



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2022

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

South Carolina Supreme Court

Presiding: Justice John C. Few

In attendance:

Members:

The Hon. John C. Few
Hannah Honeycutt
Charles Boykin
Micah Caskey
Anne Caywood
Elizabeth Chambliss
Larry Cunningham
Betsy Goodale
Olivia Jones
John Kassel
Tonnya Kohn
Chris Koon

Tope Leyimu
Andrea Loney
Mary Lucas
Clarkson McDow
Al Parker
Aparna Polavarapu
Dawn Przirembel
David Ross
Megan Seiner
Hon. John E. Waites
Jeff Yungman

Guests:

Avery Allen, *SCATJ Summer ATJ Fellow*
Jason Bobertz
Pariss Briggs, *Civ Tech Practicum Student at Georgetown Law*
Katherine Hebb, *Civ Tech Practicum Student at Georgetown Law*
Jacob Holland, *ATJ Tech Fellow at SCLS*

Susan Ingles, *SCLS*
Bruce Rich, *Center for Housing and Community Studies at UNCG*
Lucy Banks Smith
Tom Trent, *SCLS*
Turner Whisnant, *ATJ Tech Fellow at SCLS*
Jing Xu, *Civ Tech Practicum Student at Georgetown Law*

1. Welcome and Introductions

Justice Few welcomed everyone to the commission meeting and introduced our guests. He recognized Tom Trent's work with the Georgetown students in creating the SCATJ Legal Resource Finder and Susie Ingles' work in bringing two ATJ Tech Fellows to SC Legal Services. He also introduced Avery Allen, our SCATJ Summer Intern and Access to Justice Fellow sponsored by the NMRS Center on Professionalism at UofSC Law.

2. Approval of February 24, 2022 Minutes

Chris Koon moved to approve the minutes from the Commission's October 28th meeting. Elizabeth Chambliss seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. SCATJ Legal Resource Finder - Pariss Briggs, Katherine Hebb & Jing Xu, Spring '22 *Civ Tech Practicum at Georgetown Law*

Pariss, Katherine, and Jing joined us virtually to present the SCATJ Legal Resource Finder, an app that they developed for the Commission as part of their Civ Tech Practicum class at Georgetown Law this Spring. Hannah highlighted that the app makes the resources already available on the SCATJ Website more easily navigable and user-friendly.

The students emphasized how the app streamlines the process of finding legal resources by asking a series of questions that focus on the user's income, the type of legal problem they're having, and their geographical location. They walked us through how the app works: First, the user selects their legal problem. There are pop up boxes with information to help the user identify their legal problem. Second, the user determines their income level. The app calculates whether the user is eligible based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines and different organizations' eligibility requirements so that the person is not expected to do such calculations themselves. Third, the app asks for information about where the user is located. Based on the information the user provides, the app generates a report tailored to that person's needs. It includes legal aid organizations in their area that they might be eligible for, a script for what information to have handy when they call or apply to one of the organizations, and a list with links to self-help resources for their specific legal problem. It is designed to be simple and easy to use.

Hannah noted that she would like very much to start pushing the app as a court resource; something the clerks of court around the state can direct court users to when they have questions about how to handle their case or where to find help. She also noted that she will have the ability to change or update the app in the future as needed.

Commission members discussed ideas about how to get the word out about the app, which included sharing the resource with circuit court and other judges, advertising the app with community service providers such as food banks, and making lawyers aware of it when they ask about referring people to free or low-cost legal help.

4. ATJ Tech Fellows at SCLS - Jacob Holland (Williamette University College of Law, '24) *& Turner Whisnant (UofSC School of Law, '24)*

Two law students who are spending the summer as ATJ Tech Fellows at South Carolina Legal Services joined us to talk about their work. Turner Whisnant, a student at the University of

South Carolina School of Law, is working on creating and promoting videos that help explain legal problems such as eviction and foreclosure to people in the community. Jacob Holland, a student at Willamette University College of Law, joined us virtually to talk about his work updating resources on the [South Carolina Law Help](#) website.

