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Equal Access to Our Courts Commission Charter

Statutory Authority: SDCL 16-2-55 creates the Commission on Equal Access to Our Courts.

Membership: The commission consists of seven members appointed as follows:

- (1) Three members by the Governor;
- (2) Two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- (3) Two members appointed by the president of the State Bar.

Term of Appointment: Each appointment is for a term of three years. Members may be reappointed for additional terms. A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for a term of three years.

Selection of Officers: The commission shall have a chair and secretary that serve as the officers for the commission. The commission members shall select from the current members a chair and secretary by majority vote. The term for the officers shall be for a period of two years or until the member resigns the officer position or no longer serves on the commission. Terms are renewable and there are no term limits for the officer positions.

Current Appointments:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>City:</u>	<u>Appointing Authority:</u>	<u>Expiration:</u>
Tom Welk, Chair	Sioux Falls	State Bar	6/30/2028
Michelle Glodt, Secretary	Pierre	Governor	6/30/2028
Hon. Julia Dvorak	Aberdeen	Governor	6/30/2028
John Holter	Sioux Falls	Governor	6/30/2028
Margo Tschetter Julius	Rapid City	State Bar	6/30/2028
Hon. Margo Northrup	Pierre	Chief Justice	6/30/2028
Greg Sattizahn	Pierre	Chief Justice	1/1/2029

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Mission: The Commission on Equal Access to Our Courts shall provide grants to nonprofit entities that are funded, or nonprofit entities contracting with nonprofit entities that are funded, by the Legal Services Corporation and deliver legal services to persons meeting income eligibility guidelines.

Criteria for Grant Awards: In awarding grants the commission may consider:

- (1) Grant applications that will help provide legal representation of veterans, the disabled, and senior citizens who do not exceed 200%; of federal poverty guidelines;
- (2) Grant applications that will help provide legal representation to victims of domestic violence who do not exceed 150%; of applicable federal poverty guidelines;
- (3) Grant applications for entities that will provide legal assistance in general legal matters, to clients who do not exceed 125%; of applicable federal poverty guidelines;
- (4) Grant applications that will supplement eligible nonprofit entities which have expended applicable legal services corporation grant moneys for private attorney involvement;
- (5) Grant applications that facilitate systemic efficiencies and promote statewide cooperation among eligible grant recipients;
- (6) Demonstrated financial need of entities applying for grants;
- (7) Grant applications that promote statewide coverage for eligible clients;
- (8) Grants that are consistent with serving more eligible clients within the limited available resources; and
- (9) Grant applications that seek to address unmet legal needs of the poor or which promote innovative approaches to improve access to justice for all citizens of the state.

Meetings: Semi-annually or at the call of the Chair.

Staff Person: Lori Grode