

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STATUTE LAW COMMITTEE
2011-2013 Biennium**

January 4, 2012

The Statute Law Committee held its first meeting of the 2011-2013 biennium at noon in the Senate Rules Room located in the Legislative Building in Olympia.

The meeting opened with Chair Marty Brown presiding.

Members present: Baker, Carrell, Conte, Goodman, Hoemann, Kline, Owens, Panesko, and Rodger.

Members absent: Rodne.

Also in attendance were Kyle Thiessen, Code Reviser, who serves as the committee's secretary; Lew Lewis, Deputy Code Reviser; Kerry Radcliff, Washington State Register Editor; and Debbie Deibert, Administrative Secretary.

Guests included Dennis W. Cooper, former Code Reviser and Gerry Alexander, former member of the Statute Law Committee.

Chair Brown introduced and welcomed the newest member of the committee appointed by the Chief Justice: Justice Susan Owens. Former committee member Alexander offered comments on serving 16 years on the committee and shared his views on the important work the committee does as part of the three branches of state government and that it had been a privilege to serve.

The minutes of the previous Statute Law Committee meetings on June 17, 2011 were approved after correction (Tab 1).

Kyle gave a general overview on the copyright policy of the Code Reviser's Office. It was noted that not every state has a copyright policy. The committee has encouraged the office to continue to develop electronic access of statutes and

rules with the goal of making it widely available and affordable to the public. Users of our website are allowed to print as many pages of the code as they wish, but that printing of the code for sale and profit would be looked at closely for copyright enforcement. Kyle stated that there are two commercial publishers who assemble and sell for profit various states' laws and that there is a contract with the Code Reviser's Office to pay \$15,000 for use of the electronic RCW and/or WAC each year.

An NCSL survey was provided which charted how each state deals with their codes in print or whether their on-line version is deemed the official version.

Kyle reported on the balance of the publication account which supports the printing and distribution of the codes. The cost of publishing paper copy of the codes has increased while sales of the books have decreased due to the success of the on-line versions of the RCW, WAC, Washington State Register and Session Laws. A list of county law libraries receiving free sets of the Washington Administrative Code was provided to committee members. Chapter 156, Laws of 2011 allows the committee to provide the members of the Legislature and other entities the RCW and other publications on digital media. The purpose of this legislation is to promote widespread access to legal and public information materials produced by the statute law committee in both digital and print formats while responding to a changing marketplace where sale of paper copies no longer supports the printing of copies intended for free distribution.

Kerry Radcliff shared information concerning her visits to two binderies and one printer in this state. She reported on the comparison of prices for administrative codes in other states and how each markets their codes including the differences in paper and size specifications, bond requirements, and deadlines. A discussion ensued concerning the needs of the legislature and the public. The discussion also included comments concerning how current the WAC is once it is published in paper form and distributed. It was agreed that our on-line publications are good products. (Tab 2)

Kyle reported that the office's general fund finances are adequate to finish fiscal year 2012. A history of the office's budget reductions, reduction strategies and efficiencies was included in the committee information packet. With the reduction of bill drafting workload over the course of the past sessions, the office has been able to manage with only eight attorneys. He noted that hiring a proofreader for the 2013 legislative session would be in the best interest of the office. (Tab 3)

Kyle gave details on the progress of the gender neutral bills offered by the committee these past many years. Next legislative session could be the last year in which a gender neutral bill will need to be offered to the legislature. A discussion was held on various bills introduced and passed by the legislature. The discussion included code clean-up bills and technical correction bills.

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m., the next meeting to be held at the call of the Chair.

K. KYLE THIESSEN, Secretary

MARTY BROWN, Chair

Date

(Tab references are to the meeting binder.)