



**UALR-Bowen School of Law  
1201 McMath Avenue  
Conference Room 515  
Friday, October 30, 2009  
11:30 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Attending**

**Commissioners:**

Prof. Chuck Goldner, <i>Chair</i>	Judge Jim Spears, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Judge Waymond Brown	Ms. Jean Carter
Ms. Zina Frazier	Justice Annabelle Imber
Prof. Kelly Olson	Ms. Susie Pointer
Mr. George Shelton	Mr. Bill Waddell
	Ms. Angela Duran
	Mr. Leon Johnson
	Mr. Lee Richardson

**Special Guest:**

Mr. Jon Comstock (by phone)	Mr. Brian Miles
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**Staff:**

Ms. Amy Johnson, <i>Executive Director</i>	Mr. Ron Lanoue, <i>Secretary</i>
Mr. Vince Morris	Mr. Chad Owens

**Welcome & Approval of Minutes**

Prof. Chuck Goldner welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 11:40 AM. He asked the Commission to review the minutes from the last meeting. Ms. Zina Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes from July 24, 2009. Mr. Bill Waddell seconded the motion. The Commission approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

**Introducing Executive Director Amy Johnson**

Prof. Goldner introduced and welcomed Ms. Amy Johnson, the new Executive Director of the Commission. She will also provide AOC staff support for the IOLTA Board Foundation. She has moved into the Little Rock office of the Center for Arkansas Legal Services. Ms. Johnson has always been involved with issues of access to justice, Prof. Goldner said. He thanked the Supreme Court of Arkansas for funding the new position of Executive Director and hiring Ms. Johnson. He then asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Prof. Goldner said the staff of the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership (ALSP) would continue to provide staff support for the Commission. He received this assurance during a meeting prior to the Commission meeting. Those who attended this prior meeting were Prof. Goldner, Ms. Johnson, Justice Annabelle Imber, Mr. J.D. Gingerich, Ms. Jean Carter, Mr. Lee Richardson,

Mr. Brian Miles, Mr. Ron Lanoue, Mr. Vince Morris, and Mr. Chad Owens. During the prior meeting, they discussed the goals of the new Executive Director position. Prof. Goldner said everyone was on the same page about how ALSP and the Commission will support each other.

### **Commissioner Terms Ending**

Prof. Goldner pointed out that several Commissioners are at the end of their current terms. These are Judge Jim Spears, Prof. Goldner, Mr. Bill Brown, Ms. Angela Duran, Ms. Frazier, Rep. Will Bond, and Sen. Robert Thompson. Prof. Goldner said he and Ms. Johnson would contact the appropriate appointing bodies about filling open seats.

Ms. Susie Pointer added that she would be leaving in January 2010. She asked whether the Commission wanted to leave her spot empty or fill it with an IOLTA Board member. She added that the Commission would need to replace her as chair of the Legal Services Committee. Prof. Goldner said he would discuss these options with Ms. Johnson.

### **Statewide Campaign**

Mr. Jon Comstock joined the meeting by telephone. Prof. Goldner asked Mr. Lanoue for an update on the Commission's fundraising efforts. Mr. Lanoue said an initial mailing of 5,000 solicitations went out on Thursday, October 1, 2009. These letters went to attorneys licensed in Arkansas, and the mailing occurred on the same day as the two campaign kick-off events in Little Rock and Fayetteville.

Mr. Lanoue provided current fundraising totals. The solicitation letters provide three giving options. The donor can choose to make a "Statewide Donation," an "LAA Donation," or a "CALs Donation." So far, Mr. Lanoue said, the statewide option has received \$7,170. The LAA option has received \$32,811. The CALs option has received \$2,900. When combined, the Commission's statewide campaign has raised to-date \$42,881.

Ms. Carter added that the Volunteer Organization of the Center for Arkansas Legal Services (VOCALS), which is handling the campaign in Pulaski County, has raised to-date \$50,000.

As part of making this a statewide campaign, Prof. Goldner added, VOCALS has modified its solicitation literature to show that it is part of the Promise of Justice Campaign. VOCALS is taking the lead in Pulaski County until mid-November, he said. After that, the Commission will follow up with Pulaski County attorneys.

Mr. Lanoue has held various meetings throughout state. During these meetings, Mr. Lanoue presents division chairs with a list of attorneys in their groups, and he asks them to select whom in their group they want to contact personally for donations. Mr. Lanoue keeps up with division leaders on a weekly basis. This is important, he said, because it helps them maintain their energy. It is an important initial phase for keeping division leaders active.

Prof. Goldner thanked Mr. Waddell and Mr. Comstock for working tirelessly to solicit donations. He asked Mr. Waddell to update the Commission about his efforts to obtain leadership gifts.

Mr. Waddell chairs the Leadership Gifts Division. He has personally mailed 60 letters soliciting leadership gifts. The responses, he said, have been interesting, and some have been disappointing. With each letter, he sent a postcard that pictures a monument in Spain dedicated to "Justice." He included it because it represents what the campaign stands for, he said.

Prof. Goldner thanked Mr. Waddell for his hard work, which has included making multiple contacts per day, following up with them, and brainstorming ideas. He then turned to Mr. Comstock, whom he asked to update the Commission about his efforts to obtain corporate donations.

Mr. Comstock began by commending the meeting of division leaders in Benton and Washington Counties. The meeting was very successful, he said, and all meetings of division groups should be run in same fashion.

