

Commission on the Well-Being of the Legal Profession

Minutes – January 25, 2018 Meeting (Draft)

Present: Chief Justice Paul Reiber, Judge Bill Cohen, Dean Tom McHenry, Mike Kennedy, Ian Carleton, Josh Simonds and Teri Corsones were present. Chris Newbold and Laura Wilson participated by phone. Justice Marilyn Skoglund, a member of the Judges Committee, was also present.

Chief Justice Reiber began the meeting at 1:43 p.m. He welcomed all present. Each introduced himself or herself and spoke briefly about their interest in the Commission.

Task Force Report: Chris Newbold, a member of the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, provided an overview of the Task Force Report and its recommendations. He very much appreciates the opportunity the Commission offers to address the Report's recommendations on a state level.

Timeline: Mike Kennedy reviewed the proposed timeline that was included with the agenda. Commissioners were asked to name their committee members and to schedule at least one committee meeting before the VBA Mid-Year Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 23. Commissioners were also asked to attend the Mid-Year Meeting, in order to participate in the plenary session at the beginning of the day. One possible adjustment to the proposed timeline is to explore inviting committee members to the Commission meeting scheduled for July, 2018. Commissioners will check with their committees about that possibility, when setting up their committee meetings. No other changes to the proposed timeline were suggested at this point.

Lawyers Assistance Program: Josh Simonds described the origins of Vermont's Lawyers Assistance Program, which John Webber began and led as a voluntary organization and Josh has similarly continued. He also described different possibilities for a funded Lawyers' Assistance Program. Part of the Commission work will be for each committee to provide input regarding what each would like to see in a funded Lawyers' Assistance Program.

Committee Details: Judge Cohen recommended that committees include 5-6 members, with geographic, demographic and experience-level diversity. He distributed copies of 1 V.S.A. §310 and the Vermont Secretary of State's Guide to Open Meetings. Committees should forward agendas and minutes of meetings to Teri for posting on the VBA website, where a page has been set up under the "For Attorneys" tab. Commission meeting agendas and meeting will be posted on the Judiciary website. Committee reports and the state action plan will also be posted when they are developed.

VBA MYM Plenary Session: Teri distributed a proposed outline for the VBA Mid-Year Meeting Plenary Session, beginning at 8:15 a.m. and ending at 9:45 a.m. on Friday, March 23. Cecie Hartigan, the long-time and recently-retired Executive Director of the New Hampshire Lawyers' Assistance Program and a national speaker regarding the well-being of the legal profession, will be the keynote speaker. Each Commissioner will speak briefly about his or her committee and the key recommendations the committee will review. Josh will also describe the current LAP in Vermont, and will briefly explore what a funded Lawyers' Assistance Program might look like, with input from Cecie Hartigan and Terri Harrington, Cecie's successor as Executive Director of the New Hampshire LAP. Information will be provided about how lawyers, judges and law students can provide input into the process.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ter Corsones