

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE NEBRASKA JUDICIAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
December 1, 2016

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission was held on the 1st day of December, 2016, in Room 1510, State Capitol Building, in Lincoln, Nebraska, with Commission members attending by video conferencing locations in Omaha, Grand Island, and North Platte, Nebraska.

Justice Stacy called the meeting to order in Room 1510 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. Roll call by the acting Secretary:

PRESENT

Justice Stephanie Stacy, Chairperson
Judge Patrick McDermott
Judge Robert O'Neal
Judge John Samson
Timothy Engler
Michael McCarthy
Mark Sipple
Robert Slovek
Coby Mach
Brian Phares
Charles Conrad
Robert Parker
Christopher Nielsen
Lori Scherer
Darlene Starman

ABSENT

William Dittrick
Stephen Bader

The Chairperson identified and received into the record the following exhibits:

Current Annual Caseload Reports

- a. County Courts
- b. District Courts
- c. Separate Juvenile Courts
- d. Workers' Compensation Court (2015)

Current Weighted Caseload Reports

- e. County Courts
- f. District Courts
- g. Separate Juvenile Courts

Letter dated November 16, 2016 from Douglas County Juvenile Court Judges
Statistics compiled by Court Administrator for Douglas County Juvenile Court
Letter dated November 30, 2016 from Nebraska Families Collaborative

The Chairperson called for approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2016. It was moved by Brian Phares and seconded by The Honorable John Samson that the minutes be approved. Voting yes, all present. Motion carried.

The Chairperson announced that the Commission would consider the items set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-1205 and make any recommendations to the Legislature. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Christopher Kelly, Presiding Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County; The Honorable Michael Heavican, Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court; and Liz Neeley, Executive Director of the Nebraska State Bar Association. All those who testified urged the Commission to renew its prior recommendations to the Legislature that an additional juvenile judgeship be created in the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County. Questions were asked of all who testified, and discussion was had regarding the practical impact of the current judicial caseload statistics, including consideration of whether the current number of juvenile judgeships in Douglas County adversely affected case progression and/or timely access to juvenile court for children and families in Douglas County. The Honorable Patrick McDermott moved that the Commission renew its previous recommendation to the Legislature that an additional juvenile judgeship position be created and funded in the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County. The motion was seconded by Lori Scherer. There was no further discussion. Upon roll call vote, voting yes all present. Motion carried.

On the general issue of the balanced use of judicial resources, The Honorable John Samson reported he had been contacted by the Honorable James Doyle, Chairperson of the State-wide Problem Solving Court Commission, who indicated he is having difficulty recruiting judges to participate in expanded problem solving courts due to the amount of judicial time needed to run such programs. Judge Samson initiated discussion regarding whether to recommend to the State Court Administrator that a time study be conducted with emphasis on problem solving courts across the State. After discussion, the commission determined to table the issue for discussion at a future meeting, so that additional information could be gathered and presented.

The Honorable Robert O'Neal initiated discussion regarding consideration for an additional district court judgeship position be created and funded in the District Court, 2nd Judicial District. After discussion, it was determined no action was required at this time.

The Chairperson invited a motion to ratify the action taken at the Judicial Resources Commission meeting on August 3, 2016. It was moved by Judge Robert O'Neal and seconded by Brian Phares that all action taken at the commission

meeting of August 3, 2016 be ratified. Upon roll call vote, voting yes, all present. Motion carried.

The Chairperson announced that due to the expiration of the 2-year terms of Mark Sipple as Vice-chairman and Judge McDermott as Secretary, the Commission needed to determine whether to appoint them to additional terms or appoint a new vice-chairman and secretary. The Chairperson It was moved by Judge Robert O'Neal and seconded by Lori Scherer that Mr. Sipple be reappointed as vice-chairman and Judge McDermott be reappointed as secretary for additional 2-year terms. Voting yes, all present; Mr. Sipple and Judge McDermott abstained. Motion carried, and the Chairperson thanked Mr. Sipple and Judge McDermott for their continuing service to the commission.

The Chairperson called for any other business to come before the Commission. No further business was raised. There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was moved by Judge John Samson and seconded by Darlene Starman, that the Commission stand adjourned. Voting yes, all present. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick R. McDermott".

Judge Patrick McDermott
Secretary