WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: *January 14, 2025*

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Sarah Bates, Law Librarian & Manager, Law Library
775-328-3254, sarah.bates@washoecourts.us

THROUGH: Alicia L. Lerud, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

SUBJECT: Recommendation to appoint one attorney member and one non-attorney member to the Law Library Board of Trustees. It is recommended that Michael V. Kattelman serve as an attorney member and be reappointed for a two-year term expiring on January 31, 2027, and Aurora Partridge serve as a non-attorney member, reappointed for a two-year term expiring January 31, 2027. Candidates will satisfy the attorney position and non-attorney position required for the Law Library Board of Trustees. Michael V. Kattelman (incumbent) was the only applicant for the attorney position. Applicants for the non-attorney position include Jodi Michelle Bennett and Aurora Partridge (incumbent). District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Per WCC 10.070, the Law Library is governed by a Board of Law Library Trustees consisting of not less than five nor more than seven members. A maximum of three district court judges of the Second Judicial District Court, designated by all of the judges of the district from among their number, shall be ex-officio trustees. Two of the members of the board of trustees shall be licensed Nevada attorneys at law. The remaining two members shall be neither attorneys nor judges.

The attorney and non-attorney members shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners at the first meeting of the Board each January, to serve for terms of two years. As nearly as possible, half of the terms must expire each year. The attorney members shall be appointed from a list of nominees supplied by the Board of Law Library Trustees, which list shall contain not less than two names for each attorney vacancy on the board of trustees. There are no term limits prescribed by law or by the Board bylaws. The Board of Trustees meets on a quarterly basis.

Two Board positions have terms expiring on January 31, 2025. One of those positions is specified in WCC 10.070(2) and must be filled by an individual with the following qualifications: a licensed Nevada attorney at law. The other open position is also specified in WCC 10.070(2) and must be filled by an individual that is neither attorney nor judge.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

The notice to announce these open positions and accept applications was published on October 1, 2024. Applications were accepted from October 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

In 2018, the BCC appointed Clayton Brust to a fourth term as an attorney member of the Law Library Board of Trustees, Cortney Young to a first term as a non-attorney member of the Law Library Board of Trustees, and Kathi Lutsch to a one-year first term as a non-attorney member of the Law Library Board of Trustees.

In 2019, the BCC appointed Michael V. Kattelman to a third term as an attorney member of the Law Library Board of Trustees and Kathi Lutsch to serve her first two-year term as a non-attorney member of the Law Library Board of Trustees.

In 2020, the BCC appointed Patricia Halstead to a first term as an attorney member and Cortney Young to a second term as a non-attorney member expiring January 31, 2022.

In 2021, the BCC appointed Michael V. Kattelman to a fourth term as an attorney member and Kathi Lutsch to a third term as a non-attorney member expiring January 31, 2023.

In 2022, the BCC appointed Patricia Halstead to a second term as an attorney member and Cortney Young to a third term as a non-attorney member expiring January 31, 2024.

In 2023, the BCC appointed Michael V. Kattelman to a fifth term as an attorney member and Aurora Partridge to a first term as a non-attorney member expiring January 31, 2025.

In 2024, the BCC appointed Patricia Halstead to a third term as an attorney member and Cortney Young to a fourth term as a non-attorney member expiring January 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The notice to announce these open positions and accept applications was published on October 1, 2024. The announcement was shared on the Washoe County Board & Commission webpage, by County Manager Eric Brown at a Board of County Commissioners meeting, and a notification email was sent to 9,131 email subscribers via various Washoe County distribution lists. Applications were accepted from October 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. A total of three applications were received in that time period and are attached to this staff report for the Board's review.

Michael V. Kattelman (incumbent) was the only applicant for the attorney position. Applicants for the non-attorney position include Jodi Michelle Bennett and Aurora Partridge (incumbent). All the applicants were invited to speak at the Law Library Board of Trustees' public meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. All three applicants were present and spoke at the meeting. It is recommended by the Law Library Board of Trustees that Michael V. Kattelman (incumbent) be reappointed to serve as an attorney member for a two-year term, expiring on January 31, 2027, and Aurora Partridge (incumbent) be reappointed to serve as a non-attorney member for a two-year term, expiring January 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners appoint one attorney member one non-attorney member to the Law Library Board of Trustees. It is recommended that Michael V. Kattelman serve as an attorney member, reappointed for a two-year term expiring on January 31, 2027, and Aurora Partridge serve as a non-attorney member, reappointed for a two-year term expiring January 31, 2027. Candidates will satisfy the attorney position and non-attorney position required for the Law Library Board of Trustees. Michael V. Kattelman (incumbent) was the only applicant for the attorney position. Applicants for the non-attorney position include Jodi Michelle Bennett and Aurora Partridge (incumbent).

POSSIBLE MOTION

A possible motion would be "Move to approve appointment of one attorney member and one non-attorney member to the Law Library Board of Trustees. It is recommended that Michael V. Kattelman serve as an attorney member, reappointed for a two-year term expiring on January 31, 2027, and Aurora Partridge serve as a non-attorney member, reappointed for a two-year term expiring January 31, 2027.

cc:

Honorable Connie Steinheimer, President of the Law Library Board of Trustees

Lindsay Liddell, Deputy District Attorney