

Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission (ATJC)
September 18, 2013

Members In Attendance: Hon. Beth Baker (Acting Chair), Jonathan Bennion, Jennifer Brandon, Hon. David Ortley, Aimee Grmoljez, Rep. Chuck Hunter, Hon. Kurt Krueger, Robin Meguire, Alison Paul, Melanie Reynolds, Sen. Rick Ripley, Hon. Michele Snowberger, Randall Snyder

In Attendance by phone: 0

Call to Order time: 10:10 am

All ATJC members introduced themselves, as did John Tull and other involved individuals.

Strategic Planning Exercise

John Tull introduced himself as facilitator and presented a strategic planning discussion regarding goals, roles, and consensus building. Each member of ATJC spoke about their individual goals and hopes for ATJC, and what access to justice means. John Tull summarized and noted that all members are focused on having an action plan. As presented by John Tull, members reviewed five of the nine goals of Supreme Court Order forming ATJC. Assessing the unmet needs of low and moderate income Montanans addressed, including Gaps and Barriers Study, Commission on Self-Represented Litigants Data, and Office on Aging Assessment. Members discussed coordinating efforts to better meet unmet legal needs and tapping strength of informal coordination of effort to address priorities with actions. Members discussed access to the courts, what access means, who the ATJC should focus on as regards access, and how to assure accessibility for all. ATJC members discussed how to provide long-range, integrated planning among legal assistance providers and others and how to facilitate networking and communication among them. ATJC members discussed the outcomes of fostering the development of a statewide integrated civil legal services system. ATJC members discussed the outcomes of designing and implementing new programs to expand access to justice and work toward the most efficient use of resources related to civil access to justice. ATJC members discussed how to work toward securing and maintaining adequate funding for civil access to justice and coordinate statewide efforts to accomplish efforts as an overarching part of all actions. Justice Baker suggested and John Tull guided ATJC members to discuss action piece of what members can do to move forward. ATJC members discussed outreach to community regarding access to justice issue. John Tull suggested he will follow up with ATJC members to assess resources available, identify possible actions and actors, and present conclusions at next meeting. ATJC members discussed date for next meeting and actions needed prior to that date. Justice Baker tentatively set meeting for Friday, November 22, 2013 with a tentative alternate of Monday, November 25, 2013.