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Law and Justice Interim Committee

59th Montana Legislature

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SHERI HEFFELFINGER, Lead Staff
VALENCIA LANE, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

SCHEDULE FOR OPTIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER TOURS AND BRIEFINGS

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

- 10:00 a.m. **Montana Legal Services Association and Pro Se Family Law Project, 2442 1st Ave. North:** Visit MLSA staff offices, meeting with MLSA staff and clients, **Mr. Klaus Sitte**, MLSA Executive Director, and staff
- 1:30 p.m. **Women's Prison, 701 S. 27th Street, Billings:**
Tour and briefing by Department of Corrections, **Ms. Jo Acton**, Warden

Thursday, March 23, 2006

- 12:30 p.m. **Yellowstone County Family Drug Court, 13th Judicial District, 217 N. 27th Street**
- Tour and briefing at the Yellowstone County Courthouse with the **Honorable Susan P. Waters**, Family Drug Court District Judge, **Ms. Becky Bey**, Coordinator, and members of the court team.
- 1:30 p.m. Committee members may observe Family Drug Court team meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Committee members may observe Family Drug Court session

MEETING AGENDA
Meeting #6

LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE
Sheraton Billings Hotel, 27 N. 27th Street, Billings

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Wednesday, March 22, 2006
Sundance Room

Pro Se Subcommittee: SJR 6 study of civil legal services for low income

- 4:00 p.m. Convene, secretary will note the role
Approval of February 17, 2006, subcommittee minutes (if available)
- 4:35 p.m. Initial review and mark-up of the subcommittee's bill draft requested on February 17, 2006, to provide for a state Judicial Branch program on access to civil legal justice for *pro se* litigants, **Ms. Sheri Heffelfinger**, Legislative Staff
- Public Comment
- 6:00 p.m. Adjournment

Thursday, March 23, 2006
Skytop Room

Full Committee: SJR 40 study of county attorney services

- 7:15 a.m. Continental breakfast available for committee members in meeting room
- 7:30 a.m. Convene, roll noted
Approval of January 19, 2006, minutes (meeting of full committee)
- 7:35 a.m. **Rep. John Parker:** Chairman's introductory remarks
- 7:45 a.m. **Ms. Sheri Heffelfinger:** Legislative staff overview of issues and decision points:
- County Attorney Salaries (10 min): statutes, how salaries are set, funding obligations, issues on the table for discussion, possible resolutions
 - County Attorney Caseload Data (5 min): Dept. of Justice plan for IT interface with Judicial Branch Full Court IT (*Mr. Bill Griffenberg, DOJ, IT Division*)
 - State Crime Lab (7 min): staff, funding, current issues (*Mr. Larry Fasbender*)
 - Prosecution Services Bureau, Attorney General's Office (7 min): Department of Justice Executive Budget Proposal (*Mr. Larry Fasbender*)

(more)

MEETING AGENDA
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LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE
Sheraton Billings Hotel, 27 N. 27th Street, Billings

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- 8:15 a.m. **Stakeholder panel:** Discussion about whether and how committee legislation may address the policy and funding issues related to: (1) salaries, (2) caseload data, (3) state crime lab services, and (4) the Prosecution Services Bureau
- Montana County Attorney Association
 - **Mr. Fred Van Valkenburg**, Missoula County Attorney, MCAA president
 - **Mr. Mike Weber**, Richland County Attorney, Vice-President, MCAA
 - Montana Association of Counties
 - **Ms. Sheryl Wood**, Associate Director
 - Attorney General's Office/Department of Justice
 - **Attorney General Mike McGrath**
 - **Mr. Larry Fasbender**, Deputy Director
 - **Mr. Bill Griffenberg**, Administrator, Information Technology
- 9:15 a.m. Break
- 9:30 a.m. **Ms. Sheri Heffelfinger:** Staff Update on Public Defender Commission Activities, Role of LJIC (*5 minutes*)
- Ms. Angie Lang:** Legislative Audit of County Public Defender Offices (*10 minutes*)
- 9:45 a.m. Public Comment
- 10:15 a.m. **Rep. John Parker, Chairman -- committee work session:** actions and instructions to staff on bill drafts, if any, to be developed for the committee's further consideration
- 11:00 p.m. Working lunch catered
- 12:00 noon Adjournment