

Public Access to Court Records Planning Committee
September 20, 2004

Minutes

The Public Access to Court Records Planning Committee met on Monday, September 20, 2004. In attendance were: John Plegge, Chair; Karolyn Bond; Tim Holthoff; Steve Sipes; Mark Johnson; and Pam King.

Tim Holthoff reported that interviews for a law clerk were conducted by J. D. Gingerich. He advised that Mark Johnson had been hired to fill the position.

John Plegge inquired as to whom had responded to the invitation to the first meeting of the Public Access Task Force meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 22nd in Room 101 of the Justice Building in Little Rock.

Pam King provided the following list of responses:

1. Coalition Against Domestic Violence - designee, Jane Kita
2. Circuit Clerk's Association - designee, Jeanne Steen
3. UALR School of Law - designee, Richard Peltz
4. Arkansas Bar Association - designee, Jeff Moore
5. Arkansas Judicial Council - designee, Judge Ben Story
6. Arkansas Press Association - designee, Tom Larimer
7. Chief Information Officer - designee, Cathy Gattin
8. U of A Law School - designee, Tim Parker
9. Prosecutor Coordinator's Office - designee, Tom Tatum
10. ACLU - No designee but a recommendation of an individual not acting on behalf of the ACLU
11. John Burnett, Attorney - Acting individually; referred by the ACLU

Pam King reported that there had been no response from the following organizations/persons:

1. Public Defender's Commission - Didi Sallings
2. Chamber of Commerce - Paul Harvel
3. Attorney General's Office - Mike Beebe
4. County Clerk's Association - Britt Williford
5. District Judges Council - David Saxon
6. Representative Jodie Mahony
7. Professor John Watkins

Steve Sipes will contact the Chamber of Commerce and the Attorney General's Office as a follow up to the invitation mailed.

John Plegge will contact the Public Defender's Commission and Representative Jodie Mahony as a follow up to the invitation mailed.

Karolyn Bond will contact Judge David Saxon as a follow up to the invitation mailed.

Tim Holthoff will contact county clerk Britt Williford as a follow up to the invitation mailed.

Steve Sipes reported that the Supreme Court Committee on Automation had adopted the COSCA model policy for public access to records as well as the table of contents with the exception of item number 7.

Tim Holthoff advised that these two items would be passed out at the meeting.

John Plegge advised that as far as an agenda, he would call the meeting to order and explain the purpose of the Task Force and would then turn the meeting over to Steve and Tim to review the handouts and for Q & A.

John Plegge stated that he thought it would be best for Tim Holthoff, Steve Sipes, Mark Johnson, and John Stewart to develop a model policy based on other policies already in place and then present that to the full Task Force for discussion, approval and/or changes at the next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 27th, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 101 of the Justice Building in Little Rock.

Tim Holthoff addressed the need of scheduling a public hearing once the Task Force had approved a drafted model policy.

John Plegge set the public hearing for Wednesday, November 10th, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 101 of the Justice Building in Little Rock.

Karolyn Bond will be sending out press releases for the meetings on Wednesday, September 22nd and Wednesday, October 27th and a statewide press release for the public hearing on Wednesday, November 10th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.