

**Update and discussion: SB 19-180, Eviction Legal Defense Fund:** Claire Levy briefly spoke on the passing of SB 19-180. Beginning October 2019, and on July 1 every year thereafter, the General Assembly will appropriate funds to provide legal resources for low-income Coloradans who are facing an eviction.

**Update and discussion: Relationship with CBA Legislative Policy Committee:** Dick Gast provided an overview of the CBA's Legal Policy Committee (LPC), which is composed of 13 members and 2 registered lobbyists. He spoke with members of the LPC about how the commission and the LPC could collaborate in the future. Although it is not possible for the

commission to have a representative on the LPC, the LPC is open to the commission's input and would greatly appreciate any feedback that the commission has on proposed legislation.

**Update and discussion: Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice:** Justice Hart explained that the LEJ welcomes its first cohort in June 2019. There are four participants, including one who will be practicing in Alamosa. The participants will undergo a week of bootcamp the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>. An invitation was sent out for the launch party, and commissioners are encouraged to attend.

**Update and discussion: Pro Bono Recognition Ceremony and Reception:** Justice Hart relayed that the pro bono recognition ceremony was a success. She said that many of the COLTAF banks attended. She hopes to have more members of the commission attend the ceremony next year and suggested that the commission members be included in deciding the date of the event.

**Update and discussion: JFA Access Pilot Program:** Emy Lopez presented the mock website for the JFA Access Pilot Program. She explained that the purpose of the website is to triage requests into one of three categories—connecting with community partners, requests for legal help, and do it yourself items. Although there are several similar websites, this one is distinct because it provides users the ability to connect with community partners. After a user reaches out to a community partner, that partner has a duty to respond to the user by either providing help or providing a suggestion as to where that user may find help. The soft launch, which will provide the commission full access to view the website, is July 1<sup>st</sup>. The districts involved in the pilot (4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Districts) will then have access before eventually rolling it out to all districts. There was a discussion on how the website will be expanded when all districts are included. Emy explained that one of the benefits of building the website, rather than buying existing software, was that expanding the system will not be as expensive.

**Discussion: Pro Bono "Succession To Service" Proposal:** Dave Stark spoke on the "Succession To Service" proposal, which would provide senior attorneys more opportunities to participate in pro bono work by creating a website that links senior attorneys with pro bono providers. CAMP would administer and fund the program. The pro bono providers, as Dave explained, must carry malpractice insurance. The proposed website would provide senior lawyers an opportunity to create a profile that identified their interests. The pro bono providers would do the same. The website would match the providers and senior lawyers. Pro bono providers would also be able to reach out to lawyers to request their help. Currently, focus groups are being conducted on the proposal. A focus group of senior lawyers has already been conducted and on May 21<sup>st</sup>, a focus group with pro bono providers will be held. He hopes to begin soliciting applications this summer and launching the program in September.

**Discussion: Commission Engagement Sessions:** On the morning of July 16<sup>th</sup> and the afternoon of July 17<sup>th</sup>, individual meetings with commission members will be held to discuss how that member's strengths can best be used to serve the commission. An email sign-up will be sent out shortly.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Pro Bono Committee:** Reviewed the pro bono committee members. The ABA Free Legal Answers program was discussed at the previous meeting.
- **Courts Committee:** The courts committee will be adding a large group of new members from the SCAO office. The committee is meeting in June, and the commission will receive an update on the committee at the July meeting.
- **Local Support Committee:** The minutes of the committee's last meeting were provided. Judge Taubman spoke on the need to increase membership in local access to justice committees, particularly in rural districts. He also reported that Jackie Marro has been visiting and will continue to visit with local access to justice committees.

**Other Business:**

- A doodle poll will be sent to select the July meeting date.

**Adjourned.**