

Arizona Commission on Access to Justice
MINUTES
May 20, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Room 119
State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Present: Judge Lawrence Winthrop, Chair; Kip Anderson; Judge Janet Barton; Mike Baumstark; Judge Thomas Berning; Millie Cisneros; Judge Marie Elena Cruz; Chris Kelly for Michael Jeanes; Ellen Katz; John Phelps; Janet Regner; Kevin Ruegg; Steve Seleznow; Judge Rachel Torres Carrillo; Lisa Urias;

Telephonic: Judge James Marner; Anthony Young

Absent/Excused: Barb Dawson

Presenters/Guests: Colin Ahler; Kim Bernhart; Dan Christensen; Tim Eigo; Shawn Friend; Janet Fisher; Maggie Kiel-Morse; Helen Davis; Billie Jo Garcia; Chris Groninger; Paul Julien; Lara Slifko;

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC): Dave Byers; Paul Julien; Amy Love; Heather Murphy

AOC Staff: Theresa Barrett; Julie Graber; Nick Olm; Kathy Sekardi

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Approval of Minutes

With a quorum present, the May 20, 2015 meeting of the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice (ACAJ) was called to order by the Chair, Judge Larry Winthrop, at 10:06 a.m.

B. Chairperson's Report on Presentations and Meetings

Judge Winthrop reported that he made a presentation to the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC) in March, and that the AJC voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Commission as contained in its written report. Judge Winthrop also reported that he had participated in the Arizona Forward and the ABA National Summit on Innovation in Legal Services, with both conferences focusing on ideas to improve the delivery of legal services. Finally, Judge Winthrop noted that he had attended the ABA National Access to Justice Chairs' meeting in Austin, a yearly event designed to share information and develop strategies on moving access to justice forward in each state and on a national level. He is also scheduled to attend the American Association of Law Libraries meeting this July in Philadelphia.

II. REPORT FROM SRL-FAMILY COURT (SRL-FC) WORKGROUP

A. Judge Barton and Janet Fisher, co-chairs of this workgroup, reported on the SRL-FC workgroup.

- Ms. Fisher reported that the LAW4AZ training has completed its training in five counties with more trainings planned for the future in other counties. The Dobson Ranch Branch of the Mesa Public Library was chosen as the site for the LAW4AZ Divorce Day and the clinic had a good turnout.
- Judge Barton reported that the application for the JusticeCorps grant was opened for proposals in March and the deadline for submissions was in May. Maricopa County submitted their grant application, however, the State Administrator of the program recently redirected the funds to be used for helping third graders read better, and for victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence, which could impact the chances of Maricopa County Superior Court receiving this grant.
- Judge Barton also informed the commission that the application form and order for deferral or waiver of court fees or costs has been updated to specifically include the Parent Education program, effective June 1, 2015.
- Ms. Fisher also reported that the workgroup is working on a list of FAQs and standard answers as well as updating and further expanding the 2007 Legal Information v. Legal Advice report from the Legal Advice—Legal Information Guidelines Task Force . In the next few months, the workgroup will draft an updated version and ask for input from legal service provider offices.

III. Report from SRL-Limited Jurisdiction Courts Workgroup:

A. Paul Julien reported on the Resources sub-workgroup and stated:

- The workgroup would like to develop computer-based training programs and other training materials for self-represented litigants in limited jurisdiction courts in civil matters regarding landlord/tenant matters and consumer debt issues.
- Southern Arizona Legal Aid (SALA) and Community Legal Services (CLS) are moving forward with funding for videoconference technology that would allow lawyers and indigent clients to connect remotely.
- The workgroup would like for all courts to be required to display and distribute legal aid information, such as brochures, pamphlets, and flyers, in their respective lobbies.
- In Tucson, SALA, Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) and the Pima County Justice of the Peace Court are meeting to discuss establishing an on-site clinic that would use law students and VLP attorneys to assist defendants in eviction proceedings. Judge Berning is working on proposals to increase the use of Rule 38 student interns working with the Legal Services Corporation programs in the landlord/tenant area of law.
- The Center on Court Access to Justice, a project of the National Center for State Courts, has developed a set of educational modules designed to assist trial judges in developing the skills needed to manage the increasing number of cases involving self-represented litigants more efficiently and effectively and with greater personal satisfaction.
- This workgroup has asked to work with the Court Services Division of the AOC with training for court staff regarding providing legal assistance within the ethical framework

of the Judicial Employee Code of Conduct. A member stated that the Judicial Staff Education Committee (JSEC) would help with perpetuating the legal information v. legal advice training and providing this training to field trainers.

