

North Dakota Judicial Conference

November 23, 2015

Radisson Hotel

Bismarck, ND

Chair Bruce Romanick called the business meeting of the Judicial Conference to order at 10:03 a.m. on November 23, 2015. Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator, called the roll:

Justices of Supreme Court

Gerald W. VandeWalle
Dale V. Sandstrom

Carol Ronning Kapsner

Daniel J. Crothers
Lisa K. Fair McEvers

Judges of District Court

Lolita G. Hartl Romanick
Laurie A. Fontaine
Lee A. Christofferson
Donovan Foughty
M. Richard Geiger
John C. McClintock, Jr.

Frank L. Racek
Douglas R. Herman
Steven L. Marquart
Steven E. McCullough
Thomas R. Olson
John E. Greenwood
Bradley A. Cruff
James D. Hovey
Thomas E. Merrick
Daniel D. Narum
Jay A. Schmitz
Jerod E. Tufte

Gail Hagerty
Sonna M. Anderson
Cynthia M. Feland
John W. Grinsteiner
James S. Hill
David E. Reich
Bruce A. Romanick
William A. Herauf
Rhonda Ehlis
Dann E. Greenwood

Todd Cresap
Douglas L. Mattson
David W. Nelson
Daniel S. El-Dweek
Paul W. Jacobson
Joshua B. Rustad
Robin A. Schmidt
Kirsten M. Sjue

Judges of Municipal Court

Robert A. Keogh
DeNae H.M. Kautzmann

Surrogate Judges

Zane Anderson
Benny A. Graff
Mary Muehlen Maring

Joel D. Medd
William A. Neumann

John T. Paulson
Allan L. Schmalenberger
Michael G. Sturdevant

Attorney General

Wayne K. Stenehjem

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Penny Miller

Members of the Bar

Michael F. Daley

A quorum was declared and the business meeting proceeded.

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Chair Romanick then read a Memorial Resolution in honor of Judge Lawrence Leclerc and a Memorial Resolution in honor of Judge Gerald Rustad. **Surrogate Judge Medd moved that the Judicial Conference adopt the Resolutions. Seconded by Judge Zane Anderson. The motion carried and the Resolutions were adopted.**

Judge Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Judge McClintock. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Chair Romanick called on Justice Sandstrom to deliver the report of the Committee on Legislation. Justice Sandstrom began his report by acknowledging the contributions of his fellow committee members, Judge Irby and Judge Mattson. Justice Sandstrom reminded the members that the duties of the Judicial Conference include receiving and evaluating suggestions relating to the improvement of the administration of justice and considering and making recommendations to the Supreme Court for any matter pertaining to the judicial system. He concluded his remarks by asking the members to submit ideas for further legislative changes to himself or other members of the Committee on Legislation and by reminding them of the need for members to review legislation during the session and alerting the committee early on if there are any concerns about a specific bill. Judge John Greenwood suggested that the Conference consider proposing legislation to expand the list of professions who can conduct independent medical examinations in mental health cases. He said current legislation restricts this duty to psychiatrists and it is difficult to find a psychiatrist. He suggested that 4th year medical residents be added to the list. A further suggestion was received by another judge suggesting that nurse practitioners also be included in any proposed legislation.

Chair Romanick next called on Judge Feland to present information on recent legislative changes to the guardianship laws.

Chair Romanick then asked if there was any further business to come before the Conference. There being no further business, **Judge Herauf moved to adjourn. Seconded by Judge Hill. The motion carried and the meeting ended at 11:26 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Holewa
State Court Administrator
Executive Secretary to the Judicial Conference