



MONTANA COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
34 West Sixth Avenue • Suite 2E
Helena, Montana 59601

July 26, 2005

Members of the Law and Justice Interim Committee:

My name is Fred Van Valkenburg. I am the Missoula County Attorney; but I am appearing here today in my capacity as the President of the Montana County Attorneys' Association (MCAA).

We are here to offer our assistance to the committee in any fashion you may desire but primarily with respect to any work you or your staff may undertake with respect to SJR 40 – a study of the delivery of prosecution and civil legal services in Montana.

Our membership currently serves as the elected representatives of the people of Montana in its 56 counties regarding the enforcement of state laws at the local level. In addition, we provide legal advice and representation in civil matters to county officials in our respective jurisdictions. The dual nature of our work has a long history and tradition in both Montana and many other states. While we recognize that the current manner of providing such services is not the only way of delivering necessary legal services throughout our country, we believe the current system has, for the most part, served Montana well.

However, all governmental entities can benefit from study and careful scrutiny, and we are no different. We look forward to working with you and your staff as you consider the 59th Legislature's charge to you in SJR 40. At a very minimum we hope that you will gain a greater understanding and possibly even appreciation for the job county attorneys undertake everyday on behalf of all Montanans. Thank you very much.

LAW & JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE
JULY 26, 2005 MEETING
EXHIBIT 6