



ARKANSAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE
REPRESENTING HOPE

425 W Capitol Ave, Suite 480 · Little Rock, AR 72201 · 501.492.7175 · arkansasjustice.org

Arkansas Access to Justice Commission Meeting
March 15, 2024 via Zoom

Commission Members: Mark Mayfield – Chair, Judge Kim Bridgforth – Vice Chair, Judge Carlton Jones – Secretary, Bonnie Allen, Rachael Borné, Rep. Andrew Collins, Sharnae Diggs, Will Foster, Prof. Kelly Browe Olson, Kendall Lewellen, Skye Martin, Lee Richardson, Dequeshia Prude-Wheeler, Dr. Chadwick Rodgers, and Judge Adam Weeks, Justice Barbara Webb

Unavailable: Sen. Ben Gilmore, Benetick Maddison, Tiffany Murphy,

Staff: Abby Brenneman, Tameka Parker, Edith Chavez de Oseguera, Autumn Ballard

Welcome and Introductions – Mr. Mayfield

- Mr. Mayfield called the meeting to order and remarked on Ms. Brenneman’s appointment as the new Executive Director of the Foundation and Commission. Ms. Brenneman thanked Mr. Mayfield for the introduction and looks forward to working with the Commission more.

Business Items

- A quorum was present for the meeting.
- **Approval of September 2023 Minutes** – Mr. Mayfield asked for a motion to approve the September 2023 minutes. Ms. Prude-Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Lewellen seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.
- **Commission Position Openings** – Mr. Mayfield noted that Ms. Murphy resigned her position on the Commission and asked for additional details. Ms. Brenneman responded that Ms. Murphy was no longer able to fulfill her Commission duties due to law school obligations, but she recommended Ms. Amelia McGowan to be appointed in her place. Mr. Foster supported Ms. McGowan’s suitability for the appointment. Mr. Mayfield thanked Ms. Murphy for her time served. Mr. Mayfield also noted Ms. Prude-Wheeler’s formal reappointment by letter. There was also an Executive Committee opening to be discussed at a later date.



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- **ARCP 72 (In Forma Pauperis)** – Mr. Mayfield noted the formation of a Task Force to review the In Forma Pauperis rule and several Commission members expressed interest in serving on that force, including Ms. Borne and Ms. Maggie Benson (LAA).

Executive Director’s Report – Ms. Brenneman

- **New Program Coordinator** – Ms. Brenneman announced Ms. Megan Douglas (not present) as the new Program Coordinator for Access to Justice and spoke highly of her suitability for the role. Ms. Brenneman also announced that Ms. Chavez De Osegeura would stay on the Access to Justice team as a contractor with a new title.
- **Courthouse Kiosks Program** – Ms. Brenneman reported 79 kiosks installed to date, leaving 16 counties without kiosks. She mentioned plans to reach out to those counties and hopefully get them on board with the project. Ms. Brenneman also noted the development of a survey that went out to court clerks to assess how much time clerks spend monitoring the kiosks; this information is useful in outreach to lingering counties without kiosks.
- **AR Law Help** – Ms. Brenneman pointed out issues with arlawhelp.org, and that developing strategies to address those issues would be a long term project.
- **Joint Board Retreat/Power Act CLE** – Ms. Brenneman highlighted the 2024 Joint Board Retreat this year combined with the annual Power Act CLE, May 16-17, in Fort Smith at the US Marshals Museum with more details to come.

Project Reports – Ms. Brenneman

- **Language Justice Project** - Ms. Brenneman reported that Ms. Chavez De Oseguera’s work on the Language Justice Project had resulted in the translation of 93 forms into several languages. Work was still ongoing to reinstate the Marshallese Court Interpreter Certification exam, and plain language educational videos on legal terms were also in the works.
- **Free Legal Answers** - Ms. Brenneman spoke about outreach to rural Arkansas counties to gather more questions from those areas, since most questions were coming from Pulaski County. Outreach plans included partnering with libraries in rural areas and making sure they had access to resources. Ms. Brennan also noted that Ms. Chavez De Oseguera was partnering with UALR-Bowen to answer some FLA questions, which doubled as a learning opportunity for students.
- **Legal Information vs. Legal Advice** – Ms. Brenneman reported that the Legal Information vs. Legal Advice document was finished and ready to be distributed.

Breakout Sessions – Ms. Chavez De Oseguera & Ms. Brenneman



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- Ms. Chavez De Oseguera met with the Policy Committee regarding plain language video materials and Ms. Brenneman met with the Governance Committee regarding executive committee nominations in separate breakout sessions.

Next Meeting Date – May 16-17, 2024 Joint Board Retreat in Fort Smith, AR

Meeting Adjourned after breakout sessions.