

Montana Judicial Institute



March 23-25, 2011

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD

- 12:00 pm Lunch [University of Montana Law School - Castles Arena]
Introductions by Scott Gratton, Chair
Welcome by School of Law Dean, Irma Russell
- 1:30 pm *The Law and You* – Karl Englund **TAB #1**
- 2:00 pm Break
- 2:15 pm *The Rule of Law: History & Structure* – Professor Tom Huff **TAB #2**
[15 min. break sometime during lecture]
- 5:00 pm Recess
- 6:00 pm Dinner [Doubletree Hotel - Blackfoot Room] **TAB #3**
Speaker - Attorney General Steve Bullock
- 8:00 pm Adjourn for the day

THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH

- 8:00 am *Welcome, housekeeping and preview of day* – Scott Gratton
[U of M Law School - Castles Arena]
(Transportation from the Doubletree to the University will be provided.)
- 8:15 am *Anatomy of a Civil Case* – Hon. Jeremiah Lynch, Hon. Ed McLean, Jim Manley, Dana Christensen **TAB #4**
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am *Anatomy of a Criminal Case* - Hon. Karen Townsend, John **TAB #5**

- Connor, Timothy Racicot, Michael Donahoe
- 11:45 am ***Jury System Panel Working Lunch*** - Patrick Duffy, former Grand Juror Vicki Cocchiarella and former Petit Juror Tim Ruddy **TAB #6**
- 12:45 pm Adjourn to the Russell Smith Courthouse
(*Transportation from the University to the courthouse will be provided.*)
- 1:00 pm ***Various hearings, calendared events at the Russell Smith Courthouse***
- 5:00 pm Recess
(*Transportation from the courthouse to the Doubletree will be provided.*)
- 6:00 pm Dinner [The Keep]
Keynote speaker - Tom Tongue, Incoming President of the American College of Trial Lawyers **TAB #7**
(*Transportation from the Doubletree to the restaurant and back will be provided.*)
- 8:00 pm Adjourn

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH

- 8:00 am ***Welcome, housekeeping and preview of day*** - Scott Gratton [U of M Law School - Castles Arena]
- 8:15 am ***Tribal Jurisdiction*** - Professor Maylinn Smith **TAB #8**
- 9:30 am Break
- 9:45 am ***Appellate Courts*** - Hon. Brian Morris **TAB #9**
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am ***Questions & Discussion*** - led by Hon. Donald Molloy
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Adjourn

****Resource Materials and References**

TAB #10

SECOND ANNUAL
MONTANA JUDICIAL INSTITUTE



SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2009
BILLINGS, MONTANA

MONTANA JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

In September of 2009, the United States District Court for the District of Montana held the 2nd Annual Montana Judicial Institute in Billings. The goal of the Institute is to heighten public understanding of the Judiciary. The Institute provides an in-depth education program for high school teachers from throughout the District. The fundamental premise of the three day seminar is to expand teachers' knowledge of the Judiciary and its role in our system of government and societal organization as a whole.

The Institute's faculty consisted of Judges, professors, the Clerk of the U.S. District Court, leading Montana attorneys as well as citizens who have served the Courts as jurors. The curriculum of instruction included:

- The Rule of Law
- Anatomy of a Criminal Case
- The Jury System
- Anatomy of a Civil Case
- Federal, State & Tribal Jurisdiction
- Federal & State Appellate Courts

This continuing education course for high school educators was limited to twenty five participants, whose travel, lodging and meal expenses were paid through the Institute's funding. With a faculty of seventeen, the student-faculty ration was 1:1.5, extremely conducive to a rewarding educational experience. The Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT) assisted the Court with the recruitment/application process and in ensuring the participants received licensure renewal units and qualified for at least one graduate credit.

SPECIFIC AGENDA TOPICS

DAY ONE:

The Law and You

The Rule of Law: History & Structure

Anatomy of a Criminal Case

Rule of Law Discussions: The Easy Problems,

The Hard Problems and the Really Hard Problems

DAY TWO:

Various Hearings/Calendared Events at the James F. Battin Federal Courthouse

Jury System Panel

Anatomy of a Civil Case

Tribal Court Jurisdiction

Keynote Address

DAY THREE:

State and Federal Appellate Courts

Questions & Discussion

LOGISTICS & PLANNING

COMMITTEE PLANNING: Committee Members included U.S. District Court Lawyer Representatives, the Clerk of Court and the MEA-MFT President.

VENUE PLANNING:

- Lodging arrangements were made at a hotel near the courthouse in downtown Billings.
- A number of the Institute's sessions were held in the Student Union Building at Montana State University-Billings.
- The morning session on the second day of the Institute took place at the James F. Battin Courthouse.

COSTS/PARTICIPANT REIMBURSEMENT: All expenses were paid for the teacher participants from federal court attorney admission funds.

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

Following the Institute, participants were asked to complete an evaluation. The following comments are from the evaluations that were returned.

ARRANGEMENTS & OVERALL LOGISTICS

"The arrangements for the conference were absolutely perfect. I was impressed that the Judges and attorneys joined us for meals – it was wonderful to have that personal time to get to know them and ask more questions."

"I didn't wonder about anything. I felt confident that everything was planned and organized."

"The arrangements made for the conference were a 10 on a scale of 1-10."

"The lodging and food were incredible. It was an unexpected pleasure to be treated as professionals, with private rooms in such a nice hotel."

CONTENT OF THE MATERIAL PRESENTED & LEVEL OF RIGOR

"The content was excellent."

"The content was exceptional and will transfer easily to the classroom. I feel so much more prepared to instruct and answer questions from my students about the judiciary."

"Perfect. I was engaged the entire time."

COURSE CONTENT/TOPICS CHOSEN/TIME ALLOTMENT

"Absolutely none of the content was unnecessary."

"I think everybody received valuable information and resources to improve student learning for their particular population."

"The time was well scheduled and filled to the brim."

VISIT TO THE COURTHOUSE

"The visit to the courthouse is a mandatory and imperative part of this educational experience. My students will greatly benefit from my having attended those hearings."

"The Courthouse visit made the judicial system come alive. It is one of the strongest features of the program."

"I found the time spent in the courthouse was absolutely one of the most beneficial parts of the conference."

OVERALL INSTRUCTION & PRESENTATIONS

"The overall instruction and presentations were professional, relevant, timely, and thought provoking. I was so energized and inspired I am considering ways to involve myself in the judiciary here in my community."

"Having all of the instructors there the whole time and not just when they presented, sent a very positive message."

"The instruction was exceptional. It makes me remember that having a passion for what you teach makes lessons that much more engaging for your students."

WRITTEN MATERIALS

"I will be able to use the materials in the classroom and to help me prep to teach certain areas."

"The materials will prove to be a valuable teaching resource for years to come."

"I have already made plans to incorporate some of the materials into my law unit later this year."

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

"I so enjoyed the entire experience. It was very intellectually stimulating."

"I have been teaching for 32 years and this was the best workshop it has ever been my pleasure to attend."

"I learned so much and came away with a much different feeling about our judicial system."

"The entire Institute was outstanding."