



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
Friday, January 11, 2019, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
AOC SeaTac Office  
SeaTac, WA

## MEETING MINUTES

### Members Present:

Chair, Judge Rebecca Robertson  
Judge Scott Ahlf  
Judge Linda Coburn  
Judge Michael Finkle  
Judge Michelle Gehlsen  
Judge Robert Grim (by phone)  
Judge Drew Ann Henke  
Commissioner Rick Leo  
Judge Aimee Maurer (by phone)  
Judge Samuel Meyer  
Judge Charles Short  
Judge Jeffrey Smith

### Guests:

Judge Mary Logan, BJA(non-voting)(by phone)  
Judge Kevin Ringus, BJA (non-voting)  
Ms. Tarra Simmons  
Ms. Melanie Stewart  
Ms. Margaret Yetter, DMCMA

### AOC Staff:

Ms. J Benway (by phone)  
Ms. Vicky Cullinane  
Ms. Sharon R. Harvey  
Ms. Genie Paquin

### Members Absent:

Judge Jennifer Fassbender  
Judge Damon Shadid

## CALL TO ORDER

Judge Robertson, District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) President, noted a quorum was present and called the DMCJA Board of Governors (Board) meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Judge Robertson asked attendees to introduce themselves.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Minutes

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2018.

### B. Treasurer's Report

M/S/P to approve the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report was provided for the Board's review by Judge Gehlsen on behalf of Judge Fassbender.

### Special Fund Report

Judge Robertson reported that the Special Fund reports are no longer available to the bookkeeper so we are working on adding signatures in March 2019 in order to receive the reports again.

### C. Standing Committee Reports

#### 1. *Legislative Committee*

Judge Meyer introduced Ms. Melanie Stewart, the longtime lobbyist for the DMCJA. Judge Meyer reported on the Legislative Committee and let us know they have assembled their Executive Legislative Committee (Committee). The Legislative Session officially starts on Monday, January 14, 2019. The Committee will start their Legislative conference calls on Monday and Ms. Harvey has already routed an agenda for this meeting

with a list of about 30 bills on it. Judge Meyer further reported that in regard to the Legislative agenda from the DMCJA, Ms. Melanie Stewart is in the process of getting bills drafted, and two of the bills have already been drafted, numbered, pre-filed, and set for hearing. Additional bills with hearing dates are: (a) House Bill (HB) 1047/Senate Bill (SB) 5622 - CLJ Commissioners being allowed to perform marriages and General Powers of Commissioners, and (b) SB 1048-Small Claims, which will be held the first week of Legislative Session. The other three bills: the Discover Pass, Notice of Disqualification/Affidavit of Prejudice, and the Anti-Harassment bills are still having work done by Ms. Stewart. Ms. Stewart provided additional information regarding the Anti-harassment bill. She let us know that Representative Christine Kilduff is officially our sponsor as of yesterday. It has been requested by the chair to find a freshman to sponsor the Affidavit of Prejudice bill and Ms. Stewart is waiting for a freshman to physically get to Olympia to get someone to sign it, in light of not having the capabilities to procure electronic signatures with sponsorships.

#### D. Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Report

Ms. Cullinane reported that the firm Gartner, which was selected to do the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System (CLJ-CMS) project Options Analysis, started work on Monday. They have been busy already conducting interviews with stakeholders. Gartner is aware that we want to have the analysis done quickly therefore, they expect to be done by the first week in April which is good timing before all the spring conferences start. She reminded the members that Gartner will be analyzing three options: Best of Breed (combining systems with different functions into a single operating system); Modernizing JIS (modernize JIS and add missing functions through custom development), and a Hybrid system (modernizing JIS and adding off-the-shelf software for missing functions, or another option that Gartner may suggest). She further reported that the firm will be reporting their results to the CLJ-CMS Steering Committee along the way, in addition to the final report, which should give the CLJ-CMS Project Steering Committee enough time to make a decision on the best option before spring conferences take place.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### A. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Judge Kevin Ringus reported on the BJA and let the members know that the group did not meet in December and will also be taking January off to work on other tasks. The BJA will meet again in February, 2019 and he will provide information following that meeting. Judge Ringus further reported that the BJA Legislative Committee will begin their phone meetings this coming Monday, and thanked Judge Meyer for his commitment to be involved in two of the phone conferences. He also noted that some of the DMCMA Mangers will also participate in the phone conferences to talk about the items of interest coming up in that week.

Judge Robertson reported on the Policy and Planning Committee. We are currently working on communications and strategies between all the different entities and Judiciary so we have a plan in place. The goal is to build framework between each other for clearer communication and to help keep everyone on the same page. Secondly, we have the new Trial Court Security Taskforce ramping up. Judge Dan Johnson was confirmed as the small district court judge representative. Please let the BJA know if you are aware of anyone's interest or if anybody has ideas to offer. Additionally, two other taskforces on the BJA, Education and Interpreters, are developing their funding packages. Judge Robertson along with Judge Douglas Fair and Justice Steven Gonzalez met with a Senator to discuss this and draw awareness to these funding requests.

