



Law and Justice Interim Committee

59th Montana Legislature

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VALENCIA LANE, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

REVISED AGENDA

Meeting #4

Thursday, January 19, 2006
Room 102, State Capitol, Helena

- 8:30 a.m. Secretary will note the roll
Approval of Sept. 21-22, 2005, and November 17, 2005, minutes
Chairman's comments on purpose of meeting, **Rep. John Parker**
- 8:40 a.m. Presentation and discussion about current services and support for self-represented litigants:
- ▶ demonstration of web sites and how to access currently available *pro se* forms, and services of the state law library, costs, is a statewide coordinator needed, **Ms. Tammy Hindermann**, State Law Library
 - ▶ how judges can and cannot provide *pro se* assistance, what legislative actions would assist courts the most, **Hon. Russell Judge Fagg** (District Judge, 13th Judicial District, Yellowstone County) and **Hon. Michele Snowberger** (Justice of the Peace, Gallatin County)
 - ▶ district court clerk services and challenges in providing support to *pro se* patrons, training, concerns about crossing the line and providing "legal" advise, resources, **Ms. Lori Maloney**, Clerk of District Court, Butte-Silver Bow (*Ms. Maloney will be joining the discussion in late morning or early afternoon and will be available for the Roundtable Discussion*)
 - ▶ demonstration of the *pro se* network web site and discussion of what private attorneys and the State Bar can or cannot do to help a *pro se* client and the pros and cons of non-attorneys providing "legal" advise, **Mr. Chris Manos**, State Bar
 - ▶ can and should we duplicate the Eastern Montana Self-Help Law Project in other geographical areas, how, and why or why not, **Ms. Tara Veazey**, MLSA, Self-Help Law Project
- 10:45 a.m. Briefing from the **Department of Corrections** on the recent prisoner escape in Helena during transport from Cascade County to the State Prison

REVISED AGENDA

Meeting #4

**Thursday, January 19, 2006
Room 102, State Capitol, Helena**

- 11:00 a.m. BREAK
- 11:15 a.m. Public Comment
- 12 noon LUNCH BREAK
- 1:00 p.m. The fundamental rights at stake in the area of self-representation and how services and support for *pro se* litigants be expanded or enhanced in Montana, **Chief Justice Karla Gray**, Montana Supreme Court
- 1:30 p.m. Staff presentation of options checklist, **Sheri Heffelfinger**, staff researcher; Roundtable discussion with all invited guest speakers: Discussion of options for expanding or enhancing *pro se* services throughout the state, **Rep. John Parker**, Chairman
- 2:00 p.m. Committee Work Session: Development of preliminary recommendations, including any bill draft requests, on expanding or enhancing *pro se* assistance throughout Montana, **Rep. John Parker**, Chairman
- 2:45 p.m. BREAK
- 3:00 p.m. Update on Public Defender Act implementation, **Ms. Randi Hood**, Chief Public Defender
- 3:15 p.m. Progress report on legislative audits of county actual costs for public defender services, **Ms. Angie Lang**, Coordinator for Audit Development, Legislative Audit Division
- 3:30 p.m. Judicial branch information technology capabilities and limitations, strategic plan and progress report on various projects, costs and funding challenges, **Mr. Jim Oppedahl**, Court Administrator, Office of Court Administrator, Judicial Branch
- 4:15 p.m. Rule review matters, **Valencia Lane**, staff attorney
Other business, **Sheri Heffelfinger**, staff researcher
Instructions to staff
- 4:30 p.m. Adjournment