

**Access to Justice Commission
December 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
STATE BAR CENTER
Call-In Number 1-866-640-4044; access 474860
Friday December 14, 2018
12 PM-4PM**

In attendance: Hon. Nan Nash (Chair), Liz McGrath (Vice-Chair), Hon. Sarah Singleton (Commissioner), Ellen Leitzer (Senior Citizens Law Office), Dina Afek (New Mexico Legal Aid), Yolanda Martinez (Taos Communities Against Violence), Pamelya Herndon (Law Center for Social Justice & Change), Aja Brooks (New Mexico Legal Aid), Laura Bassein (UNM School of Law), Jennifer Foote (Commissioner), Ed Marks (New Mexico Legal Aid), Lisa Chavez (New Mexico Legal Aid), Carol Garner (New Mexico Legal Aid), Better Fleishman (Pegasus), Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez (New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence), Chris Ford (Justice for All Working Group Volunteer), Mary H. Smith, Renee Valdez (Metropolitan), Rachel Rodriguez (Equal Access to Justice), John Arango (Civil Legal Service Commission), Dean Sergio Pareja (UNM School of Law), Ellie Rushforth (Southwest Women's Law Center), Gary Housepian (Disability Rights New Mexico), Chris Morganti (State Bar of New Mexico), Sireesha Manne (Center on Law and Poverty), George Chandler (Commissioner), Jerry Dixon (State Bar of New Mexico), Charles Archuleta (Commissioner), Marta Pereira (Enlance), Carol Skiba, Stephanie Wagner (State Bar of New Mexico), Janice Kauer (New Mexico Legal Aid), Hon. Shannon Bacon (2nd Judicial District), Mark Bennett (Decision Resources), Grace Spulak (AOC ATJ Attorney)

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2018
3. Recognition of Senior Justice Petra Jimenez Maes

The Commission recognized Senior Justice Maes for her role in starting the Commission and her ongoing dedication to justice for low-income New Mexicans.

4. Update on Regional Listening Sessions

Grace Spulak presented a brief overview of the regional listening sessions that commissioners and volunteers have been conducting around the state as part of the Justice for All strategic action planning update. There have been four to date in Taos, Hobbs, Truth or Consequences, and Las Cruces. A detailed summary of these sessions is attached to the notes. Some of the themes that emerged in all sessions: more attorneys are needed to do pro bono work (some areas of the state have few or no attorneys at all); court forms, instructions and processes are confusing to self-represented litigants many of who are not English speakers or have limited ability to read; a number of community service providers (e.g. DV service providers, healthcare providers) are not aware of legal services providers and the work they do. All listening session participants expressed an interest in providing input into the ATJ Commission's Strategic Action Plan.

5. Memorial Regarding Study of Qualifications for Custody Evaluators

Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez with the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence presented a draft of the legislative memorial the coalition hopes to have introduced at in 2019 Session. This

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idea was presented to the Commission at the November 2, 2018 meeting. There were questions from the Commission about whether the memorial study would apply to mediators as well as custody evaluators and some concerns about whether mediators should be included. Ms. Sedillo-Lopez will provide the Commission with updated drafts as they become available and requested that the Commission take steps to have a representative from ATJ on the task force. This would require the Commission to make a request to the Supreme Court. Hon. Sarah Singleton moved that the Commission ask for Supreme Court approval to appoint a member of the ATJ to the task force; Charles Archuleta seconded; and the motion passed.

6. Strategic Action Planning Session

Participants continued to work in the groups to which they were either assigned or self-selected at the November 2 meeting. These groups focused on action planning for various Justice for All components (see the attached component descriptions) and were tasked with creating strategic action items to be implemented in the next year, steps necessary for implementation, identifying resources and key actors, and capturing any long term or “parking lot” ideas related either to the action or the components in general.

The notes from each group are attached to these minutes. Groups will work between now and the January 11 meeting to clarify these notes as necessary.

7. Recognition of Ed Marks

The Commission recognized Ed Marks for his work on behalf of New Mexico Legal Aid.