

Legal Services Committee

Ms. Susie Pointer informed the Commission that the letter about Civil Gideon was sent to Arkansas Bar Association and various county bar associations. Prof. Goldner added that he expects some within these organizations to disagree with Civil Gideon. He also thanked Mr. Chad Owens for updating the Commission's list of county bar associations and for forwarding the updated list to Arkansas Bar Association.

Ms. Pointer closed by saying the **Legal Services Committee has agreed to work with the Pro Bono Committee on the statewide private bar campaign.**

Pro Bono Committee

Ms. Danyelle Walker said the **Pro Bono Committee has agreed to work with the Legal Services Committee on the statewide private bar campaign.** She commended Mr. Jon Comstock and Mr. Waddell for their help and passion for legal services. Both, she said, were full of good ideas about the statewide private bar campaign.

She also told the Commission about a legal aid hospice program conducted by EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PANEL, which provides a one-hour CLE to attorneys who agree to spend one day helping with end-of-life legal issues. She asked the Commissioners to keep this program in mind when recruiting pro bono attorneys.

Finally, **Ms. Walker informed the Commission that she plans to speak with Arkansas Bar Association about participating in the National Pro Bono Celebration** in October.

Joint Committee for the Statewide Private Bar Campaign

Mr. Lee Richardson spoke on behalf of the Joint Committee. He thanked the committee, which is made up of the Pro Bono and Legal Services Committees, for its hard work and good ideas. The committee, he said, recommended that **the statewide campaign recruit pro bono attorneys while attempting to raise \$500,000 in donations.** The committee also suggested having **Commission presentations at county bar associations, especially in rural areas.** These presentations, he added, should include a justice or judge and a Commissioner. He informed the Commission that the committee chose **"The Promise of Justice" as its campaign theme.** Finally, he said the committee hopes to **gain Gov. Beebe's presence as honorary chair,** in addition to the help of **50–100 community leaders outside of the Commission.**

Prof. Goldner congratulated the Pro Bono and Legal Services Committees for combining their efforts. He asked **staff to email each Commissioner a copy of the minutes from the first joint committee meeting.**

Mr. Waddell recommended **having lead donations in place before announcing the campaign.** These major donors would help kick start the campaign's fundraising efforts. Prof. Goldner said the Commission has in the past asked for either donations or pro bono activity; however, he pointed out that an attorney's pro bono obligations are not met through donations. He then directed the Commissioners to the response chart of pro bono activity, included with the meeting packet. He pointed out that, when asked to report their pro bono activity, the two highest responses of attorneys were "blank" and "zero."

Justice Annabelle Imber said many attorneys did not expect to be asked about their pro bono hours on the IOLTA Compliance Statement. As such, she expected next year's responses to be at least slightly better. Additionally, she said the Commission should **continue to educate attorneys about their pro bono obligations.**

Education Committee

Justice Imber informed the Commission that the Education Committee plans to organize a **Statewide Access to Justice Conference in October or November in Little Rock.** This conference, she added, will dovetail well with the statewide campaign. Therefore, the Education Committee plans to coordinate its efforts with the joint committee. She added that Mr. Ron Lanoue is currently seeking an intern from the Clinton School of Public Service to assist in planning and implementing the conference.

Justice Imber said staff prepared a Commission education packet for each legislator; however, the packets were never used during the session. Now that the session is over, the Education Committee plans to **turn them into thank-you packets and send them to each legislator.**

Justice Imber closed by asking each Commissioner to participate in pro bono recruitment presentations with Mr. Vince Morris.

Prof. Goldner commended each committee for coordinating its efforts. He added that, in an attempt to find an intern, **he will speak with students at the Clinton School who are in the combined JD/MPS degree program.**

Mr. Waddell supported the idea of a Statewide Access to Justice Conference. He suggested **inviting a speaker from the American Trial Lawyers Association who has worked on Guantanamo Bay cases.** Mr. Coulter agreed that Guantanamo Bay cases would provide an interesting presentation and discussion. Mr. Coulter also suggested **inviting an author, such as Jane Mayer, who has written articles and books on the law and interrogation techniques.** An author, he said, has an incentive to speak because he or she can sell books. Prof. Kelly Olson suggested **inviting prosecutors who resigned because they refused to prosecute detainees.** Judge Jim Spears suggested inviting Brian Meadors, a local attorney from Fort Smith with a connection to Guantanamo Bay cases.

Court Assistance Committee

Judge Spears informed the Commission that online pro se and advocate resources had 1.8 million page views in 2008, and the Access to Justice website had 22,000 visitors in 2008.

