

**Executive Committee**  
**North Dakota Judicial Conference**

February 17, 2016

Supreme Court Front Conference Room  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Present: Judge Bruce Romanick, Chair  
Justice Daniel Crothers  
Judge Bruce Haskell  
Judge Gary Lee  
Judge Steven McCullough  
Justice Dale Sandstrom

Staff: Lee Ann Barnhardt  
Sally Holewa

The Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference met on February 17, 2016. Chair Romanick called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

**Judge Haskell moved to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Justice Sandstrom. Motion carried.**

Lee Ann Barnhardt, Director of Judicial Education and Communication, reviewed the agenda for the June 2016 Judicial Conference. At the last meeting, the Committee had decided that the Conference should be held in Grand Forks in conjunction with the annual meeting of the State Bar Association, with the possibility of it beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2016. Ms. Barnhardt suggested that now that a schedule for the annual meeting has been released that the date of June 16th would still work, but it would be better to have the Conference start at 1:30 p.m. to avoid conflicting with the plenary sessions offered by SBAND. She then presented a suggestion from Judge Mattson to include a session on the Justice Reinvestment project and a suggestion from Judge Feland to include a session on the Guardianship Review process. **Judge Lee moved that the Committee approve the agenda, date, time, and location of the meeting as presented, subject to the Justice Reinvestment team accepting the invitation. The motion was seconded by Justice Crothers. Motion carried** The length of the Conference was left open-ended to accommodate the time that the Justice Reinvestment team may need for their presentation.

Discussion followed regarding the agenda for the business meeting. Justice Crothers moved that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Haskell. Motion carried. Justice Sandstrom moved that the start for the business meeting be set at 1:30 p.m. with the educational sessions to begin as soon as the business meeting was adjourned. Seconded by Judge Haskell. Motion carried.

Justice Sandstrom raised the issue of finding a replacement for him as Chair of the Committee on Legislation when he leaves office in December. He said the members are appointed by the Chair of the Executive Committee after consultation with the Executive Committee. He said that current members, Judge Mattson and Judge Irby, have been active and engaged in committee work. However, he suggested that the Committee consider appointing someone from Bismarck as the next Chair because of the need to be readily accessible to respond to individual legislators or testify during legislative sessions.

Judge Lee said that with budget restrictions on travel for the balance of the biennium, it will be important that the continuing judicial education hours offered at each conference be sufficient for judges to get their required CJE hours in-state. He asked that staff be especially mindful of this need when planning educational sessions for this Conference and future events.

There being no further business to come before the committee, **Judge Lee moved for adjournment. Seconded by Justice Crothers. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Holewa  
Executive Secretary to the Judicial Conference