



ARKANSAS  
ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE  
REPRESENTING HOPE

## Commission Meeting Arkansas Bar Center, 2224 Cottondale Ln., Little Rock, AR 72202

January 21, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Commissioners Present

Rose Adams, Jean Carter, Nate Coulter, Angela Duran, Zina Frazier  
Brian Miles, Chuck Roskopf, Justice Annabelle Tuck, Bill Waddell

### Staff Present

Amy Johnson, Ron Lanoue, Vince Morris, Kim Marshall, Sam Tobias

### Welcome and Minutes from September 17, 2010

Justice Tuck called the meeting to order at 9:27. In the absence of a quorum, Justice Tuck asked for amendments to the minutes to be submitted for consideration at a later date. She then tendered the program to Mr. Lanoue and Ms. Johnson to conduct the Commission's strategic planning session.

### Commission Accomplishments: 2001-2010 A Pop Quiz!

Mr. Lanoue gave a quiz over accomplishments in the last 6 years.

Ms. Johnson gave a report on the 2010 campaign, as well as a bullet point list of Commission accomplishments for the last year. She stated that the 2010 campaign was an auspicious event, because it was the first campaign to occur through the Foundation. She went on to explain the calculation of totals based on including contributions from VOCALS and LAA. The corporate donations made up the bulk of the funds raised, but the majority of participants were individual attorneys. The Foundation raised over \$100,000 of the total amount. A discussion resulted over counties where fundraising fell short, and what can be done in the future. Likewise the group discussed the Commission's CLE presentations given over the last campaign year, and where presentations are already scheduled to occur this year. The conversation shifted to initiatives that the Commission is assisting in, such as Vince Morris's online legal resources.

### A Look at Current Mechanisms

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Lanoue explained the current Commission/Foundation structure, including the existing committees and the current staff. Ms. Johnson went on to detail some of the projects that committees are currently working on, including the out of state Pro Bono attorney initiative and the proposed changes to the corporate practice-of-law statute in the legislature. Ms. Johnson also noted that a Clinton School student will be doing pro se research in conjunction with the Commission this spring.

### Commission Goals

Mr. Lanoue reviewed the results of the previously completed Survey Monkey. According to the survey, the Commission's top 4 goals should be:

- Develop stable, long-term funding and other resources to support access to civil justice
- Devise a strategic plan for statewide delivery of legal services to all Arkansans
- Encourage a strong and consistent commitment to providing equal access to justice among the leaders of our state
- Suggest innovations that will increase effective access to the civil justice system for all Arkansans

The top 4 Priorities according to the survey are:

- Obtain a state general revenue appropriation
- Educate the Legislature
- Pro Se – Establish additional self-help centers
- Pro Bono –Recruitment Campaign

The following is a summary of the ideas generated during the brainstorming session led by Mr. Lanoue:

- Strategic alliances between advocacy groups and the need for legal services
- Expand right to legal services in civil cases—civil Gideon
- Help centers—SRLs
- More work with libraries on SRL front
- More funding—sustainable (endowments, grants)
- Get on radar for allocation of consumer-related recoveries by AG's office, cy pres; federal court cases
- Resource development person at staff level that works for Foundation, Commission, ALSP, IOLTA
- Consider having a lobbyist help with legislative efforts
- Better coordination with the Arkansas Bar Association
- Match desires of lawyers and law firms with needs that we have in legal services—"eHarmony approach to pro bono"
- Encouragement of more MLPs, other partnerships (e.g., domestic abuse education)
- Have "lifeline" available to pro bono attorneys—person at legal aid to call with questions; list of legal aid or pro bono attorneys who specialize? Substantive law pro bono panels
- Hire a statewide pro bono coordinator to work more with bar lawyers and legal aid groups
- Coordination between LAA and CALS, considering consolidation of the two
- Funding of legal services AND funding of Commission to support its work
- Increasing access to and use of mediation in family law cases
- Economic impact—both positive/negative
- Legal needs assessment
- Periodic town hall meetings
- Seek more diversity on the Commission- Geographical, gender, ethnic, and political
- Changing Pro Bono culture, raising awareness through PSAs (NPR, etc...)
- PR/Media
- Annual Report
- Bar Association, Foundation, IOLTA—fragmentation, coordination, consolidation
- Focus on individual short-term accomplishments
- New DVD

Mr. Lanoue asked the commissioners to prioritize these ideas for future action plans.

