Judicial Branch Education Commission

Minutes

(Unofficial Until Approved)

June 7, 2019

Via Go To Meeting

**Members Present**

Justice Daniel Crothers, Chair

District Judge Susan Bailey

Sally Holewa, State Court Administrator

Chris Iverson, Asst. Trial Court Administrator, Unit 2

District Judge Kirsten Sjue

Larry Zubke, I.T. Director

District Judge John Grinsteiner

District Judge Kirsten Sjue

**Staff Present**

Lee Ann Barnhardt. Education Director

Kim Dockter, Special Projects Coordinator

Justice Crothers called the meeting to order. **A motion was made by Sally Holewa to approve the February 1, 2019, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Judge John Grinsteiner. Motion carried.**

Old Business

1. Conference Updates – Ms. Barnhardt updated the Commission on the following conferences:
2. June Judicial Conference is scheduled for June 13 in Fargo. The topic will be animals in the courtroom.
3. Court Recorders Training is June 13 in Bismarck. The topic is grammar and writing. The session will be delivered online via GoToMeeting. A small group will be present in Bismarck with the faculty and the others will participate from their own offices.
4. The next Live@Lunch for Judges is scheduled for Aug. 8. The topic is Interstate Compact. Ms. Barnhardt will send out an invitation within the next few weeks.
5. The Municipal Court Judges Conference is Oct. 7 in Bismarck. Ms. Barnhardt is working on the agenda.
6. The Fall Judicial Conference is Nov. 25-26 in Bismarck. Proposed topics include a US Supreme Court case update, addiction and treatment, business and property valuation, jurisdiction with tribal courts and human trafficking update.

Judge Grinsteiner commented that he appreciated the efforts of the education department to provide enough quality learning opportunities and that is happy with the education judges are receiving in state. Judge Sjue added that the Judicial Institute in May was well received by the judges.

New Business

1. 2021 Judicial Institute – Ms. Barnhardt notified the Commission that North Dakota has been selected to host the 2021 Annual Conference of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. The dates will be May 24-26, 2021 in Grand Forks. This is the same time as the Judicial Institute would have been scheduled. Ms. Barnhardt said she, Sally Holewa and Chief Justice VandeWalle had discussed combining the Institute with the national conference and wanted feedback from the Commission.

**Following discussion regarding making sure session offerings were relevant to judge needs, a motion was made by Judge Grinsteiner to hold the Judicial Institute in concert with the National Consortium annual meeting in 2021. The motion was seconded by Judge Sjue. Motion carried.**

Justice Crothers added that he would like to include a member from the Commission on the planning committee for the conference.

1. Future Spring Seminars – Justice Crothers said he would like the Commission to consider offering a spring seminar for judges each year instead of just even calendar years. He recommended calling it the Judicial Institute and holding it at the same time each year for consistency. Judge Sjue asked if the date could be changed to move it further away from the State Bar annual meeting which is held in June. The Commission discussed holding the Institute in April each year and moving the location between Bismarck and either Fargo or Grand Forks. Bismarck would only be available on even years due to Legislative committees using the training rooms.

**Judge Bailey made a motion to hold the Judicial Institute annually in the spring. Judge Sjue seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Ms. Barnhardt will begin planning for the 2020 Judicial Institute in Bismarck and will look for dates in April. The April timeframe was approved by consensus.

1. Learning Management System –Kim Dockter, education and special projects coordinator, reported that she has received 3 responses to a request for proposal issued for a learning management system for the court. She said an LMS would centralize education event management and include registration, content management, online courses, evaluations and course credit tracking. Ms. Dockter said she and Ms. Barnhardt will be meeting with the vendors in the coming weeks to determine initial and ongoing costs and technology requirements. A report on the status of the LMS project will be given at the October meeting.
2. Court Connections - Ms. Barnhardt informed the Commission that she has been working with the Supreme Court to put some structure around the court’s judicial outreach programs. They will be launching Court Connections in the Fall that will promote interaction between the court system and schools. Ms. Barnhardt will be coordinating the program and is seeking volunteers from the district court judges to participate. As part of the program, faculty development courses will be offered to teach judges about learning styles, how to engage an audience and presentation skills. A number of resources and course materials are being created for the judges to access.
3. CJE Reporting Period and Reminders – There is one year left on the current 3-year reporting period for judges, referees, and juvenile court officers. The education department will be sending out a reminder at the end of June to all individuals who are required to report continuing education hours. A list of all courses the have been approved for this period will be included along with instructions on how to get courses approved for credit. The reporting period ends June 30, 2020.
4. Meeting Dates for 2019

The next meeting date is October 25, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned