

Public Access to Court Records Planning Committee
Wednesday, August 25, 2004

Minutes

The Public Access to Court Records Planning Committee met on Wednesday, August 25, 2004. In attendance were: J. D. Gingerich; John Stewart; Tim Holthoff; Karolyn Bond; Steve Sipes; and John Plegge.

John Plegge called the meeting to order.

John Plegge advised that the first order of business would be to establish members to sit on the permanent Committee.

It was determined that all those present at today's meeting would continue to sit on the Committee with the exception of J. D. Gingerich, who would act as an advisory member to the Committee. In addition it was decided that the Committee should contain members from the following groups/associations: The Prosecutors' Association; Public Defenders' Association; Arkansas Press Association; Domestic Violence Coalition; Arkansas Bar Association; Chamber of Commerce; Attorney General's Office; Clerks' Association; Law School; Judicial Council; District Judges' Association; CIO; ACLU; and a member of the Legislature. John Stewart will be preparing a letter to be mailed out to these groups, advising them of the Committee's existence, purpose, and next meeting date. They will be asked to designate a person of their choice to sit on the Committee. The groups will be asked to respond back within two weeks with their designee for purposes of organizing the first full Public Access to Court Records Committee meeting.

John Plegge asked for the establishment of a meeting date for the full Committee. The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 101 of the Justice Building.

J. D. Gingerich stated that Jodie Mahony would be a good representation from the legislature to sit on the Committee. He also stated that John Watkins might be willing to sit on the Committee as a representative from the Law School.

Tim Holthoff advised that the planning Committee would need to have a model policy as well as copies of policies already adopted by other states available at the full Committee meeting.

John Plegge inquired as to whether there would be any public hearings held. Everyone was in agreement that there should probably be at least one held in Little Rock.

The group then addressed the hiring of a law clerk to work on the Public Access statutory issues. Several resumes were provided to the planning committee. After reviewing the resumes the planning committee chose four candidates for interview. Those selected were: Matthew Lunde;

Tabitha Baertels; Mark Johnson; and Chris Jennings. It was determined that Court Services Director Larry Brady of the AOC would set up and establish the time and date for the interviews.

Steve Sipes stated that work experience would be the big factor in the selection of the law clerk.

The planning committee agreed to meet again on Monday, September 20, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the AOC Library to see what groups/associations had responded to the letter to be sent out and to establish who the law clerk would be as well as any other organizational work needed to be done in preparation for the first full Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.