5. Break for Lunch

6. Executive Director Update - *Hannah Honeycutt*

After breaking for lunch, Hannah introduced our SCATJ summer intern, Avery Allen, who is joining us as a Scarborough ATJ Fellow sponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Law. Avery is working on updating the SRL Bench Guide that the Commission adopted for use by judges around the state many years ago.

Hannah discussed the South Carolina Legal Service Provider Group and provided a status update on that project. She also presented slides showing the web analytics for the SCATJ website. Traffic to the website has steadily increased over time, and people are staying on the website longer when they visit. The most-visited page on the Commission's website is the [Family Court section](#) under "Looking for Legal Help?"

Hannah requested help with the Commission's social media presence by asking members to like and share the Commission's posts. She also reminded more senior members to submit their spotlight surveys to be featured on our social media pages and said she would soon send out a link to the survey for newer members to complete as well. Hannah asked that people who hadn't already sent their ideas for myths about access to justice to please do so.

Finally, Hannah reported that she appeared on radio station 93.1 The Lake's Hometown Heroes series, where she talked about the Commission and the justice gap in South Carolina. Several members requested that Hannah share a recording of the interview with the group, which she promised to do.

7. Legal Needs Assessment Update - *Bruce Rich, Interim Director, Center for Housing & Community Studies at UNC Greensboro*

Bruce Rich joined us from Greensboro to discuss the statewide legal needs assessment that has been underway since last August. This is the first time this type of study has been conducted in South Carolina. Bruce explained the methods they have used in conducting their research, which include key informant interviews, focus groups, a public survey, and a forthcoming practitioner survey for members of the South Carolina Bar. Bruce presented some of the findings from the study so far, which reveal who is not getting the legal help they might need and what types of cases are not being served.

Hannah pointed out the importance and value of this study come not only from the breadth of information being gathered, but from the fact that the researchers are going directly to the public and low-income people who are affected by lack of access to the legal system. She emphasized that these people's voices are often lost or ignored when talking about how best serve them and incorporating their opinions is crucial for access to justice.

8. Committee Updates

a. Commission Governance - *Chris Koon & Mary Sharp*

Chris Koon gave the update for the Commission Development Committee, whose membership is as follows:

- Micah Caskey
- Larry Cunningham
- Chris Koon
- Tope Leyimu
- Andrea Loney
- Mary Lucas
- Dawn Przirembel
- Megan Seiner
- Mary Sharp
- Jeff Yungman

Chris noted that Chief Justice Beatty has signed the proposed order the committee submitted since our last Commission meeting. The order staggers member terms so we will not lose so many people at once as terms end. It also adds the Executive Director of the Bar Foundation (currently Megan Seiner) and the SC Bar (currently David Ross) as official ex officio members of the Commission.

b. Outreach & Communications - *Will Dillard & Betsy Goodale*

Betsy Goodale gave the update for the Outreach & Communications Committee, whose membership is as follows:

- Judge Addy
- Justin Bradley
- Charles Boykin
- Elizabeth Chambliss
- Judge Childs
- Will Dillard
- Betsy Goodale
- Anthony Livoti
- Margie Bright Matthews
- Clarkson McDow
- Aparna Polavarapu
- La'Jessica Stringfellow
- Richele Taylor

Betsy reported that Hannah has prepared a slide deck for Commission members to use when speaking to associations or groups they are a part of, or at other events. The committee is working on identifying events that members of this committee can speak at and Justice Few asked the full Commission to help identify such events.

Betsy encouraged everyone to continue to provide ideas for reaching out to the community and noted that members of the subcommittee have reached out to their local county libraries.

Hannah added that [SCATJ is now on LinkedIn](#).

c. Self-Represented Litigants - *Molly Day & Olivia Jones*

The SRL Committee submitted a written report for the Commission Meeting, which was provided in the meeting materials.

9. Future Meeting Dates - *Justice Few*

Justice Few announced that the last meeting of 2022 will be held on Thursday, October 20 from 11:30am-1:30pm at the South Carolina Supreme Court. He also announced that we would have all three dates for our 2023 meetings scheduled by the time we meet in October.

10. Other Business

There was a suggestion that the Commission hold a retreat at some point in the near future to give members more time to connect and collaborate. This was inspired by the time Hannah allotted for everyone to talk and reconnect during lunch at our meeting today.

11. Adjourn