

**JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 10, 2012**  
**Administrative Center – Room 3220**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper, Ray Ebert, Bridget Flood, Karin Johnson
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Maureen Freedland, Tammy Gamroth
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Dave Holtze, Bev Heebisch, Pam Radtke, Steve O'Malley, Terri Pavlic

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 6, 2012 MINUTES OF JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**

**MOTION** by Flood/Bilskemper to approve the March 6, 2012 minutes of the Judiciary and Law Committee. **MOTION carried unanimously** (Freedland, Gamroth excused)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT**

There were no conference/meeting reports presented.

**MEDIATION & FAMILY COURT SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT AND RETIREMENT AND TRANSITION**

Mary Geske distributed the Mediation & Family Court Services Annual Report. They continue to provide mediation as well as Custody Assessment services. They received 212 mediation orders from the La Crosse County Family Court Commissioner and served on 14 CAT teams. These can take 3 months or longer.

A transition will be occurring in the Mediation and Family Court Services Department, as Mary Geske will be retiring June 1. Bonnie Sacia will be the temporary Director until her upcoming retirement in April of 2013. An offer has been made to Erin Balsiger to fill the Mediator/Child Custody Evaluator.

**CLERK OF COURT ANNUAL REPORT**

Pam Radtke was present to discuss her annual report for the Clerk of the Circuit Courts. Due to the changes in the Public Defender eligibility requirements, they are not appointing as many cases so their budget went down substantially. There was a sequestered jury that went over to Marathon County in January 2011 and there are some big jury trials coming up here in La Crosse County. E-filing hasn't been used as much as Pam would like – mainly because the cost is \$5.00 per case. Tax intercept is working well - so far they have gotten \$90,000 for 2012.

**UPDATE ON VIDEO CONFERENCING IN THE COURTS**

IT has been working with Pam Radtke to send a set of questions regarding video conferencing in the courts to the other 71 counties in Wisconsin. Their answers varied in price range from \$10,000-\$100,000. Eau Claire and Walworth Counties were the most positive responses and reported that they use video conferencing whenever possible. Eau Claire noted an annual savings of \$25,000. Some of the negative responses indicated they

**JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 10, 2012**  
**Page 2**

purchased expensive equipment and it did not work well. The Sheriff's Department indicated that their average trip cost was \$825. When researching the options for La Crosse County, it would probably cost \$50,000 for one of our court rooms. It was decided to evaluate the pros and cons and to get feedback from judges and contact Eau Claire County to see how it's working for them.

**DARE CHICKN Q – APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>** - the DARE Chicken-Q is being held today.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: May 8, 2012**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Flood to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Freedland, Gamroth excused)

**Approved May 8, 2012**  
**Terri Pavlic, Recorder**