

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
STATE BAR CENTER
Friday, Jan. 8, 2016
Minutes**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Senior Justice Petra Jimenez Maes, Supreme Court Liaison

Hon. Nan G. Nash, Chair
John Arango
Adam Rankin
Ed Marks

Liz McGrath, Vice-Chair
Joey Moya
Gabriel Campos
George Chandler
Hon. C. Shannon Bacon
Thomas W. Olson
Hon. Angie Schneider (but see *below)

John Watson
Jennifer Foote
Scotty Holloman, State Bar President Elect (by phone)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Hon. Sarah M. Singleton, Chair Emeritus
Carol Skiba

Prof. Barbara Creel
Cisco McSorley

STAFF:

Tina Sibbitt (AOC/ATJ Staff Attorney)

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Amanda Frazier
Ellen Leitzer
Adrienne Turner
Judy Paquin
Aja Brooks
Katie Varoz Williams
Stormy Ralstin

Pamelya Herndon
Jorge Alvarado
Janice Kauer
Mathew D. McCubbins
Kasey Daniel
Pat Stelzner
Joel Elena Hagaman

1. **Call to Order.** The Access to Justice Commission was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by **Commission Chair Judge Nash.**
2. **Introductions.** Meeting attendees introduced themselves and indicated in which working group they are participating. Senior Justice Maes announced new 2016 commissioners and title changes: Judge Singleton is now Chair Emeritus, Judge

Nash is Chair, Liz McGrath is Vice-Chair; Court appointments are Charles Archuleta and Judge Angie Schneider, but Judge Schneider is being appointed to the Court Improvement Project Commission. She is attending today, but will not be an ATJ commissioner. The State Bar appointed Gabe Campos. The 2016 State Bar President Elect is Scotty Holloman.

- 3. ATJ Commission Self Assessment and 2016 Priorities.** (Because this meeting was more in the nature of a workshop than the usual formal meeting, meeting notes follow rather than the usual structured minutes).

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ATJ Commission Self-Assessment and 2016 Priorities

Notes for January 8, 2016 Meeting

This meeting focused on the results of a self-assessment survey that was circulated in the fall of 2015 and completed by approximately 48 ATJ Commissioners and interested parties. Liz McGrath presented a summary of the results of the survey, followed by a discussion of the Commission's strengths and weaknesses, and steps the Commission should consider to improve its impact and effectiveness.

AREAS OF WEAKNESS:

1. COMMUNICATION
2. EVALUATION
3. GENERATING RESOURCES
4. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FROM MORE JUDICIAL DISTRICTS
5. COMPOSITION
6. STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: Leadership
7. MISSION
8. COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

Although most responses fell into the categories of "No need for improvement" or "Needs some improvement," curious that 5 people think that Mission "Needs A LOT of improvement." Same comment applies to Composition, Key Stakeholders, and Communication.

STRENGTHS: John Arango pointed out the New Mexico's ATJ Commission has areas of strength not seen in many other states.

- State Plan – unique
- Grant Making – unique
- Legislative Funding for Legal Services (not for the Commission itself). In NM, provider collaboration is valued and is now well established, playing a large role in funding/grant decision-making. Other states compete. NM has less duplication of services. **FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES RATHER THAN FUNDING**

- Funds (for legal services) do not come from SCt budget. Here is thru DFA (executive)
 - Mostly volunteer
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DISCUSSION OF WEAKNESSES:

1. COMMUNICATION

- **ELEMENTS:**

- Marketing materials
- Online presence
 - Listserve
- Funding Priorities for ATJ ---- need to do a better job
- Communication w/key stakeholders
 - Should commissioners go out into community to carry message? To whom? What are we asking for? What benefits go to them? (tax write-offs etc.)

- **STRATEGIES:**

- **WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS COMMUNICATION.** Katie – new Outreach & Development WG: Id'd same needs as survey. **ATJ COMMSN.** Brand identity. Clarify purpose and core partners. One Pager to set all that out plus projects. Website ideas, logistics. Janice – grants applied for. McCune Foundation – to fund professionally done communications. RFP would go to communications/marketing firms. To develop list to submit to Commission for review and choice of techniques. Then implement. **CIVIL LEGAL AID COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.** Also would provide standards and common branding for legal service organizations. **AUDIENCE FOR MARKETING.** Katie --- generally. Further discussion of Targets; different messages for different groups. **GOAL of Communication** – what do we want back from it? Ed – varied. Make people care enough to contribute, participate, support etc.
- Resource Dev. (to develop marketing plan)
- Professional advertsing group to develop message and marketing strategy (implementation plan)

- Message must include that 40% of NM is below poverty line. So poor people services serve A LOT of people in this state.
- Champions for Justice

2. EVALUATION : (Leadership) ---

- What are we evaluating?
- How do we evaluate?
- Where does this data reside?
- What are desired Outcomes? (Legal service providers have to provide Outcomes.)
- Who are the customers and should we ask them if ATJ is helping?
 - Arango --- SCt clear message to ATJC: *Help poor people. Grant committee goals – direct legal service. But Commission: Some things are not subject to specific goals; the ATJ goals are wider than things that can be discretely measured.*
 - Nan --- ATJC goal has always been to support the SYSTEM to better serve the underserved Adam --- have WG do annual reporting: (ID goals for the year; next year, state what accomplished, did it help, what new goals, what support is needed). Maybe re-start annual reports. Add looking ahead to next year.

***** TASK OUT TO WG --- This eval is self-evaluation. To develop what the annual reports should be.**

3. GENERATING RESOURCES ---

- For Commission: PJM – that means going to Legislature. Judiciary uses Unified Budget process: AOC. ATJ priorities may not equal AOC priorities. Process starts in August.
- Budget Committee needed? ---- to come up with what resources are needed, also to monitor and coordinate other resource development efforts (Leadership)
- Training for new commsrs, mileage and per diem for rural commsrs, etc.
- Extra ATJ staff? For WGs?
- EJC. Bar currently covers some costs for limited number of attendees.

4. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT – JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

- Should flow from increased communication/outreach by ATJC.

5. COMPOSITION: LEADERSHIP

- INFO/Communication Campaign -- will improve support from judicial districts as well as other stakeholders
- Adam --- recruit folks from rural communities for Commission
- PJM – must go to SCt to increase # of commsrs. ATJ should take over recruiting commissioners; get message out. SCt removed legis/gov slots and moved them to Ct appts (except for Cisco until personally talk to him)
- Bar Bull
- Website
- Other announcements (to get more commissioner representation)
- Additional outreach
- training
- Re-think pm meetings? Too long?

6. STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: (LEADERSHIP)

- 1st and last ATJ mtgs each year to be used for planning, etc.

7. MISSION

- Current broad statement (basically, increasing ATJ) still works:
 - “Established by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2004, the Commission on Access to Justice (ATJ) is a statewide body dedicated to expanding resources for civil legal assistance to New Mexicans living in poverty.”
- Nan --- should we prioritize one area per year? Accomplished a lot, but now doing something is more challenging. Re-envision next level. Start with the Leadership.
- TINA --- Check out how other commissions do it ----- **perhaps chairs should explore at 2016 EJC Chairs meeting?**
- Coordinate with annual combined goals of legal service providers?
- Arango --- McCune funding “organizational capacity.” Maybe ATJ should do it also (as opposed to direct representation).
- FROM CHARTS:
 - expand resources

- comm./public awareness
- pro bono
- training/tech.
- methods for access
- re-envision next level (Leadership)

8. COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES. These will flow from communications/outreach