

**Commission on Access to Justice  
April 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Hon. K.C. Rogers (Magistrate Judge-Roswell), Pamela Herndon (KWH Law Center for Social Justice + Change), Rachel Rodriguez (Equal Access to Justice), Janice Kauer (New Mexico Legal Aid), Liz McGrath (ATJ Commission Co-Chair), George Chandler (ATJ Commissioner), Ellen Leitzer (Senior Citizens Law Office), Renee Valdez (Metro Court), Laura Bassein (Judicial Education Center), Sarah Steadman (UNM-School of Law), John Arango (Civil Legal Services Commission), Gary Housepian (Disability Rights New Mexico), Dina Afek (New Mexico Legal Aid), Lisa Chavez (New Mexico Legal Aid), Carol Garner (New Mexico Legal Aid), Bette Fleishman (Pegasus Legal Services for Children), Mark Bennett (Decision Resources), Jennifer Foote (ATJ Commissioner), Mari Willow (Pegasus Legal Services for Children), Sireesha Manne (NM Center on Law and Poverty), Chris Morganti (State Bar of New Mexico), Mary H Smith (attorney), Terrelene Massey (Southwest Women's Law Center), Stephanie Wagner (NM Bar Foundation), Kaitlyn Luck (ATJ Commissioner), Grace Spulak (AOC ATJ Staff Attorney), Chris Ford (Justice for All Steering Group), Tina Cruz (President Elect, State Bar of NM), Rudy Sanchez (DNA People's Legal Services), Kip Bobroff (ATJ Commissioner), Antonia Roybal-Mack (ATJ Commissioner)

**Introduction of New Commissioners**

-We have four new Commissioners: Kip Bobroff, Visiting Professor at UNM School of Law; Hon. K.C. Rogers, Magistrate Judge-Roswell; Jeffrey Wechsler, attorney in private practice; Tina Cruz, President-Elect of the State Bar

**Approval of Minutes**

-We will do this by an email vote of Commissioners

**LLLT Work Group Update**

-George Chandler providing the following update on the LLLT Work Group that has been convened by the Supreme Court based on the ATJ's recommendation that New Mexico examine the possibility of using legal paraprofessionals in New Mexico. The work group has looked at the Washington model of LLLTs but has concerns that this model is too restrictive.

-Work group has met three times: four subgroups to look at changes needed to NM Rules of Professional Conduct and development of curriculum. The group will meet again Friday April 19 and will have updates/recommendations from subgroups

**CLS Funding Update**

John Arango provided the following update on Civil Legal Services funding post-2019 Legislative Session:

-According to the Civil Legal Services Commission staff at the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the budget approved and funded by the legislature for civil legal services for FY 20 (July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020) in its 60-day session was \$4.304 million, an increase over current funds of \$502,800. This increase consists of a \$150,000 increase in projected filing fees and a \$352,800 increase in appropriations. The budget consists of funds budgeted in House Bill 2, and funds in other appropriation bills from the Senate and House.

-DFA attorneys have ruled that the amount budgeted in HB 2 must be distributed to current Civil Legal Services Fund contractors using the same percentage increase for each contractor. The Commission has

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asked DFA for the amount budgeted in HB 2 so it can notify contractors of the increases each will receive from HB 2. The DFA attorneys have also ruled that the funds budgeted in other appropriations bills need not be distributed using the same percentage for each contractor.

-The Commission will meet on Monday, April 22 at 2:00 PM at the State Bar to discuss whether it will distribute all funds using the same percentage for each contractor or use some other method. And, if some other method, what that method will be, what contractors will need to submit, and when submissions will be due and awards announced. The Commission will also discuss issuing a new Request for Proposals in the spring of 2020.

**Co-Location Update**

-Pegasus, NMLA, Center on Law and Poverty, and the NM Immigrant Law Center have identified space at 625 Silver in Albuquerque that may work for the Civil Justice Center. Each organization is working to identify space needs for their individual organizations and individual meetings will be set up between the civil legal service organizations and the architect who has been working on the co-location project.

**Justice for All Planning**

-Mark Bennett provided an overview of the process and the Commission's goals in undertaking the Justice for All Planning. The purpose of the strategic actions identified by the various work groups is to get New Mexico started on a path toward 100% assistance for all New Mexicans with essential civil legal needs. These items seek to use existing resources and identify actions that can be completed over the next year and a half.

Principles for JFA plan

-The JFA steering group developed draft principles for inclusion in the JFA plan. This was based on recommendation from the National Center for State Courts that all commissions identify and develop a set of common principles to guide the work of the JFA plan.

-Meeting participants provided feedback on the principles. Participants and others who are interested are invited to provide additional feedback by email to Grace Spulak (aocgcs@nmcourts.gov).

-many of the comments centered on ensuring that the principles were clear to those who were reading the report and had not participated in the development of the report. Specific comments are included in the "Action Item and Principle Feedback" attachment

Strategic Action Plan Item Feedback

-Meeting participants provided feedback on the strategic action plans (attached to these minutes) using like, change, and other categories.

-This feedback will be incorporated into the JFA plan by the JFA steering group.