



Brian Schweitzer  
Governor

# OFFICE OF THE APPELLATE DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Joslyn Hunt  
Chief Appellate Defender

April 13, 2012

To: Montana Public Defender Commission

From: Joslyn Hunt, Chief Appellate Defender

RE: Report to the Commission

## **Staff**

Since the last Commission meeting, I have hired a new Assistant Appellate Defender. Wade Zolynski took the position. He joins us from the Butte office and he enters the position with a wealth of knowledge. He previously worked for the county-run public defender office in Missoula, as well as the Kentucky Public Defender Office. Wade is an amazing attorney and a joy to have around. We welcome him to the appellate office.

## **Caseload**

Our caseload continues to grow, as the attached spreadsheet indicates (Ex. 1). Everyone is at a maximum number of cases (that I gauge) and so are the contract attorneys. The office just has not seen a reprieve from the influx of cases. Everyone continues to work diligently, which I greatly appreciate.

## **Court Appointments**

Since the last Commission meeting, the appellate office has been appointed to represent two more clients. One of the cases is a large case. We are estimating it will cost the appellate office approximately \$7,000 for transcripts. The other case has a long background, where the private attorney actually filed the notice of appeal and the request for transcripts in August 2011. That attorney did not file the opening brief. As of the end of March 2012, rather than filing the opening brief, the private attorney filed a motion to have the appellate office appointed. We are in the process of qualifying both of these court-appointed clients.