Judge Spears said Arkansas partnered with Orange County Legal Aid in California in an online automated document tax filing project. Nationally, low-income people received \$17,583,099 EIC through this project. Arkansans received \$26,350 EIC through this project. Mr. Richardson added that Arkansans received a relatively small amount of money because Arkansas state tax forms were not available on the site. He has considered putting Arkansas tax forms online next year.

Judge Spears asked Mr. Morris to speak about Wills for Heroes. Mr. Morris explained that the Wills for Heroes program provides essential legal documents free of charge to first responders, including wills, living wills, and powers of attorney. By helping first responders plan now, they

ensure their family's legal affairs are in order before a tragedy hits. The 501(c) (3) charitable non-profit Wills for Heroes Foundation supports these Wills programs, giving back to the community and "protecting those who protect us." The Arkansas Bar Association is partnering with Wills for Heroes to create automated document resources for attorneys to use in designated outreach events (June 10 is the first one scheduled) to provide wills for first responders. Mr. Morris is providing the technical programming for the automated documents. Justice Imber, Mr. Coulter, and Ms. Pointer provided helpful input for local attorney resources in drafting the will document.

Judge Spears asked Justice Imber to speak about the Supreme Court's per curiam that was released on April 2, 2009. Justice Imber said the purpose of the per curiam is to lay the groundwork for the Administrative Office of the Courts to fund the Commission. She directed the Commissioners to the last paragraph of the per curiam, which suggests that the work of the Commission and IOLTA may overlap.

Prof. Goldner thanked the Supreme Court and Justice Imber for taking up the issue of staff funding. He and Mr. Coulter have been involved in preliminary discussions about the Commission and IOLTA. Mr. Coulter added that IOLTA will pay its grants through 2009, but he cautioned grantees not to depend on IOLTA funding in 2010.

Judge Spears said CALS has received two grants from LSC. The first continues to fund the Automated Court Form Packets, and the second funds the creation of Legal Help online videos, which are hosted by YouTube in a project called LegalTube. He gave credit to Mr. Morris for working hard to obtain these grants.

Judge Spears also updated the Commission about grants that CALS is currently applying for. One will focus on developing a way to share pro se and advocate content between legal services websites across the nation. The other will focus on Consumer Law and will request funding to create an online "Legal Aid Law School" that will teach both pro se and advocate users different areas of the law by providing tutorials, online videos, podcast, and quizzes.

Mr. Morris added that Arkansas has been selected to partner with Maine, Georgia, and New York to develop a high quality national website with valuable content focused on the needs of military connected individuals (MCIs). Although there are several website resources for this population, provided by both private organizations and government, there is not a centralized resource that provides legal resources for all MCIs regardless of their connection status. The visitor will choose an initial status on the homepage (e.g. active duty, veteran, family member, reservist or guard) and status specific content will be provided based on their selection. This website will provide a centralized clearinghouse with easy navigation and MCI specific multimedia content designed for both the public and advocate user. Resources will include fact sheets, static forms, automated forms, advocate forms, streaming video and other appropriate online information for the MCI population group. One of the primary goals of this project is to expand access to justice to low-income Military Connected Individuals across the nation.

Other Business

Prof. Goldner pointed the Commissioners to the document, "Ten Core Values." He suggested that the Commission should not adopt it as an official resolution because it is beyond the scope of the Commission to direct Arkansas's legal aid organizations. He and Justice Imber added that the Commission should **focus on the Statewide Campaign and the Statewide Access to**

Justice Conference. None made a motion to adopt “Ten Core Values,” and so the item was dismissed from the agenda.

Prof. Goldner thanked the Commission for a good and productive meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Action Items

1. Legal Services and Pro Bono Committees agree to work together by forming the Joint Committee for the Statewide Private Bar Campaign.
 - a. Recruit pro bono attorneys while attempting to raise \$500,000 in donations.
 - b. Commission to schedule presentations at county bar associations, especially in rural areas.
 - c. Campaign theme: “The Promise of Justice”
 - d. Ask Gov. Beebe to be honorary chair.
 - e. Gain the assistance of 50–100 community leaders outside of the Commission.
 - f. Staff to email each Commissioner a copy of the minutes from the first joint committee meeting.
 - g. Mr. Waddell and Mr. Comstock to obtain lead donations before the campaign is announced.
 - h. Educate attorneys about their pro bono obligations.
2. Ms. Walker to speak with Arkansas Bar Association about participating in the National Pro Bono Celebration in October.
3. Education Committee to organize a Statewide Access to Justice Conference in October or November in Little Rock.
 - a. Prof. Goldner to speak with students at the Clinton School about interning with Statewide ATJ Conference.
 - b. Invite speakers who are legal experts on torture/interrogation techniques and Guantanamo Bay detainees.
4. Send thank-you packets to each legislator.
5. Focus on the Statewide Campaign and the Statewide Access to Justice Conference.