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MINUTES

Access to Justice Board
Justice Without Barriers Committee

March 27, 2012

Noon – 2:00

By Conference Call

Welcome and Introductions: David Lord, Lynn Greiner, Charley Dyer, Kirsten Barron, Joan Fairbanks, Andrew Lee, Ashley McDonald, Shirley Bondon, Vicky Marin, Judge Greg Sypolt, Debi Perluss, Josefina Ramirez

Approval of January 24, 2012 Justice Without Barriers Committee Minutes: Charley Dyer noted a correction. The minutes were otherwise approved.

Status Report: Justice Without Barriers Comments on Proposed Family Law Civil Rules: Kirsten reported on the summer 2011 request from the Family Law Subcommittee of the WSBA Local Rules Task Force for ATJ Board comments on proposed family law civil rules. The ATJ Board delegated that task to this committee which in turn created a workgroup of Josefina Ramirez, Lisa Hayden and Charley Dyer to review the rules and provide comments. They worked very quickly to complete a comprehensive review. At the Board of Governor's first reading of the proposed rules, it appeared that this committee's comments had not been incorporated. Kirsten will attend the April Board of Governors meeting to make a final request for inclusion of these comments; but regardless, the ATJ Board will submit them directly to the Supreme Court once the rules are published for comment.

Access to Electronically Stored Records – Andrew Lee has been researching questions posed in an earlier report prepared by Mike Katell and the ATJ Board's Technology Committee. That report documented that most counties don't have electronic access and those that do are implementing their own processes. Given the pendency of the Supreme Court's review of GR 34, the focus is now to develop a set of best practices for contractual applications, user experience, etc. Andrew's NY University School of Law Fellowship has been extended until January 2013.

Status of identification of new Disability Access and Administrative Justice Subcommittee Chairs - David Lord is the current chair of the Disability Access Committee but would like to step down as chair. The Administrative Justice Subcommittee current has no chair. There is consensus that the upcoming retreat will provide an opportunity to discuss this.

Subcommittee reports:

- Disability Access – The Subcommittee facilitated a GR 33 training in November and another one is planned for the summer. The last meeting of the Subcommittee was January 26.

•Pro Se Project – The project continues to move forward. NJP staff attorney Laurie Garber is working full-time on the legal review of the forms translation and there is a new contract with Transcend to complete the translation of the family law forms. Laurie is establishing three separate work groups to review the forms, with the goal of completion in September. There is a Rally Support Committee being organized for the purpose of making presentations to stakeholders. There will be a workshop at the June ATJ Conference on using the forms, for the purpose of getting feedback on their ease of use, clarity, etc. The Project is starting to test the forms, and has plans to start with a group of family law litigants in Whatcom County.

Discussion of proposed JWB retreat: The committee discussed the suggestion of a retreat. The consensus was that the committee has accomplished a lot – especially in the disability area – and that it is time to evaluate its mission and focus. There is a need to develop new partnerships with other stakeholders. The Administrative Justice Subcommittee has developed an ambitious agenda but is in need of leadership and new members. There is a need to recruit new JWB Committee members to generate a new level of energy and commitment to moving forward on key initiatives.

Future meetings (noon – 2 by conference call unless otherwise indicated)

May 8

July 10

September 11

November 13