



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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**JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION**

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383 Hall of Administration / 500 West Temple Street / Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

**MINUTES OF THE 652<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF  
THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION**

The 652<sup>ND</sup> meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on June 17, 2004, in Room 864 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those in attendance follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carol Rose, Chair  
Walter P. Coombs, Vice Chair  
Clifton Albright  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Bertrum M. CeDillos  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Janice Kamenir-Reznik  
Neal S. Millard  
Sylvia Scott Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Lee Kanon Alpert

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Princeton Kim, Los Angeles Bar Association  
Ann Pembedjian, Deputy, 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District  
Ronald A. Yorizane, Public Defender  
Honorable Dennis Zine, Independent Cities Association

**CITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Lt. George Bush, L.A.P.D.  
Michael Karsch, Los Angeles City

MEMBERS

Carol L. Rose  
*Chair*

Walter P. Coombs  
*Vice Chair*

Clifton W. Albright  
Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Bertrum M. CeDillos  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Janice Kamenir-Reznik  
Neal S. Millard  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Dedie Ward  
Nyla Jefferson

**GUESTS**

Genevieve Clavreul

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rose called the 652<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:19 p.m. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex-Officio Members, Staff, and guests followed.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2004**

On motion of Commissioner CeDillos, seconded by Commissioner Jeffers, and unanimously carried, the minutes of May 20, 2004 were approved.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Nominations for the office of Chair for 2004-2005 were called for from the floor. On motion of Commissioner Millard and seconded by Chair Rose, Bert CeDillos was submitted as a candidate for the office of Chair.

Additional nominations for the office of Chair were called for. Chair Rose announced that a Declaration of Candidacy form was submitted by Clifton Albright. On motion of Chair Rose and seconded by Commissioner Work, Clifton Albright was submitted as a candidate for the office of Chair.

There being no more nominations from the floor, on motion of Commissioner Galloway and seconded by Chair Rose, nominations for the office of Chair submitted from the floor were closed.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Scott-Hayes and duly carried (Commissioner Work abstained), Bert CeDillos was elected Chair and Clifton Albright elected as Vice Chair for the 2004-2005 term of office.

**CURRENT STATE OF THE JUDICIARY**

Chair Rose introduced and welcomed Justice Dennis Perluss, Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, who offered some background information on his professional career.

Justice Perluss stated that he is most frequently approached with the question, "How often are cases reversed or affirmed"? Justice Perluss provided an overview on this matter saying that for fiscal year 2002-2003, the overall affirmance for cases that had a notice of appeal filed were 86%; appeals for criminal cases filed by the defendant (statewide), 94%; civil appeals, 76%; juvenile appeals from delinquency, 90%; and appeals for dependency case filings, 82%. In the last four or five years, filings in the Court of Appeal, statewide, have gone down. The specific cause for the reduction is uncertain, however, the total number of appeals for Los Angeles County has decreased as well.

Statewide appeals for juvenile cases have also decreased by 15-20%. However, Los Angeles County submissions have not gone down. Los Angeles County receives more appeals from its dependency and juvenile cases than the State average. Justice Perluss stated that as resources get increasingly tight for local government entities, it is important that the needs of the juvenile portion of the court system are not overlooked.

Justice Perluss represents the Second Appellate District which covers the Counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo. Division 6 of the Appeal Court in Ventura handles all of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. Divisions 1-5, 7 and 8 are located in the Ronald Reagan State Office Building and handle the appeals from the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The Court of Appeals is obligated to decide cases within 90 days of submission, which is typically at the point of oral argument. Over the last five years there has been a reduction in the overall appellate case load which has caused a reduction in the time between filing a notice of appeal and filing a decision. The present budgetary crisis will directly impact the time it takes for the clerk's office to prepare the record on an appeal. Currently it takes approximately 5½ months to get the record prepared for a civil case and 2 months for a criminal case, because there has been a significant reduction in the number of clerks that work in the appeals division. The cost for filing an appeal is approximately \$650 plus transcript fees, etc.

Justice Perluss commended the Commission for supporting the Self Help Legal Access movement which has allowed greater access to court services by people who could not otherwise afford an attorney. Today, 80% of the litigants in family law court are self-represented; 80% of the people seeking restraining orders are self litigants; and 90% of the tenants involved in landlord-tenant disputes are self-litigants.

**UPDATE ON THE LETTER TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS URGING THEIR  
SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE SELF HELP LEGAL ACCESS  
CENTERS**

Commissioner Kamenir-Reznik reported that after last month's Commission meeting she was asked to draft a letter urging the Board of Supervisors to continue to support funding efforts for the expansion of the self-help centers. Since that time, Commissioner Kamenir-Reznik has been advised that the letter of support is no longer necessary as funding for the centers is not in jeopardy at this time.

### **UPDATE ON LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE L.A.C.B.A FOR FUNDING FOR THE CHILD WAITING ROOM PROJECT**

The Commission recently applied for a \$3000 grant from the L. A. County Bar Foundation to assist with financing for the Child Waiting Room at the Airport Court. Since that time, the Commission has been informed that the Bar Foundation would be willing to provide a \$1000 grant if the Commission could raise the additional \$2000 from another funding resource by September.

Chair Rose commented that she has been working with a committee group of the Assistant District Attorney's Association (ADDA) who has agreed to assist in raising funds for the child waiting room project. The Association is offering to produce "from the desk of" notepads from the District Attorney's office and sell them. Proceeds from the sales of this merchandize will be donated to the JPC Trust fund.

The District Attorney has already approved the project and notepad design which will cost \$10 for 12. In addition, the Sheriff's Department will donate the paper and printing for the pads. Commissioners discussed alternative funding resources to consider in the event the \$2000 is not raised from the merchandize sales by August. It was agreed that the Commission would request an extension on the September deadline from the LACBA and revisit seeking alternative funding resources and donations in August if needed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **Child Custody Exchange Committee Update**

Ann Pembedjian, Deputy, Supervisor Antonovich's Office, informed the Commission and distributed materials about an organization called Project Safe Haven which provides an environment where custody exchanges can be performed safely and comfortably. Project Safe Haven is located within the premises of the Monrovia United Methodist Church and is next door to the Monrovia Police Department. The facility has areas where exchanges can occur without parents coming in contact with each other, cameras and television monitors to view the exchanges, a panic button directly connected to the Police Department, and 12 trained volunteers who have all passed a background check. Ms. Pembedjian expressed that the exchange center in Monrovia

would be a good prototype for the Commission to mirror and suggested that the JPC might want to contact that agency.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Pembedjian announced that the Antelope Valley Self Help Legal Access Center received the funding it needed and will be opening full-time on July 1, 2004.

Genevieve Clavreul, commented on how difficult it is to find a good attorney to represent tenants. Good attorneys always represent the landlord. Chair Rose suggested that Ms. Clavreul might want to contact the attorney firm, Quinn, located in Santa Monica that uses a sliding scale to bill its clients.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.