Turning to corporate donations, Mr. Comstock said he first tried to identify companies in Arkansas. He has emailed all non-judicial members of the Commission for names of potential corporate donors. He asked Commissioners to reach out to companies where they have a personal contact. He said the campaign needs more people reaching out to companies and leadership donors. He suggested that Commissioners make sure to ask for three things when soliciting donations:

- First, ask donors to continue giving to VOCALS if they have in previous years.
- Second, if donors already give to other organizations, ask them not to give less to those organizations because of the Promise of Justice Campaign.
- Finally, ask potential donors to add the Promise of Justice Campaign to their annual giving.

Mr. Comstock said the more companies we can list as inaugural givers, the better. He has a few upcoming meetings in Little Rock about the campaign. He asked the Commission to nominate more co-chairs for the Corporate Gifts Division. He finished by asking each Commissioner to reach out to companies where they have a personal contact.

Prof. Goldner thanked Mr. Comstock and Mr. Waddell, both of whom have given much time, energy, and effort to this campaign. "I have discovered something about Bill and Jon," said Prof. Goldner. "They are thinking about and working on the campaign seven days a week, from sunrise to when I go to bed."

Prof. Goldner reiterated Mr. Comstock's request that every Commissioner contact someone or provide the names of people or groups to contact. He asked the Commissioners to consider how important it is for the campaign to succeed in its first year. If it doesn't succeed, he said, the Commission may not have an ongoing campaign.

Prof. Goldner reminded the Commission that it has staff support from ALSP, which can provide information and documents as needed to aid solicitations. ALSP has already compiled a document to solicit business offices.

Justice Imber added that judges cannot raise money with lay people; however, they can raise money among their fellow judges on their own benches. She, Judge Brown, and Judge Spears volunteered to speak about the campaign with their fellow judges.

Mr. George Shelton announced that Wal-Mart plans to make a leadership gift. Legal Aid of Arkansas submitted a grant to Wal-Mart for legal/medical partnerships throughout its service area. Wal-Mart awarded \$50,000 for the grant. Then Wal-Mart's corporate counsel matched the grant with a donation of \$50,000. Wal-Mart will officially announce this gift at the Promise of Justice Conference. The Commissioners gave Wal-Mart, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Comstock, and Mr. Waddell a round of applause.

Prof. Goldner asked the Commissioners not to publicly disclose Wal-Mart's gift, but he indicated that the information could be used when soliciting other corporate donations. He finished by asking each Commissioner to donate personally to the campaign. After he thanked Mr. Comstock for attending the meeting via teleconference, Mr. Comstock left the meeting.

### **Consider Commission Membership and Proposed Request for Modification**

Prof. Goldner announced that Justice Imber is leaving the Arkansas Supreme Court. The Commission has no better friend than Justice Imber, he said. Because she wants to stay involved with the Commission, Prof. Goldner proposed asking the Supreme Court to revise its per curiam that created Commission. The revision would add to the number of seats on the Commission.

Justice Imber suggested also adding a seat for a member of the Court of Appeals. Ms. Carter suggested adding a seat for a former judge. Mr. Morris suggested adding a seat for an attorney in the office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Waddell made a motion to seek Supreme Court approval for the new seats, and Judge Waymond Brown seconded the motion. All approved by unanimous vote.

### **Statewide Conference**

Justice Imber announced that Tommy Wells, Past President of the American Bar Association, will open the Promise of Justice Conference. He will be introduced by another Past President of the American Bar Association, Phil Anderson.

Justice Imber explained that Sen. Dale Bumpers had to remove his name from the speaking lineup because of unforeseen circumstances. In his place, Justice Imber obtained the speaking commitment of Justice Jess Dickinson, a member of the Mississippi Supreme Court. Mr. Wells and Justice Dickinson are very excited about access to justice, she said.

Justice Imber thanked everyone who volunteered to facilitate a discussion group. She urged the other Commissioners to register for the conference. She asked staff to invite district judges.

Prof. Kelly Olson asked if she could invite students? Justice Imber answered yes, and she asked Mr. Owens to send out a copy of the online invitation.

Mr. Waddell asked staff to videotape speakers. A visual experience, he said, will provide a more engaging experience than a written transcript of the speeches. Justice Imber agreed.

Prof. Olson gave staff a document that explains how to facilitate meetings. Mr. Owens agreed to give a copy to each volunteer. He also announced that the staff would host a preparation meeting the evening before the conference.

### **Access to Justice Foundation**

Mr. Waddell announced that he and his colleagues at Friday, Eldredge & Clark have completed the paperwork to begin an Access to Justice Foundation, which has now applied for tax-exempt status. Mr. Waddell thanked Mr. Jim Harris and his paralegal for guiding its formation. According to its bylaws, the foundation will be run by a Board of Directors. Board members cannot be judges or Commissioners appointed by the Legislature. At first, the Board will consist of only Commissioners. Eventually, he said, the Board will bring in people who are not Commissioners and who have experience in other foundations. Even though some members will not be Commissioners, he said, the Board will stay connected to the Commission.

Prof. Goldner thanked Mr. Waddell and Mr. Harris for their pro bono work to support the Commission. He announced that Mr. Waddell was elected President of the Board of Directors, and he announced that a meeting of the Board would follow the Commission meeting.

**Other Business**

Prof. Goldner announced that Bill Brown has vacated his seat on the Commission. He thanked Mr. Brown for his commitment to access to justice, and the entire Commission gave Mr. Brown a round of applause.

Prof. Goldner asked Ms. Johnson if she would like to say anything. Ms. Johnson said she was delighted to be Executive Director and looks forward to working with the Commission.

Prof. Goldner adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.