

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:05 a.m. on February 21, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
 Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
 Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
 Senator Greta Goodwin
 Milly Cundy, Certified Legal Assistant, Wichita
 Sandra K. Landis, Certified Legal Assistant Specialist
 Senator Lana Oleen

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairman Oleen called the committee's attention to the artwork hanging on the walls of the committee room. Tamara D. Faw Faw-Goodson, a graduate from Kansas State and a freelance illustrator, painter, graphic designer and art director from Manhattan has consented to display her art work at the capitol for the next month.

Chairman Oleen announced that this committee would not schedule a meeting on Thursday to accommodate legislators wishing to attend the funeral of Luci Reilly, who was the wife of former Senator Ed Reilly who chaired the Federal and State Affairs Committee for many years.

Chairman Oleen opened the hearing on:

SCR 1639 – Establishing Legal Assistants Day

Senator Greta Goodwin appeared as a proponent for **SCR 1639**. Senator Goodwin stated that she is a member of the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants and the National Association of Legal Assistants. (Attachment 1) The complexity of the practice of law has dictated the need for the advanced education and training of persons who can assist attorneys in the delivery of legal services. The Kansas Association of Legal Assistants feels it is important to recognize the services provided by honoring the profession with a day designated as Legal Assistants Day. Senator Goodwin urged the favorable consideration of **SB 1639**.

Chairman Oleen recognized Milly Cundy, CLA, Wichita, a proponent on **SCR 1639**. Ms. Cunday stated that Kansas legal assistants have become an integral part of the delivery of legal services to the public in virtually all areas of the law. (Attachment 2). Ms. Cunday noted that the Kansas Association of Kansas Legal Assistants (KALA) represent more than 130 members in the state. She stated that members of KALA have participated for a number of years on the Kansas Bar Association Legal Assistant Committee and assisted in establishing Guidelines for the Utilization of Legal Assistants in the state of Kansas.

Chairman Oleen recognized Sandra K. Landis, CLAS, as a proponent on **SCR 1639**. Ms. Landis explained the certification process that legal assistants undergo to become a Certified Legal Assistant. She stated that this a voluntary credentialing program called the Certified Legal Assistant Program. Ms. Landis ask the legislature to honor those who have worked so hard to establish the Legal Assistant profession by permanently declaring October 28 as Legal Assistants Day in Kansas.

Senator Goodwin introduced Blanche Bunce, who is the Kansas National liaison to the National Certified Legal Association. Mr. Bunce stated that she was proud to be part of the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants and ask the committee to support this resolution.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, Room 245-N Statehouse, at 11:05 a.m. on February 21, 2000.

After discussion by the committee Senator Goodwin stated that she would like to have the resolution changed to request 10 copies be provided to her. Senator Harrington moved to amend the resolution requesting 10 copies be provided to Senator Goodwin and that the resolution be passed favorably to the full senate. Senator Becker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Senator Harrington became presiding chair and opened hearing on:

SB 525 – Legislative session

Chairman Harrington recognized Senator Oleen, a proponent to **SB 525**. Senator Oleen stated that this bill would indicate that legislators would be in session, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Fridays could be devoted to constituent work, travel to the home districts, meetings with constituents and to attend to jobs of citizen legislators. Senator Oleen stated that the bill did provide for affirmative vote by 2/3 of the members elected of either house for a legislative committee of such house to meet on Fridays' or other days during a legislative session. Senator Oleen stated that one of the reasons for this bill is that quality people have left the legislature and others will not consider running because of a need to attend to personal careers that cannot be abandoned for three or four months. Another reason is the considerable driving time that some legislators have if they return to their districts to attend meetings and meet with constituents. Senator Oleen stated that many other states have adopted this style of session to accommodate legislators and constituents' needs. (Attachment 3). Senator Oleen stated that this would be a better way to represent and work for the constituents in a legislator's district.

After questions and comments on the bill from the committee members, Chairman Harrington closed the hearing on the bill.

Senator Oleen resumed chair and announced that a meeting of the subcommittee on **SUB HB 2013** is scheduled today after adjournment of the Senate.

Chairman Oleen called for action on the minutes for February 9, February 15, February 16 and February 16 at the rail. Senator Vratil moved to accept the minutes as noted. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be February 22, at 11:00 a.m.

**SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: FEB 21, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Gregory Ziemak, Exec. Director	Kansas Lottery
Keith Kocher, Assist. AG	" "
Charles M. Yunker	KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION
Milly Cundy, CLA	Kansas Association of Legal Assistants
Sandra Sanders CLAS	Kansas Association of Legal Assistants
Blanche Duneo, CLA	Kansas Association of Legal Assistants

STATE OF KANSAS

GRETA H. GOODWIN
SENATOR, 32ND DISTRICT
COWLEY AND SUMNER COUNTIES

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
ROOM 403-N
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7381
420 E. 12TH AVE.
WINFIELD, KANSAS 67156
(316) 221-9058



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:
JUDICIARY
CORRECTIONS/JUVENILE JUSTICE

MEMBER: ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM
STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATIVE
OVERSIGHT
KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION
JUDICIAL COUNCIL PROBATE
LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Senator Lana Oleen
Chairman, Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

RE: Senate Concurrent Resolution 1639

DATED: February 21, 2000

Thank you Chairman Oleen and Committee Members for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1639.

I am a member of the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants and the National Association of Legal Assistants. I am proud to be associated with such a professional group on the state and national level.

The Kansas Association of Legal Assistants was formed on October 28, 1981. I have been a continuous member since receiving my national certification in 1989. The complexity of the practice of law has dictated the need for the advanced education and training of persons who can assist attorneys in the delivery of legal services. The public sector has also driven the need for a more economical system in providing legal services. Legal Assistants have proven to fill this role in many law firms today and the need for those of our profession continues to grow.

Our Association feels it is important to recognize the services we provide by honoring those of our profession with a day designated as Legal Assistants Day. The adoption of this Concurrent Resolution will allow that to happen.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. I urge your favorable consideration of this legislation. I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have at the appropriate time.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm
Date: 2-21-00
Attachment: # 1-1

RECOMMENDATION OF DESIGNATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS DAY

Presented by Milly Cundy, CLA,
Sandra K. Landis, CLAS,
and Blanche Bunce, CLA

Kansas legal assistants are dedicated to the public, the law, the legal community, and the legal assistant profession. Kansas legal assistants have become an integral and indispensable part of the effective and efficient delivery of legal services to the public and assist attorneys practicing in virtually all areas of the law.

By definition, the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants (KALA) is a nonprofit, professional organization for legal assistants and was incorporated on October 28, 1981. KALA is an affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). NALA was incorporated in 1975 and currently represents over 18,000 legal assistants across the nation through its individual memberships as well as through its 90 affiliated state and local associations. KALA represents over 130 legal assistants in the State of Kansas. As a state legal assistant organization affiliated with a national legal assistant organization, we offer members a wide range of information and viewpoints. Legal Assistants must be aware of national, as well as state, developments and trends. In addition to adhering to the same Code of Ethics imposed upon members of the Bar, legal assistants established and adhere to our own Code of Ethics. Members of KALA have participated for a number of years on the Kansas Bar Association Legal Assistant Committee and have assisted in establishing Guidelines for the Utilization of Legal Assistants in the State of Kansas.

KALA and NALA promote education and proper credentials for those who serve the legal community. Legal assistants work under the direct supervision of attorneys. We do not sell our services directly to the public. As a visible display of our dedication to the legal community and the public, we promote the certification of legal assistants through a voluntary credentialing program called the Certified Legal Assistant Program. Those legal assistants who pass a grueling 2-day examination, very much like the bar exam given to lawyers, are entitled to use the Certified Legal Assistant or CLA credential. They may also further their knowledge by passing a 5-hour, Certified Legal Assistant Specialty exam on a specific area of law, entitling them to use the CLAS credential.

In addition to promoting the CLA Program, our goals and programs include establishing strong fellowship among members of the association and the National Association of Legal Assistants and members of the legal community; encouraging a high order of ethical and professional attainment; furthering education among members of the profession; cooperating with bar associations; and supporting and carrying out the programs, purposes, aims, and goals of the National Association of Legal Assistants.

KALA offers our members: continuing legal education seminars and workshops specifically for legal assistants; job registry services for KALA members and law firms; KALA free one year membership to graduating legal assistant students; monthly newsletter of events; and mentoring for college students enrolled in legal assistant programs.

In conclusion, legal assistants are here to stay. We hope the legislature will honor those of us who have worked so hard to establish the Legal Assistant profession by permanently declaring October 28 as Legal Assistants Day in Kansas.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm
Date: 2-21-00
Attachment: # 2-1

**Summary of Session Work Schedules for Selected State Legislatures
(Data Collected by the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, January 2000)**

State (Length of 1997 Session)	1998 Salary ⁽¹⁾	1998 Per Diem ⁽¹⁾	District Offices	Friday Sessions	Comments by Clerks and Secretaries
Arizona (95 calendar days)	\$15,000 per year	\$35 per day for 120 days; \$10 per day thereafter	No	House—No	Arizona House does not meet on Fridays. Floc action is held on Monday through Thursday. Fridays are reserved for Appropriations subcommittees and other special committee meetings. Most members go home late Thursday or early Friday.
			--	Senate—No response	--
Delaware (51 legislative days)	\$28,325 per year	None	No	House—No	Session days in the House are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Members are free on Mondays and Fridays for private sector jobs or constituent work.
			--	Senate—No response	--
Indiana (61 legislative days)	\$11,600 per year	\$117 per day	No	House—No	House meets in session Monday through Thursday, with Friday off so House members may attend to their legislative, professional, or personal matters at home. During peak periods, House will meet on Fridays.
			No	Senate—No	Senate holds sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, afternoons. Committee meetings are held on specified days Mondays through Thursdays.
Iowa (107 calendar days)	\$20,120 per year	\$86 per day	No	House—No	House normally does not have sessions on Fridays to give members time in their home districts. Occasionally, meet pro forma on Fridays to introduce bills, but no business is conducted. Does not convene on Mondays until 2:00 p.m.
			--	Senate—No response	--

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comr
Date: 2-21-00
Attachment: # 3-1

SOURCE: National Conference of State Legislatures, March 16, 1998.

State (Length of 1997 Session)	1998 Salary ⁽¹⁾	1998 Per Diem ⁽¹⁾	District Offices	Friday Sessions	Comments by Clerks and Secretaries
Kansas (92 calendar days)	\$69.29 per day	\$80 per day	No	House—Yes	House has a five-day work week. House occasionally has a pro forma day with limited activity on Fridays.
			No	Senate—Yes	Senate meets in session Monday through Fridays. Usually meets at 9:00 a.m. on Fridays to allow members to return to home districts. Most committees meet in the mornings.
Louisiana (60 legislative days)	\$16,800 per year	\$101 per day	No answer	See comments	House in even-numbered (fiscal) sessions does not meet on Fridays. House in odd-numbered (general) sessions meets five days a week.
					Senate in even-numbered (fiscal) sessions meets Monday through Wednesdays. Senators return to their districts Thursday through Sunday. During odd-numbered (general) sessions, the Senate works Monday through Thursdays. At the end of the session, the Senate will meet five, six, or seven days a week during the last two weeks.
Nebraska (90 legislative days)	\$12,000 per year	\$83 per day	No	No	Typically meets on a four-day work week with no sessions on Fridays, and sometimes will not meet on Mondays.
New Hampshire (25 legislative days)	\$200 for the two-year term	None	No	House—No	House is supposed to meet only three days per week as it is a volunteer legislature. Current Speaker sometimes schedules sessions on Thursdays.
				Senate—No response	—
North Carolina (123 legislative days)	\$13,951 per year	\$104 per day	No answer	House—No	House Rules specify that the House does not meet on Fridays for the first two months of the session. Friday sessions at the end of the session are now rare. Rules specify that no sessions may be held on Sundays.
				Senate—No response	—

State (Length of 1997 Session)	1998 Salary ⁽¹⁾	1998 Per Diem ⁽¹⁾	District Offices	Friday Sessions	Comments by Clerks and Secretaries
Ohio (126 legislative days)	\$42,427 per year	None	No answer	Senate—No House—No response	Senate Rules allow President to set session days. Senate typically meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
Oklahoma (71 legislative days)	\$32,000 per year	\$95 per day	No answer	House—No Senate—No	Both chambers meet in session Monday afternoon through Thursday morning. This allows members to be in their districts from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning.
Pennsylvania (136 legislative days)	\$58,341 per year	\$80 per day	Yes	House—No Senate—No	Both chambers meet in session on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Committees usually meet in the mornings. Legislature is not in session every week members may work in districts during recesses.
Texas (140 calendar days)	\$7,200 per year	\$95 per day	No answer	See comments	Both chambers usually meet Monday through Thursday noon until Easter Break. Then, sessions will be held Monday through Friday noon. In the last few weeks, there will be Saturday and Sunday sessions.
Vermont (157 calendar days)	\$510 per week during session	\$87 per day	No answer	See comments House—No response	Senate usually meets Tuesdays through Fridays, but in the last few weeks of session will meet five or six days a week.
Wisconsin (307 calendar days)	\$39,211 per year	\$75 per day	—	Senate—No House—No response	Senate traditionally meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a rare Wednesday session towards the end.

#30153.01(2/21/0(3:26PM))