

**APPELLATE DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

JUNE 15, 2016
DETROIT, SADO
12:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS: Chairperson Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Adams, Judith Gracey, Vice-chair Thomas McNeill, and Douglas Messing

OTHERS PRESENT:

SADO: Director Dawn Van Hoek, Deputy Director Michael Mittlestat, CDRC Administrator Marilena David-Martin, Fiscal Manager Bryan Vance, and Human Resources Manager Wendy Dealca

MAACS: Administrator Brad Hall and Deputy Administrator Kathy Swedlow

GUEST: Eric Buchanan

COMMISSION AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Hall introduced the Commission to MAACS's new Deputy Administrator, Kathy Swedlow. Ms. Swedlow's responsibilities will primarily focus on quality control of the roster.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2016

Commissioner Messing moved, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting. Carried.

WELCOME TO NEW / REAPPOINTED COMMISSIONERS:

Chairperson Cranmer informed the Commission that Tom Adams has been reappointed to the Commission as the Governor's designee. Further, Doug Mains has been newly appointed to the Commission as a State Bar designee.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Van Hoek reported that the 2015 Annual Report will be completed by the end of June.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER PROPOSAL DUE 10/1/2016

Ms. Van Hoek mentioned that she would like the Commission to ask the Court to extend the deadline on the administrative order proposal for one year, allowing the pilot project to operate for another year so that more counties can participate and more data can be collected. The Commission agreed that Ms. Van Hoek should prepare a draft of the proposal and circulate it to the Commission for review.

ADC MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

September 21, 2016 (Lansing)
December 14, 2016 (Detroit)

SADO AGENDA

BUDGET

Ms. Van Hoek reported that SADO's budget request was approved as one-time funding to handle the juvenile lifer cases. SADO will receive \$700,000 for its juvenile lifer project beginning October 2016. Additionally, SADO received supplemental funding for the current year in the amount of \$300,000 for juvenile lifer cases and \$167,000 for training.

HIRING AT SADO:

SADO's Plea Unit Manager retired on May 1, 2016 and Senior Attorney Randy Davidson will retire August 1, 2016. SADO will hire two attorneys to replace these two departures. SADO also hired Kayla Friess as an Investigator and Peter Martel as a Mitigation Specialist.

CAPACITY AND FORMULA

Mr. Mittlestat reported that SADO will likely handle about 25% of the appeals in 2016. Prior to the influx of juvenile lifer cases, SADO was on target to handle closer to 30% this year.

MIDC UPDATE

Ms. Van Hoek provided the Commission with a copy of the Supreme Court's Administrative Order regarding the MIDC's proposed standards 1-4.

JLWOP

Mr. Mittlestat reported that SADO anticipates receiving about 200-220 appointments to juvenile lifer cases.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Mittlestat provided a summary of SADO's case highlights to the Commission, including successes in the DNA and Wrongful Conviction grant projects.

MAACS AGENDA

RETENTION REVIEW OF ROSTER

The contractors hired to conduct the roster attorneys' performance reviews will work with Kathy Swedlow going forward. Mr. Hall reported that Ms. Swedlow's goal is to complete the retention reviews by the end of 2016.

APPELLATE INVESTIGATOR PROJECT – BYRNE / JAG GRANT

Mr. Hall reported that the project is further along in their grant goals than expected because of the talent and experience of the project team. The project is proving to be successful and MAACS will seek funding to continue the project into next year.

JLWOP ASSIGNMENTS TO MAACS ROSTER

There have been 29 juvenile lifer assignments to the MAACS roster. Mr. Hall anticipates needing to get more attorneys on the special assignment roster to handle juvenile lifer case in the upcoming months.

WAYNE COUNTY ASSIGNMENT PROJECT STATUS

Mr. Hall reported that Wayne County is not ready to launch their online assignment project yet, but they are hopeful it will be soon. The benefit of the new system to the roster attorneys is that they will be able to get their transcripts electronically.

DEMONSTRATION OF NEW MAACS CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Eric Buchanan, who is developing MAACS's new assignment system, provided a demonstration of the new system to the Commission. Development is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

APPLICATIONS TO JOIN MAACS ROSTER AT LEVELS III/III

Commissioner Adams moved, seconded by Commissioner Gracey, to approve the requests for Pat Selby and John Zevalking to join the roster as Level 2 attorneys, and for Mary Chartier to join as a Level 3 attorney. Carried.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Hall provided a summary of recent roster attorney successes to the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Dealca
SADO

APPELLATE DEFENDER COMMISSION

BY: 
Thomas W. Cranmer, Chair