

SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES

South Dakota Commission on Indigent Legal Services Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

- Betsy Hogden
- Judge Bobbi Rank
- Heather Lammers-Bogard
- Joe Kippley
- Dick Travis
- Dean Neil Fulton
- Rep. David Kull
- Judge Larry Long

Excused

- Senator Jim Mehlhaff

Guests

- Chris Miles

Call to Order:

Dean Fulton called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and established a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Judge Rank. Seconded by Ms. Hogden. Motion carried.

Case Handling and Status Update

Mr. Miles provided an update on current caseload. Mr. Miles reported 11 new appointments in the past two weeks. New cases average 11 per month. Of the current cases, 25 cases are in briefing. Currently appointed to 88 clients, and 160 total appellate cases since statewide appointments began. Each attorney has 15-19 cases. A&N case challenges were discussed (i.e. obtaining signatures for briefs) and improved communication with county clerks were noted.

No additional questions were raised.

Rules Promulgation

Key revisions include heightened standards starting at Class 2 felonies, replacing jury-trial benchmarks with demonstrated felony experience, expanding acceptable references, and establishing four statewide panels.

Other Business

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Ms. Hogden commended the Trial Academy presentations and announced Christopher Miles as Public Sector Attorney of the Year.

A county budgeting discussion followed, focusing on phased expansion of state-level trial services and rural county needs.

Public Comment

Dean Fulton opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were offered.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kippley. Seconded by Mr. Travis. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.