



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 12, 2018, 11:10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**AOC SeaTac Office**  
**SeaTac, WA**

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Members Present:**

Chair, Judge Scott Ahlf  
Judge Linda Coburn  
Judge Douglas Fair  
Judge Michael Finkle (via phone)  
Judge Michelle Gehlsen  
Judge Drew Ann Henke  
Judge Samuel Meyer  
Judge Rebecca Robertson  
Judge Douglas Robinson  
Judge Charles Short

### **Guests:**

Loyd Willaford, Esquire, WSAJ

### **AOC Staff:**

Ms. Sharon R. Harvey

### **Members Absent:**

Judge Judy Jasprica (BJA non-voting)  
Judge Dan B. Johnson (BJA non-voting)  
Commissioner Rick Leo  
Judge Mary Logan (BJA non-voting)  
Judge G. Scott Marinella  
Judge Kevin Ringus (BJA non-voting)  
Judge Damon Shadid

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Ahlf, District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) President called the DMCJA Board of Governors (Board) meeting to order at 10:25 a.m., which was prior to the scheduled meeting time of 11:10 a.m., because a quorum was present.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### A. Minutes

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2018.

### B. Treasurer's Report

M/S/P to approve the following Treasurer Reports:

- February 2018
- March 2018
- April 2018

### C. Special Fund Report

M/S/P to approve the Special Fund Report. Judge Meyer reported the account gained \$4.30 in interest.

D. Standing Committee Reports

1. *Legislative Committee*

Judge Meyer reported that Representative Roger Goodman will join him during the Legislative Update Session at the DMCJA Spring Conference on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. He further informed that Ms. Jennifer Burnam, AOC Business Analyst, will provide materials related to the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) discussion of House Bill 1783, Legal Financial Obligations. He further informed that he would not present on HB 1783 because Judge Coburn will address the new law during a plenary session at the DMCJA Spring Conference.

E. Trial Court Advocacy Board (TCAB) Update

Judge Ahlf reported that TCAB did not meet in May 2018. The group plans to invigorate the "Justice in Jeopardy" initiative that supported state funding for one half of District Court and qualifying Municipal Court judges' salaries. Judge Ahlf informed that Judge Marinella has one month left as the TCAB Chair.

F. Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Report

There was no JIS Report.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

*Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)*

Mr. Willaford reported that the WSAJ Law Day event was a success. He addressed the City of SeaTac issue in which Mayor Siefkes has proposed closing SeaTac Municipal Court. Mr. Willaford informed that WSAJ members who are residents of SeaTac will take up the issue. He informed that the next City of SeaTac Council meeting is Thursday, June 14, 2018. It was noted that Judge Ahlf, Judge Robertson, and Judge David Larson will meet with the SeaTac Director of Finance regarding the matter. Mr. Willaford stated that he will disseminate Judge Ahlf's letter expressing DMCJA opposition to the closing of SeaTac Municipal Court. Mr. Willaford then mentioned a WSAJ continuing legal education (CLE) course on Civil Cases in District Court that relates to changing perceptions because of the increased jurisdictional amount of \$100,000.

**ACTION**

1. *Adopt 2018-2019*

M/S/P to approve the 2018-2019 DMCJA Budget. Following this vote, Judge Fair proposed creating a committee to address the DMCJA budget prior to the annual Board Retreat. Specifically, the group will take a five year look back at the budget. The Board by general consensus agreed that DMCJA Executive Board will review the budget process. The Executive Committee includes the (1) President, (2) Immediate Past-President, (3) President Elect, (4) Vice President, and (5) Secretary Treasurer.

2. *Request for Board to Ask AOC to Create New JIS Cost Fee Code*

M/S/P for the Board to ask the Administrative Office of the Courts to create a new JIS cost fee code that will properly allow all infraction deferred finding administrative processing costs to remain local.

**DISCUSSION**

1. *Request for Board to Ask AOC to Create New JIS Cost Fee Code*

M/S/P to make an action item. The Board discussed a request from Judge Jeffrey Jahns, Kitsap County District Court, to ask the AOC to create a new JIS cost fee code that will allow infraction deferred finding administrative processing costs to remain local. The issue concerns the proper state versus local split of money where a court collects an administrative processing cost for a deferred finding in an infraction case. The Board discussed and decided to move the issue to an action item.

2. DMCJA Rules Committee Request to Delay Implementation of New GR 37 (Request for Expedited Consideration)

The Board reviewed a DMCJA Rules Committee request to delay implementation of the new General Rule (GR) 37, Jury Selection, to October 1, 2018. According to the DMCJA Rules Committee, judicial officers have not had any educational seminars or workshops yet that would help guide their understanding on how to implement GR 37. The Board appreciated the truism of the statements, however, noted that GR 37 became effective upon its publication on April 25, 2018. Thus, the request is moot. The Board decided by general consensus not to move this topic to an action item.

## **INFORMATION**

Judge Ahlf informed of open DMCJA Representative positions on various committees. He also directed the Board's attention to the BJA Court System Education Funding Task Force report and BJA Interpreter Services Funding Task Force report.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Judge Robinson inquired whether there are technological advances that would allow judges to participate in meetings via skype or other means without having to meet in person. Ms. Harvey stated that she will speak with AOC leaders to determine what technology is available for DMCJA meetings. Ms. Harvey then inquired whether Board members are interested in using AOC laptops instead of hard copy materials during Board meetings. The Board expressed interest in viewing meeting materials via AOC laptops. Thus, Ms. Harvey agreed to provide laptops at the next Board meeting at the AOC SeaTac office.

Adjourned approximately 11:30 AM.