



# Law and Justice Interim Committee

## 59th Montana Legislature

### SENATE MEMBERS

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BRENT CROMLEY  
JESSE LASLOVICH  
GARY PERRY  
JIM SHOCKLEY  
CAROL WILLIAMS

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DIANE RICE  
RON STOKER  
BILL WILSON  
JEANNE WINDHAM

### COMMITTEE STAFF

SHERI HEFFELFINGER, Lead Staff  
VALENCIA LANE, Staff Attorney  
FONG HOM, Secretary

## AGENDA

*Revised as of 2/10/06*

### Pro Se Subcommittee

**Friday, February 17, 2006**

**Room 152, State Capitol, Helena**

*\*NOTE: The purpose of this meeting is to decide what to include in the initial review draft of an LJIC committee bill to support access to justice for pro se litigants in civil legal matters.*

***Definition:*** *A pro se litigant is a person who does not hire an attorney or is not entitled to a public defender and who represents himself or herself in court proceedings.*

9:30 a.m. Secretary will note the roll

Subcommittee Members:

- Sen. Perry, Chairman
- Sen. Cromley
- Rep. Stoker
- Rep. Windham

9:35 a.m. **Sen. Perry:** Chairman's introductory remarks

9:45 a.m. **Sheri Heffelfinger, staff research analyst**

- Research and policy analysis on *pro se* matters
- Overview of bill drafting process and typical drafter questions
- Summary of the issues, options, and decision points on *pro se* matters

10:15 a.m. **Pat Gervais, staff fiscal analyst**

- Review of typical revenue sources and legislative appropriations process
  - the general fund and special funds
  - general appropriations act (HB 2)
  - "cat and dog" appropriations bill
  - statutory appropriations

10:30 a.m. **Ms. Eileen Larkin, 21st Judicial District (Ravalli County)**

- Introductions, JD 21 working group to assist pro se litigants
- Overview of project successes

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Page 2

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- 11:00 a.m.    **Pro Se Working Group**
- Representatives from the Equal Justice Task Force, Commission on Self-Represented Litigants, and the State Bar's Access to Justice Committee will present a proposal for the Subcommittee's consideration
- 11:30 a.m.    **Public Comment**
- Stakeholders and interested persons are invited to comment on civil *pro se* matters

***Working Lunch \*(Committee members will be able to order lunch from Capitol's cafe)***

- 12:30 p.m.    **Sen. Perry, Subcommittee Chairman**
- Subcommittee work session (motions, discussion, and votes) to decide on what should be included in the initial review bill draft for the full LJIC to consider. (Note: The initial bill draft is to focus only on *pro se* matters.)
- 1:30 p.m.    Wrap Up  
Adjournment (*\* Actual time of adjournment may be earlier or later, depending on the progress of the Subcommittee*)

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