B. Judge Carrillo reported on the Forms and Instructions sub-workgroup.

- Judge Carrillo stated the sub-workgroup and guests continue to work on the following: the 5-day Notice; 10-day Notice; Immediate Notice; General Information about Landlord and Tenant Rights and Options Before You Come to Court; Information for Tenants Who Have Been Served with Eviction Court Pleadings; Complaint; and Summons. Once completed, the forms will be presented to the commission.

IV. ARIZONA CITIZEN VIRTUAL RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE

A. Dave Byers' presentation on the Arizona Citizen Virtual Resource Center (ACVRC):

- Mr. Byers reported that the proposed virtual resource center will also have a physical facility that can serve citizens throughout the state. The concept includes capacity to stream video online for any member of the public to view and, in some instances, interact within a live real-time webinar.
- Mr. Byers further stated that he and AOC staff have already met twice with the Department of Economic Security (DES) and that agency is enthusiastic about this idea and is interested in either sharing a physical location, or possibly co-locating an employee at the legal resource center so it can be a "one-stop shop" for citizens also seeking DES related social services. AOC staff will visit Yolo and Butte Counties in California to observe their Family Law Facilitator Program centers, followed by a site visit to see the proposed DES space and the space currently designated for the resource center at the Coconino County Superior Court Law Library.

V. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE COURTS (CIDVC) REGARDING REMOTE ACCESS TO ORDERS OF PROTECTION IN RURAL COUNTIES

John Lucas, IT Director for Graham County and SACCnet Project Director, presented Graham County's videoconferencing technology that Judge Wyatt Palmer, Justice of the Peace and Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts (CIDVC) member, will now use to issue protective orders between a local safe house and the court.

VI. REPORT FROM PRO BONO SERVICES AND FUNDING WORKGROUP

A. Daniel Christensen, Global Group Counsel for IT Privacy & Security at Intel presented on the Intel Arizona Legal Department Pro Bono Debt Clinic.

- Mr. Christensen stated that there are ten firms working with Intel Legal on pro bono matters, 71 Intel attorneys are involved in support and client engagement, and 5,683 pro bono hours were logged last year alone. The next steps Mr. Christensen would like to

take are for his volunteer lawyers to expand into fields other than just personal debt, i.e. landlord/tenant law and veteran's law. He would also like to help introduce the Intel Arizona Pro Bono program to other companies in the valley and encourage similar participation.

- Judge Winthrop welcomed his offer of assistance to be an advocate for the commission's access to justice initiatives and assist with creating other corporate liaisons.

Judge Winthrop, commission members, guest and staff all thanked Mr. Christensen for his presentation.

B. Update on Comprehensive Media Plan

- Ms. Urias and other members of the pro bono workgroup offered a potential framework for a comprehensive media plan to spread the word of the commission's initiatives, in particular the benefits of pro bono work and the tax credit campaign.
- Among other things, Ms. Urias stated that the commission should consider producing a video about the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice (ACAJ). The video could be used to introduce the ACAJ's initiatives to corporations and lawyers that would help the general public and key stakeholders have a greater understanding of the work being done by the commission and its workgroups.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closing comments

Judge Winthrop concluded the meeting by saying the commission is in the midst of strategic planning for the future goals of this commission, which will be discussed at the next ACAJ meeting in August.

B. Good of the Order/ Call to the Public

There was no response to a call to the public.

C. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

D. Next Commission Meeting Date

August 12, 2015

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

State Courts Building, Conference Room 119A/B

1501 W. Washington

Phoenix, Arizona 85007