Following a break for lunch, Justice Tuck entertained a motion to approve the minutes, with the addition of Ms. Frazier's name to the attending members. Ms. Adams moved, and Ms. Frazier seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Justice Tuck then presented Mr. Lanoue with an award recognizing his outstanding service over the last 5 years in support of the Commission's mission to promote equal access to justice for all Arkansans.

### **Other Business: ALSP Projects**

Ms. Johnson introduced Kim Marshall, who reviewed the Court Assistance Committee's recent initiatives, as well as statistics from the ALSP website. She went on to discuss both Stateside Legal and sharelaw.org. The latter would allow attorneys and legal aid programs to exchange forms and information. She also touched on two current TIG grants, one for Spanish translation and another for a "guardianship of a minor" packet. Likewise, she discussed the current ongoing projects of 2011, including the creation of an "ex parte order" packet, the automation of a packet for the establishment of paternity, and a full review of the ALSP website.

### **Priorities / Time Frames/ Action Plans**

Mr. Lanoue reviewed the results of the Commissioner's prioritizing votes. In order, the top 5 priorities were: Expanding pro bono help centers, the hiring of a joint resource development person, pro bono matches of attorneys and cases, media/PR initiatives, and new town hall meetings. Mr. Lanoue then facilitated the development of action steps for each of the 5 top priorities. The following list reflects each priority with its corresponding action steps.

- Expand Pro Se Help Centers (Court Assistance)
  - Libraries
  - Work with judges to create mechanism for solving routine matters
  - Coordinate with Supreme Court Automation Committee
  - Explore partnership with Hewlett-Packard, perhaps through law firms that have business relationship
  - Partnership with Windstream-internet access
  - Enhance library connections—Arkansas Association of Librarians
  - Partnerships with Workforce Centers
  - Concerns about privacy in connection with accessing legal resources and completing forms
  - Explore establishment of Uniform Court Forms Committee – recommend the creation of a Committee of the Supreme Court
- Joint Resource Development Person (AATJ, ALSP, IOLTA) – AATJ Foundation Liaison Committee? Development/Finance?
  - Sustainable funding—grants, endowments
  - Cy pres—AG and court
  - Hire lobbyist
  - Role definitions
  - Bank leadership process—having economic impact studies would help
  - Check into "loaned executive" type program from foundations
  - Retired senior exec program—SCORE
  - Retain former Commissioners on Committees
- "eHarmony Approach to Pro Bono: Matching Private Attorneys Needs and Interests with Legal Service Needs (Pro Bono)
  - Advocacy groups and legal service ties
  - Civil Gideon
  - Encourage more partnerships
  - Hire statewide private pro bono coordinator
  - Mechanism to express attorney's interest in an area
  - Membership renewals—have these include card to allow attorney to indicate interest

- Go to bar committees and ask them to be our resource for pro bono cases—to be the source for attorneys to call with questions
- Survey of attorney interests and practice areas
- Statewide coordination
- Media/PR Initiative (Education)
  - Better alignment with Arkansas Bar Association and other voluntary bar associations
  - Economic impact (+ and -)
  - Inform culture of access to justice mission through media
  - Annual Report
  - New DVD
  - Short term accomplishment
  - PSAs through local stations
  - E-newsletters
  - Presence among district and circuit court judges
  - Internal communications
  - Social media—Facebook, twitter, YouTube
  - Local publications—Soiree, Daily Record
  - Cultivate relationships with local media
  - Saturation days—day intake clinics. Brian mentioned Road to Justice campaign—law student volunteers. Law Day? Pro Bono Week?
- New Town Hall Meetings (Legislative)
  - Get public support for Civil Gideon
  - Federal legislative contacts
  - Legal needs assessment
  - Create relationship with new congressional staff
  - Agency folks, clients, court staff, legal aid, local bar; Congressional representative to select date
  - Aggregate poverty info by congressional district, set up meetings with each member of Congressional delegation
  - Seek assistance of Senators Boozman and Pryor to make contacts with staff of other Congressional delegation members

Committee Assignments:

Expand Pro Se - Court Assistance Committee

Joint Resource Position - Development Committee

Pro Bono - Pro Bono Committee

Marketing/PR - Education Committee

Town hall Meetings - Legislative Committee

In connection with committee assignments, there was a suggestion to rename and/or repurpose the “Legal Services Committee” Mr. Lanoue suggested leaving it to the assigned committees to determine timelines and stumbling blocks involved with each goal. Justice Tuck suggested that committee meetings be scheduled before the next Commission meeting, so that the action plans can be better fleshed out by the respective committees.

Justice Tuck updated the Commission concerning Prof. Laurence Tribe's response to our invitation to speak at the upcoming conference.

Justice Tuck adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.