



Chamber of Commerce

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MAY 18 2012

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

May 17, 2012

Jon Bennion, Esq.
Montana Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1730
Helena, MT 59624

Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203001
Helena, Montana 59620-3001

Re: The Establishment of an Equal Justice Commission

To the Honorable Members of the Montana Supreme Court:

The Montana Chamber of Commerce understands the Montana Supreme Court is considering the establishment of an Access to Justice Commission. This new commission will assess the ability of all court users to access the court system, make recommendations to improve judicial processes, work toward the most efficient use and delivery of resources relating to civil access to justice and much more.

Montana businesses, especially small businesses, often use the courts for disputes involving contracts, employment, torts, land use, taxation, and many other issues that arise in the course of business. Employers and business owners want efficient, timely and fair decisions that provide a predictable framework for their business. If low income and *pro se* litigants are adequately prepared and represented, the judicial system works more effectively for all Montanans who access the system.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce is interested in assisting the proposed Equal Justice Commission as it selects commission members. We understand there will be leaders from the business community on this commission, and we would be interested in nominating names for your consideration. We have participated in nominating business leaders on several other committees and boards, including the Lieutenant Governor's Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation, the Montana Aeronautics Board, and the group that revised Montana's independent contractor laws.

Thank you for considering our participation on this new commission.

Sincerely,

Jon Bennion, Esq.
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