

**ATJ Commission Meeting**  
**April 7, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

*In attendance:*

Twila Hoon Witz (AOC), Hon. Erin O’Connell (ATJ Co-Chair), Ernestina Cruz (ATJ Co-Chair), Chief Justice Shannon Bacon, Carol Garner (NMLA), Caitlin Carcerano (SBNM), Cheryl Thompson (Metro Court), Dan Henry, Eric Sutton, Gabriel Campos, Gary Housepian, Gary Vanlandingham, Heather Norfleet, Jason Singleton, Jeff Wechsler, John Greacen, Juan Abeyta, Kasey Daniels, Mary Smith (CLS Commissioner), Hon. Mercedes Murphy (Chief Judge 7<sup>th</sup> JDC), Hon. Michael Aragon, Natalie Meyers (State Bar), Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Quiana Salazar-King (NM Immigrant Law Center), Rebecca “Becky” O’Gawa (NMLA), Rosalie Chavez (NMLA), Sarah Steadman, Savanna Duran, and Verily Jones.

*Item 2: Minutes Approved from February 9, 2023*

- Hon. Mercedes Murphy moved to approve minutes, Verily Jones seconded. Correction to Carol Garner name spelling. Gary Housepian says he was not at the meeting. Approved of the amended minutes.

*Item 3: Tulip Tree Update for Portal (Dan Henry, Gary Vanlandingham, Jason Singleton)*

- Tulip Tree gave an update to their onsite meeting in March 2023 with Civil Legal Service Providers. After meeting with each CLS, the feedback was that the requests were to provide high quality, legal information, make it accessible to people, the content to be in multiple languages, a desire to facilitate referrals, legal organizations, and other attorneys that are in interest in low/pro bono work but again, this is a work in progress. No known location as to where this portal may live. Sites that have higher functionality, particularly referrals have a higher monthly visits. Minnesota Legal Service State Support Unit, will be talked about from Jay Singleton as how it was formed and current activities. Jay discussed that the site that was relaunched in early 2019. The site is mostly geared to low income individuals. Legal aid partners have access to the website to update their organization information and access to the referral tab including case management system for referrals and staff notes that includes information to assist with an individual who will need a referral.

*Item 4: ATJ Subcommittee Report out: Community Integration (Juan Abeyta)*

- Juan gave the updated that the group has scheduled community webinar events, they are recorded, and saved to the ATJ website for viewing. Held on Wednesday’s from noon to 1:30pm. The NM Library Association will be emailing a survey to libraries in the state to ask what types of civil legal issues are needed, types of information that can be provided. The survey will be on going for 2 months and the results in July early August.

*Item 5: Other Business (Judge O’Connell and Tina Cruz)*

- Monthly announcements for upcoming meetings and upcoming events, please email [atj@nmcourts.gov](mailto:atj@nmcourts.gov) and we can get them emailed out.
- Introduction of Bella the new statewide pro bono coordinator for the volunteer attorney program at NMLA.
- Many thanks to Representative Pam Herndon for the incredible work she has done for the civil legal service providers and community.
- Chief Justice Bacon briefed the commission on the Governor signing HB 139, the elimination of fee funding.

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm