

ATJ Commission Meeting
June 16, 2023
ATJ In-Person Retreat (with video appearance option)

Friday, June 16, 2023

Location: New Mexico State Bar, 5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

12:00 – 4:00 pm

****Video attendees should plan on joining the meeting at 12:30 p.m.****

In attendance:

Twila Hoon Witz (AOC), Hon. Erin O’Connell (ATJ Co-Chair), Ernestina Cruz (ATJ Co-Chair), Chief Justice Shannon Bacon, Annie Burkhardt (AOC ADA), Bella Zayani (NMLA), Beth Wojan (AOC), Hon. Carl Butkus, Caitlin Carcerano (SBNM), Cheryl Thompson (Metro Court), Chris Ford, Edna Sprague (NMLA), Erin Atkins, Gary Housepian, Heather Norfleet, Janelr, Jcruz, Jeff Wechsler, John Greacen, Juan Abeyta, Kasey Daniels, Mary Smith (CLS Commissioner), Hon. Mercedes Murphy (Chief Judge 7th JDC), Michael McGuire (Senior Citizen’s Law Office), Natalie Meyers (State Bar), Nieajua Gonzalez (USBC), Peggy Cadwell (AOC ADA), Quiana Salazar-King (NM Immigrant Law Center), Ramona Martinez, Rosalie Chavez (NMLA), Samantha Parker (USBC), Savanna Duran (USBC), Scott Cameron, Sonya Bellafant (NMLA), Tesha Henderson (AOC), Therese Yana (NADLC), Torri Jacobus, Hon. Zach Ives and Verily Jones.

Item 2: Minutes Approved from April 7, 2023

- Quiana Salazar-King moved to approve minutes, Shannon Bacon seconded. No objections. Minutes are approved.

Item 3: Court Scribing Update from AOC (Peggy Cadwell and Annie Burkhardt)

- Peggy and Annie gave an update as disabilities accommodation with the judicial system. Update as where to find videos on the courts YouTube channel. Forms are being translated into the language that is spoken, scribing is up and running across the state courts. Scribing is now being offered in district throughout the State, and training is currently being held for court staff. Scribing also has volunteers who can assist courts with scribing for individuals. If individuals need scribing assistance they can go to the court and request assistance or contact the ADA coordinators within their districts. Metro Court (Cheryl Thompson) says that Metro uses a 1-800 number that is for interpreters who help translate what the individual’s needs are when court does not have an LAS.

Item 4: Current National Developments (John Greacen)

- John Greacen provided PowerPoint presentation, *A2J A National Perspective*, which informed the group about a 2014 published study by Rebecca Sandefer, which was done for the American Bar Foundation, finding that 20% of low-income individuals seek help outside of friends and family, primarily because they don’t know their problem is legal in nature. John gave examples of those below the poverty line and the outcome in Court. In other studies, it has been found that 72% of all family cases involved at least one self-represented litigant (SLR). In NM, in 2019, approximately 153,000 cases involved a SLR. John discussed national A2J initiatives. Mentioned were triple-LT programs, such as in AZ and UT; use of trusted intermediaries; Frontline Justice; and Internet Portals. Discussion of evolving law/standards regarding unauthorized practice of law concerns and litigation in use of non-traditional methods to assist the public/SLRs.

Item 4: Membership Proposal Presentation and Discussion (Juan Abeyta)

-Juan discussed the Committee’s membership proposal, to permit non-legal members of the community to become ATJ Commissioners, and the proposed selection-criteria matrix developed for selecting new members if approved by the Supreme Court. The selection-criteria matrix reflects, first, the attributes of the type of experience and criteria that the ATJ Commission seeks from members of the committee; second, the matrix seeks to establish an approach to ensure that the results are equitable; third, the selection-criteria is intended to produce diversity within the membership; and fourth, the Commission seeks to build public trust in expanding the Commission beyond the legal community. Each member must participate regularly, engage in events and/or trainings, and to include non-attorneys.

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

- Judge O'Connell stated that the commission meetings will now be a hybrid (in-person and video participation). Item #6 of the ATJ Subcommittees reports and in-depth discussion will take place at the September 22nd commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm