

Judicial Branch Education Commission  
Minutes  
(Unofficial Until Approved)  
December 4, 2015

Members Present

Judge Steven McCullough, Chair via phone  
Justice Daniel Crothers  
Municipal Judge Darcie Einarson via phone  
Chris Iverson, Assistant Trial Court Administrator  
Judge Debbie Kleven via phone  
Cory Pedersen, Unit 3 Juvenile Court Director  
Dean Kathryn Rand via phone  
Judge David Reich  
Larry Zubke, Technology Director

Members Absent

Judge John McClintock

Guest

Tony Weiler, SBAND

Staff Present

Lee Ann Barnhardt, Director of Education and Communication  
Scott Johnson, Asst. State Court Administrator for Trial Courts  
Kimberly Dockter, Special Projects Coordinator  
Lana Zimmerman, scribe

Judge McCullough called the meeting to order. **A motion was made by Justice Crothers to approve the September 25, 2015, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cory Pedersen. Motion carried.**

Old Business

I. Conference Updates - Ms. Barnhardt updated the Commission on the progress of the following conferences.

A. The 2016 Annual ICWA Conference is scheduled February 17-19, 2016, at the Baymont Inn, in Mandan.

B. The 2016 Spring Juvenile Court Conference is scheduled April 12-13, 2016, at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck. Kim Dockter will send out information at the end of January.

C. The 2016 Annual Clerk of Court Conference is scheduled May 4-6, 2016, at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. Lee Ann Barnhardt will send out registration in the Spring.

## II. Intranet Education Website

Kim Dockter reported that the intranet education website is up and ready to soft launch. She is adding some materials that were used at previous conferences. She will send out a link to a small group to test within the next week.

## III. Plan for Future Bench Books - Update

After this year, Judge Geiger plans to discontinue preparing updates for the trial court benchbook. Ms. Barnhardt asked Judge Geiger to estimate how much time it takes to update the Bench Book in preparation for requesting staff time for future updates. As of this meeting date, she hasn't received a response. She asked the Commission on guidance for how to proceed with the future Bench Book editions.

After discussion on how to proceed, it was suggested that Ms. Barnhardt meet with Sally Holewa and discuss the options suggested on how to proceed with the production of the Bench Book.

This topic was deferred until the next meeting in March.

## IV. Summer Judicial Conference

A. Training on domestic violence has been offered to the court through a grant from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Grand Forks Community Violence Intervention Center. Ms. Barnhardt has contacted the Grand Forks center to discuss the possibility of moving the proposed training to next fall. The group has requested an extension on their training grant funds and are fairly certain the request will be granted. Ms. Barnhardt will collaborate with the group on the agenda and faculty.

B. Tony Weiler executive director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota, provided the Commission proposed agenda items for the 2016 SBAND Annual Meeting. Proposed speakers for the meeting are American Bar Association President Paulette Brown, Retired Associate Justice Allan Page of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Erin Shanley and Bob Stein. There will be sessions on race and bias, ethics, the disciplinary process, changes in technology, and cyber security. Ms. Barnhardt will work with SBAND to schedule the Judicial Conference meeting within the SBAND conference.

## New Business

### I. Education Commission Strategic Plan

Ms. Barnhardt updated the Commission on the status changes to the Education Commission Strategic Plan. Most areas are on track with some status areas complete. The Commission will

need to make plans to draft a new five-year plan in 2016.

## II. Elect New Commission Chair

Judge Reich nominated Justice Crothers as the chair of the Judicial Branch Education Commission. Cory Pedersen seconded the nomination. Motion carried. The new chair of the Judicial Branch Education Commission is Justice Crothers. He is replacing Judge McCullough.

## III. Recognize Outgoing Members

Lee Ann Barnhardt thanked Judge Steven McCullough and Judge David Reich as outgoing members of the Judicial Branch Education Commission. Incoming members are Judge Gary Lee and Judge Susan Bailey.

## IV. Set 2015 Meeting Dates

Lee Ann Barnhardt will send out proposed 2016 meeting dates to the members of the Commission. The months proposed are March, June, September and December.

**A motion was made by Cory Pedersen to adjourn. Motion seconded by Judge Reich, motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.