



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project Implementation Committee

Meeting Agenda

May 20, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#	Topic	Facilitator(s)
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Justice Thissen Judge Rodenberg
2.	Presentations and Discussion with Guests	Justice Thissen Judge Rodenberg

The members heard information from a number of guests covering current practices in two of the three areas of law set forth in the Order, housing and creditor-debtor.

Housing overview:

Housing court operates differently in the 2nd & 4th Districts than every other district in the state. There are also a number of support services for these metro courts, including housing clinics, pro bono representation and assistance by various offices and agencies, mediation services, and sometimes, financial assistance.

Since the 2nd and the 4th have good support processes for housing disputes already, even though they have the critical mass of case volume statewide, their districts probably need the least assistance with housing cases. Small, rural counties probably have a higher need for legal paraprofessional assistance.

Consumer overview:

Consumer debt represents a large volume of cases, form discovery is very common which would seem to lend itself well to the kind of work that paralegals do. Occasionally, a defendant works with an attorney to draft documents and the attorney might not appear at a hearing to provide representation.

Legal Aid handles a lot of garnishment and motion to vacate cases. These are two areas where they see an option for additional representation assistance could be helpful

The members also reviewed some MJB case statistics data for consumer credit, unlawful detainer, and rent escrow cases from 2016-2018.

Members then also reviewed some information about paralegal work, education options, and qualifications/certifications.



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3. Charter, website, & next meeting discussion Kim Larson

Members were asked to review and send in comments about the draft charter.

The committee also looked at a sample webpage and agreed that setting up a site would be helpful for future communication and project transparency.

4. Adjourn

Member Roster & Attendance

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|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Justice Paul Thissen | Co-Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Judge John Rodenberg | Co-Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thomas Nelson | MSBA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sally Dahlquist | Inver Hills Community College |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Maren Schroeder | Rochester, MN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tiffany Doherty-Schooler | Duluth, MN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pamela Wandzel | Minneapolis, MN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Christopher O. Peterson | Minneapolis, MN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bridget Gernander | State Court Administrators Office |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Liz Reppe | State Law Library |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Guests: | |
| | ▪ Judge John Guthman, 2 nd District | |
| | ▪ Judge Ivy Bernhardson, 4 th District | |
| | ▪ Michael Upton, 2 nd District | |
| | ▪ Ellen Bendewald, SCAO Research & Evaluation | |
| | ▪ Kristin Ferriss, Minneapolis Public Housing | |
| | ▪ Luke Grundman, Legal Aid | |
| | ▪ Larry McDonough, Dorsey & Whitney | |