

USD Law Professor Publishes Book On Experiences As Tribal Appellate Justice

VERMILLION – University of South Dakota School of Law professor Frank Pommersheim has published a new book entitled Tribal Justice: 25 Years as a Tribal Appellate Justice. The work provides an in-depth review and survey of tribal appellate court jurisprudence, including enrollment and disenrollment, civil rights, elections and political participation, criminal law and procedure, rights of juveniles, tribal constitutions, and tradition and custom.

The book focuses on the procedure and substance of tribal court appellate decision making as revealed in the text of actual court opinions.

"Frank Pommersheim is the modern apotheosis of Ksa, Nanaboozhoo, Quetzalcoatl, Athena, John Marshall, and the Buddha – all legends of judicial wisdom. Tribal Justice is a powerful culmination of his career work so far and gives us all hope for another quarter century of his judgment, experience, and calm thoughtfulness," said Matthew Fletcher, professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law in his review of the book.

Pommersheim was born in New York City but has lived in South Dakota for more than 35 years. Prior to joining the USD faculty in 1984, he lived and worked on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation for 10 years. He currently serves on a number of tribal appellate courts throughout Indian country, including chief justice for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Court of Appeals and the Rosebud Sioux Supreme Court. Pommersheim writes extensively in the field of American Indian law. He is the author of Braid of Feathers (American Indian Law and Contemporary Tribal Life) and numerous scholarly articles. Pommersheim is a contributor to the 2005 edition of Felix Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law. Pommersheim's Broken Landscape: Indians, Indian Tribes, and the Constitution was published in 2009 by Oxford University Press and has recently been released in paperback. He also has received the University of South Dakota Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching, the South Dakota Peace and Justice Center Reconciliation Award, and the John Wesley Jackson Award as the Outstanding Professor of Law. Pommersheim is also a poet. His book prior to this most recent selection was East of the River: Poems Ancient and New. A chapbook entitled Small is Beautiful: The Buddha Correspondence was published last spring. In addition, Pommersheim is an amateur but avid bird watcher who is well-acquainted with the works of Bob Dylan and has played a lot of hoops all over this land.

State's 9-1-1 Board Researches Whether Surcharge Should Stay

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The state panel overseeing South Dakota's conversion to a new system for receiving emergency calls discussed Thursday the first draft of a report analyzing whether a temporary surcharge on phone lines should be permanent.

The Legislature decided in 2012 to increase the surcharge from 75 cents to \$1.25 per month to help fund the project.

As part of the same legislation, lawmakers decided the surcharge would be reduced to \$1 per month on July 1, 2018.

The distribution formula also would change under the law in mid-2018 so that none of the surcharge went to the state 9-1-1 coordination fund.

The only source of funding for the 9-1-1 conversion project and its operating contract then would be the surcharge on prepaid wireless cards, according to the draft report.

Those are reasons why the state 9-1-1 Coordination Board that is managing the conversion is concerned there won't be enough revenue available under the changes already set in law.

The board recently commissioned a "white paper" that could be distributed someday to legislators and

the public, making the argument for the \$1.25 to continue beyond the July 1, 2018, sunset date.

The paper warns at one point: "Based on current contractual commitments for the NG9-1-1 system, the project will see a deficit of nearly \$2 million as early as 2021."

NG refers to Next Generation.

The board currently has about \$7 million in reserve while annual revenues are about \$3.6 million and annual costs are projected to vary from \$3.6 million to \$4.6 million.

The sunset of the 25 cents and the change in distribution would cut the revenue down to about \$900,000 annually starting in 2019.

State 911 coordinator Shawnie Rechtenbaugh said Thursday there wouldn't be an attempt to make the \$1.25 permanent during the 2016 legislative session that opens next month.

The current draft of the white paper is under review by state Public Safety Secretary Trevor Jones. The 9-1-1 board is attached to his department.

"At this point it's not out of our hands but for Secretary Jones to take it from here and discuss it with the governor," board member Steve Harding, a Pierre city commissioner, said.

Ted Ruffedt Jr. of Rapid City, the state board's chairman, described the draft as "a good start" and offered that other

funding options could be considered too.

"It's well done and I'm happy to hear the secretary was pleased with it," Ruffedt said. "This is a serious issue and the state has made a commitment to get into the 9-1-1 business."

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Sunset Manor Irene, S.D. at (605) 263-3318 or apply online at www.avera.org/careers

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Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company is seeking a qualified candidate for an **Economic Development Assistant**

FLSA Status: Full-Time Hourly - \$12 - \$15/hr DOQ
Benefits: 2 weeks paid vacation, paid holidays, sick leave, & health care allowance
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE
High School diploma required, some post-secondary preferred.

SUMMARY
The Economic Development Assistant will provide support for the Executive Director in executing the Economic Development functions, as well as provide communications & marketing assistance for the overall organizational mission. Other areas of focus this position could include the management of Vermillions NEXT, Young Professionals Network for Emerging Leaders.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES include:

- Assist with tracking and follow up of economic development prospects
- Assist in preparation of recruitment proposals for prospective businesses
- Track and assist with compliance of building, contract and ag leases and maintenance of the organization.
- Track and report on economic indicators for the community and region
- Update organizational website(s) & social media, including content creation
- Coordinate and assist with content creation for organizational marketing.
- Work collaboratively with the Chamber and Tourism functions of the VCDC
- Assist with staffing and planning of organization wide events, as needed.
- Other duties may be assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: Must have strong business writing skill and have knowledge of Microsoft Office products and how to effectively use them to increase productivity. An understanding of current communication technologies (social media, websites, etc.) is necessary. Must be able to adjust to constantly changing circumstances and priorities and be able to re-adjust priorities quickly. Must be a self-starter and have the ability to handle a reasonable number of task simultaneously. Must be a team player and work well with peers.

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