



ARKANSAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE
REPRESENTING HOPE

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**Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation Board Meeting
August 11, 2023 via Zoom**

Foundation Board Members: Cliff McKinney – President, Brian Clary – Secretary, Hillis Schild – Treasurer, Aaron Brooks, Kyle Burton, Deepali Lal, Tabitha Lee, Harry Light, Kristin Pawlik, John Thomas Shepherd, Victoria Smith, & Eddie H. Walker, Jr.

Unavailable: Sainabou Sonko – Vice President, Debby Nye, & Gwendolyn Rucker

Guests: Mark Mayfield (Arkansas Access to Justice Commission Chair), Milo Mumgaard (Executive Director, Center for Arkansas Legal Services), & Lee Richardson (Executive Director, Legal Aid of Arkansas)

Staff: Jordan Bates-Rogers, Tameka Parker, Edith Chavez De Oseguera, & Autumn Ballard

Welcome and Introductions – Mr. Cliff McKinney

- Mr. McKinney called the meeting to order and asked for a full round of introductions. Mr. McKinney and Mr. Bates-Rogers took a moment to honor the life of the late Justice Robin Wynne and Mr. Bates-Rogers spoke briefly about the timeline and process for the Supreme Court to select a new liaison.

Business Items

- A quorum was present for the meeting.
- **Approval of May 2023 Minutes** – Mr. McKinney asked for a motion to accept the May 2023 minutes. Mr. Clary made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.
- **Executive Committee Action** – Mr. McKinney reported that the Executive Committee voted to authorize the purchase of several additional CDs during the interim.
- **Motion** – Mr. McKinney asked for a motion to approve Form 990. Ms. Schild made a motion to approve. Mr. Light seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.
- **Motion** – Mr. McKinney asked for a motion to re-elect directors Mr. Clary and Ms. Lal and renew their terms on the Foundation board. Ms. Smith made a motion to renew the



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terms of Mr. Clary and Ms. Lal. Mr. Walker, Jr. seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

- **Approval of Financial Report** – Ms. Schild drew attention to notable IOLTA income increases, reporting that March IOLTA income was \$69,676, but in April, IOLTA income jumped to \$103,741, and in May, IOLTA income jumped again to \$118,006.29. Ms. Schild said the higher interest rate environment was causing the influx. Ms. Schild reported that all current assets were largely cash at \$2.5 million in cash and kiosk equipment. June IOLTA income was \$126,660. Ms. Schild pointed out the travel budget and the need for an increase in the usual travel budget amount due to many Courthouse Kiosk installations requiring frequent travel across the state. Expenses for June were \$92,486, which left a monthly net income of \$42,008.77 YTD.
- **Motion** – Mr. McKinney asked for a motion to approve March-June financial reports as presented. Mr. Light moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Mr. Clary seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.
- **Motion** – Mr. McKinney asked for a motion to increase the travel budget from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to cover increased travel for Courthouse Kiosk installations. Ms. Schild moved to increase the travel budget. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Jordan Bates-Rogers

- **20th Anniversary/Access to Justice Month Kickoff** – Mr. Bates-Rogers reminded board members to sponsor, buy tickets, and nominate award honorees for the October 5 Access to Justice Month Kickoff Celebration. Mr. Bates-Rogers also announced that he was in discussions with the Wynne family to rename the Outstanding Judicial Service award in honor of Justice Wynne.
- **Courthouse Kiosk Program** – Mr. Bates-Rogers reported very quick progress on kiosk installations, but asked for help from board members to round up the counties that had not yet accepted a kiosk by speaking to clerks or judges. Mr. Bates-Rogers expressed hope to finish kiosk installations by the end of the year.
- **Justice Index Items** – Mr. Bates-Rogers spoke briefly about the Commission's work to tackle some of the Justice Index recommendations in which Arkansas was lacking and announced that the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee officially approved the *Legal Information vs. Legal Advice* guide that has been in progress. Mr. Bates-Rogers also reported that work on the Unlawful Detainer form was continuing and talks with the Judicial Council for approval of that form were continuing.



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IOLTA Report – Ms. Tameka Parker

- Ms. Parker reported a total of 41 Preferred Banks, paying a rate of 1% with the highest rate being 3.94%. Ms. Parker also reported that IOLTA income has doubled in amount from this time last year, and that she is in discussions with additional banks to reach Preferred status.

Project Reports – Mr. Jordan Bates-Rogers

- **CLEs** – Mr. Bates-Rogers reported Ms. Chavez De Oseguera organized several CLEs, including the Power Act CLE on August 4, attended well with 107 users online and 50 in person.
- **Free Legal Answers** – Mr. Bates-Rogers reported Ms. Chavez De Oseguera was hosting several FLA clinics, pushing the amount of clients served well ahead of last year.
- **Language Access Survey** – Mr. Bates-Rogers announced Ms. Chavez De Oseguera completed a Language Access Survey and was moving into working on a report from the survey. Ms. Chavez De Oseguera was also working on translation of court forms.
- **Upcoming CLEs** – August 18 – Pro Bono Appeals Basics; September 15 – Naturalization Clinic

Partner Organization Updates – Mr. Milo Mumgaard & Mr. Lee Richardson

- **Center for Arkansas Legal Services** – Mr. Mumgaard reported a 53% increase in cases closed (between 1,600 and 2,200) from Second Quarter 2022 to Second Quarter 2023. Mr. Mumgaard also reported a slight increase in helpline call volume, leading to 1,000 cases closed as a result, compared to 700 closed last year. Mr. Mumgaard attributed this increase to successful community outreach and clinical work. A three-year grant was received at CALS, intended to help revitalize the pro bono program. Mr. Mumgaard reported lots of outreach regarding Medicaid eligibility.
- **Legal Aid of Arkansas** – Mr. Richardson gave an update on the ARChoices Case and announced new medical legal partnerships with the Veterans Administration in Northwest Arkansas, the Boston Mountain Rural Health Clinic, and UAMS.
- **FY 2024 Slides** – Mr. Mumgaard and Mr. Richardson presented slides detailing an estimated decrease in federal funding for legal services programs and the impact that decrease might have on the ability of CALS and Legal Aid to perform at their current level.



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Next Meeting Date – November 3, 2023 – 12 pm – via Zoom

Meeting Adjournment – Mr. McKinney asked for a motion to adjourn after no new business was brought forward. Ms. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pawlik seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed.