

Montana State Senate



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The Big Sky Country

EXHIBIT 1

21 September 2006

Jim Taylor
University of Montana
School of Law
Missoula, Montana 59812-6552

Re: Public Defender Commission

Dear Mr. Taylor:

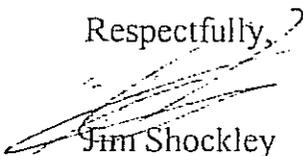
I am in receipt of your letter of the 31st of August and I appreciate your comments. Please understand that I am not antagonistic to the Public Defenders of Montana. I supported its "birth" and was involved in the interim between the 2003 and 2005 sessions of the Legislature. However, while wanting to provide the proper level of service, I am sensitive to the expense to the taxpayers.

While I have my own opinions, I concede that you have more experience, and knowledge of the "system", and what is required. Your comments on future legislation caused me to reconsider my position and I have not introduced any bill drafts relative to the public defender system. It might not be prudent to put incumbent legislators on the Commission, but those who have experience and are no longer servicing might well serve the purpose of providing insight into the legislative process.

Enclosed is a letter from the Honorable James Haynes. It causes me some concern, but we can discuss it when I am at the law school as you suggested. I am there every Monday evening. As a general proposition, those with the money to pay, should pay, for public defender services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Jim Shockley

JGS/jgs

cc: Sen. McGee
Sen. Wheat
J. Haynes
political file