

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENTS
TO SCR 15 REGARDING
MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION OF
THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION.

ADKT 0537

FILED

DEC 20 2018

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY Elizabeth A. Brown
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

PETITION

COMES NOW the Honorable Michael L. Douglas, Chief Justice, and the Honorable James W. Hardesty, Associate Justice, of the Nevada Supreme Court and co-chairpersons of the Access to Justice Commission (Commission) and petition the Nevada Supreme Court on its administrative docket to amend Supreme Court Rule 15 regarding the composition of the Commission.

The Commission seeks to amend the structure to involve more non-lawyer, community-wide stakeholders from throughout the State of Nevada. The enumerated alterations will maximize the Commission's effectiveness by casting a wider net of statewide involvement and adding insights and skills needed to help deliver on its mission, including, but not limited to, a wider public understanding of legal aid and the value it delivers to clients, communities, governments and society, and by creating awareness of the impact limited access to justice has on all Nevadans.

Accordingly, petitioners request that the Nevada Supreme Court place this matter on its administrative docket, hold such hearings as

it deems necessary, and consider the proposed amendments to SCR 15 as set forth in Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,

 , C. J.
Michael L. Douglas

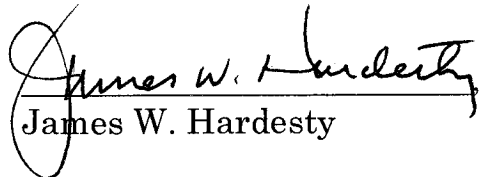
 J.
James W. Hardesty

EXHIBIT A

Rule 15. Commission on Access to Justice.

1. Creation, purpose. The supreme court shall appoint a commission on access to justice. The commission shall:

(a) Assess current and future needs for civil legal services for persons of limited means in Nevada.

(b) Develop statewide policies designed to support and improve the delivery of legal services.

(c) Improve self-help services and opportunities for proper person litigants and increase pro bono activities.

(d) Develop programs to increase public awareness of the impact that limited access to justice has on other government services and on society.

(e) Investigate the availability of and pursue increased public and private financing to support legal services organizations and other efforts to provide legal services to persons of limited means.

(f) Recommend legislation or rules affecting access to justice to the supreme court.

2. Composition. The access to justice commission shall be ~~staffed by an executive director and~~ composed of the chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designate and the following members, to be appointed by the supreme court to ~~four~~ two-year terms:

(a) One district judge each from the Second and the Eighth Judicial District Courts. At least one of those judges must be assigned to the family division of the district court.

(b) One ~~additional~~ district judge to be selected from the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, or Ninth Judicial District Courts.

(c) One limited jurisdiction judge, who shall serve as liaison to the Nevada Judges ~~[Association]~~ of Limited Jurisdiction.

(d) One public attorney representative designated by the Nevada Attorney General.

(e) One representative each from the ~~[Southern Nevada Senior Law Program,]~~ Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada~~[/Pro Bono Project],~~ Nevada Legal Services, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans, Washoe Legal Services, and the designated tax exempt bar foundation pursuant to SCR 216~~[, Nevada Legal Services, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans/Domestic Violence Project, the Washoe County Senior Law Project, and Washoe Legal Services/Pro Bono Project].~~

(f) One representative each from the Clark County Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada~~[,]~~ Board of Governors, ~~[the State Bar of Nevada Young Lawyers Section, and]~~ the Washoe County Bar Association, and a rural County Bar Association.

(g) One student representative of the Public Interest Law Association or the State Bar of Nevada Young Lawyers Section, and one faculty representative from the William S. Boyd School of Law of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, designated by the dean. ~~[Individual appointments under this subsection may be rotated in less than four-year terms.]~~

(h) ~~[Two]~~ Five persons who are not members of the legal profession, unless appointed under (i).

(i) ~~[Three]~~ Two at-large representatives. ~~[Appointments under this subsection may be rotated in less than four-year terms as the]~~ The commission shall make appointments under this subsection as ~~[deems]~~ deemed necessary and proper to facilitate diversity, including statewide

regional representation, other bar representation (e.g., specialty or Federal, etc.), address trends in access to justice, and fulfill the Commission's purpose. The commission may appoint ~~[nonvoting members, including, but not limited to, judges and representatives from other direct service providers, county bar associations, and neighborhood pro bono projects.]~~ additional members, voting or non-voting, as deemed necessary and proper to facilitate the maximum effectiveness of the commission. Subcommittees comprised of voting and non-voting members may be appointed at the discretion of the Chair.

3. Staffing. The access to justice commission will be staffed by an executive director who is employed by the State Bar.

~~[3.]~~ 4. Meetings. The commission shall meet at least semi-annually and shall have additional meetings, as the commission deems appropriate. The commission may form separate subcommittees to address specific issues.