#### District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

Ms. Yetter reported that the DMCMA is working on upcoming education. Their regional education for line staff is scheduled for April. The Association is also hoping to host a session on implicit bias which will be sponsored by the Minority and Justice Commission. Ms. Yetter further reported that they are also planning their education for the annual management conference in May. Ms. Jeanne Englert from AOC provided a presentation from the BJA Interpreter and Education funding taskforces and Ms. Angie Autry, AOC Business Process Engineer, discussed the Pot Pardon that will be coming to the Courts next week based on the Governor's decision.

**B. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)**

Judge van Doorninck submitted SCJA Minutes and a written report that are included in the materials.

**ACTION**

**A. The New Hope Act, House Bill 1041**

M/S/P to support the concept of The New Hope Act, House Bill 1041, and defer to the Executive Legislative Committee whether the DMCJA should support the actual bill. The Board had concerns regarding bill language that would allow a defendant's record to be vacated without paying non-restitution legal financial obligations.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. The New Hope Act, House Bill 1041**

Ms. Tarra Simmons submitted a report on The New Hope Act, House Bill 1041 which can be found in the materials. Ms. Simmons introduced herself and informed the members that she is an attorney with the Public Defenders Association and Executive Director of a nonprofit organization that is led by formally incarcerated people trying to help other people with re-entry following incarceration and to re-build their lives. In addition, she is co-chair to the Washington Statewide Reentry Council along with Dan Satterberg. Ms. Simmons explained that this bill is important for District Court judges because currently people with even 20 plus years of rehabilitation can only vacate one misdemeanor conviction, which limits people's ability to obtain housing, employment, and professional licenses, sometimes for a lifetime. This bill will expand judicial discretion by giving a judge the option in deciding whether a person has earned a second chance at life or not. Ms. Simmons further added that the SCJA is currently considering support of the bill thus far, along with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) and other organizations. The Board had concerns regarding decoupling provisions and whether a person could vacate a record prior to paying non-restitution legal financial obligations (LFOs). M/S/P to move this topic to an action item.

**B. Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Payroll Deduction**

Judge Robertson included emails in the materials that she received from Judge Susan Mahoney and reported on the concerns of the County not wanting to be an employee and be taxed by way of payroll deduction, because they believe they cannot get the benefit. Judge Robertson further added that her bench mate, whom is a Municipal Court employee, will get the benefit from the payroll deduction, so no reason to fight the tax. Judge Robertson opened the topic up to discussion from the members. There was comment that no government entity would see the benefit of this program, but our money is needed so no one will be left out of the pool. It was further noted that most government employees within their jurisdiction probably already have a benefit package as good as what they are trying to make us pay for. Judge Robertson added that she thought King County had already filed a lawsuit or grievance regarding the issue. It was mentioned that if every governmental entity pulls out of the pool then they probably will not get the money they need to fund the program as intended. Further comment was that this program is designed to benefit employees that are not offered benefit packages like the government and state employees are presented with.

**C. DMCJA National Leadership Grant Presentation – Judge Marilyn Paja**

Judge Paja provided a written report and further presented via teleconference on her national leadership experience. She explained the leadership grant in general terms and her particular use of it. She also emphasized that the DMCJA leadership grant is unique among the trial court organizations in Washington

State and maybe also unique for the nation. She noted that the grant has been a budget line item for almost twenty-five years.

## **INFORMATION**

- A. Board members are encouraged to apply for DMCJA representative positions. Available positions include:
1. JIS CLJ "CLUG" User Group
  2. Presiding Judge & Administrator Education Committee

Judge Ahlf added that the information regarding the DMCJA Board representative positions was sent out and needs to be returned to Ms. Susan Peterson by January 15, 2019, to be considered to be an Officer, or if you know of someone else that wants to be on the Board.

- B. DMCJA Board members are encouraged to submit Board agenda topics for monthly meetings.
- C. A Legislative Reception sponsored by the BJA, SCJA, and DMCJA will be held on January 16, 2019, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Temple of Justice, Foyer, in Olympia, WA.
- D. DMCJA Support Letter for SCJA Proposed Amendments to Code of Judicial Conduct 2.9
- E. Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, Snohomish County District Court, is the new DMCJA liaison for the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Judge Robertson and Judge Ahlf discussed the work of the Council on Independent Courts (CIC). There was further discussion regarding Judicial Education topics to consider covering at the Spring Conference. Judge Ahlf and Ms. Harvey concurred that the next DMCJA CIC meeting is on January 24, 2019 and, therefore, the topic will be added to the CIC meeting agenda, with the approval of CIC Committee Chair, Judge David Steiner.

The next DMCJA Board Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2019, from 12:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the AOC Office in SeaTac, WA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.