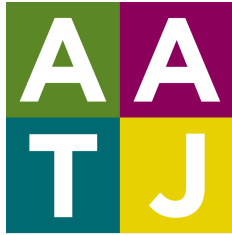


**Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation Board Meeting
January 28, 2022 via Zoom**



ARKANSAS
ACCESS TO
JUSTICE
REPRESENTING HOPE

Foundation Board Members (13): Cliff McKinney- Chair, Sainabou Sonko-Vice Chair, Brian Clary-Secretary, Hillis Schild-Treasurer, Stacey Pectol, Aaron Brooks, Debby Nye, Vicki Smith, John Thomas Shepherd, Deepali Lal, Harry Light, Tabitha Lee, & Kristin Pawlik

Unavailable: Gwendolyn Rucker

Guests: Courtney Nosari-Wall (Law Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court), Lee Richardson (Legal Aid of Arkansas), & Kendall Lewellen (Center for Arkansas Legal Services)

Staff: Jordan Bates-Rogers, Tameka Parker, & Desirae' Walker

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mr. McKinney called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

- Abby Brenneman was introduced by Mr. Bates-Rogers. She filled the Program Coordinator position for Arkansas Access to Justice. She is a former legal aid attorney. We are excited to have Ms. Brenneman aboard and she has hit the ground running.
- Deepali Lal has been appointed to the Access to Justice Foundation Board by the Arkansas Supreme Court. She replaces Chad Owens.
- Jonathan Warren resigned. Eddie Walker has been approached and expressed interest in serving. The Governance Committee will provide a formal recommendation at the next board meeting.

2. Business Items

- A quorum was present for the meeting.
- **Approval of November 2021 Minutes-** Mr. McKinney asked for a motion. Mr. Light made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Lee seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of Financial Reports** – Ms. Schild/Mr. Bates-Rogers

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- Ms. Schild provided a review of the October 2021 and November 2021 financials. The financial reports showed no significant changes. IOLTA income was better than expected, given the continuing pandemic. Cash investments are a little over \$2.5 million and about \$816,000 of that is restricted, largely as Bank of America Settlement funds. The Centennial Bank account also has restricted funds in the insured cash sweep (ICS), which is unclaimed and unidentifiable funds. Ms. Schild covered relatively stable IOLTA income and expense. Ms. Schild and Mr. Bates-Rogers explained the Bank of America Settlement funds source and purpose for new members. The financials came from the Finance Committee recommended for approval. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- **Review of Compliance with Financial Policies** – Ms. Schild
 - **Investment Policy**—Ms. Schild & Mr. Bates-Rogers discussed that we are still out of compliance with our moderate-risk investment policy because of the large balance of Bank of America Settlement funds invested in equities. However, the Board has waived this policy until the conclusion of the Bank of America grant cycle in June 2022.
 - **Reserve Fund Calculation** – A motion was made by the Finance Committee to move \$23,000 into the reserve account in order move closer to the target reserve. Ms. Pectol seconded the motion, no further discussion motion passed unanimously. The financial policies also require a transfer of 10% of the IOLTA income on a monthly basis until the target reserve is met.
 - **Account Updates Resolutions** – Mr. Bates-Rogers explained that due to hiring a new staffer we would need to update the credit card resolution and change the signature rights on certain accounts. Ms. Brenneman would get a corporate credit card for staff travel and office supply purchases. Cristy Park would need to be removed and Ms. Brenneman added in her place on the accounts listed in the resolution. Mr. Clary made a motion to make those changes. Mr. Light seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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3. Executive Director's Report-Mr. Bates-Rogers

- Mr. Bates-Rogers advised the Board that conflict of interest statements were online to download, sign, and return back to our office.
- He also informed the group that the preliminary fundraising numbers were down to about \$72,000 in 2021 compared to \$80,000 in 2020. However, the number of donors was up to 306 compared to 291 in 2020. Tax statements are being processed now.
- We are also rebranding our monthly donor program. The name will be changed to "Justice for All Partners" and we also have a new logo designed by local artist Sherry Williamson.
- At our previous meeting, we spoke with Bill Waddell about commissioning art work depicting Scipio Africanis Jones. We would like to get your feedback on purchasing prints that could be used to thank donors who make substantial contributions. Mr. Waddell sent over a memorandum of agreement and copyright agreement to review. Cost information will be negotiated with the artist.

4. AR Free Legal Answers – Ms. Brenneman

- Ms. Brenneman was occupied with an AR Free Legal Answers Clinic that was happening during the meeting. Mr. Bates-Rogers filled in for her.
- There have been 65 questions asked and about 80% of those answered by an attorney. The top question category remains family law. Mr. Bates-Rogers encouraged attorney board members to join the bi-weekly Free Legal Answers Clinics organized by Ms. Brenneman.
- **Pro Bono-Focused CLEs** – The next CLE will be presented by Katie Watson Bingham from the Friday Firm on estate planning.

5. IOLTA Report–Ms. Walker

- Ms. Walker reported that IOLTA revenue is continuing to hold steady. Preferred IOLTA Banks are continuing their participation. Arvest, Regions, and Simmons have the most IOLTA accounts to date. Average yield was 0.29% through November 2021. Compliance statements are beginning to be received.

6. Partner Organizations – Mr. Richardson & Ms. Lewellen

- Legal Aid of Arkansas - Lee Richardson provided their strategic litigation docket as information. He also reported that their organization helped 7,220 clients in 2021 and

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about 18,335 household members benefited. They avoided or recovered \$4.5 million for those clients. Their staff handled about 95% of the cases. 190 private attorneys closed pro bono cases with Legal Aid of Arkansas.

- Center for Arkansas Legal Services – Kendall Lewellen reported that Jean Carter would be retiring in April 2022, after 25 years of service. They are currently in the early stages of recruiting for her replacement. Ms. Carter will be staying on as counsel to assist with the transition of filling that position. Center for Arkansas Legal Services handled more than 6,000 cases for 2021. Their attorneys are now supervised by a practice group leader based on their area of law practice, rather than where they are located or housed.
7. Next meeting date is June 3, 2022. Location to be determined.
 8. Mr. Clary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARKANSAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

By action of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation, Inc., taken without a meeting, pursuant to Section 3.08 of the BYLAWS of ARKANSAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION, INC.

RESOLVED, that the Foundation has restricted funds which were donated for the purpose of funding a scholarship based on a writing competition.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Foundation has already authorized the expenditure of these funds.

FURTHER RESOLVED, a Scholarship Committee consisting of John Thomas Shepherd, Deepali Lal, and Tabitha Lee, is appointed for the purpose of administering a scholarship competition and selecting the scholarship winner(s).

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective upon the signature of the last director.

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