



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
Friday, July 9, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Zoom Video Conference <https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/97570254401>

## MEETING MINUTES

### Members Present:

Chair, Judge Charles D. Short  
Judge Thomas Cox  
Judge Michael Frans  
Judge Drew Ann Henke  
Commissioner Rick Leo  
Judge Catherine McDowall  
Judge Lloyd Oaks  
Judge Kevin Ringus  
Judge Jeffrey Smith  
Judge Laura Van Slyck  
Judge Mindy Walker  
Judge Karl Williams  
Commissioner Paul Wohl

### Members Absent:

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis  
Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen

### Guests:

Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative  
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative  
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative  
Judge Jeffrey Goodwin  
Judge Samuel Meyer  
Judge Kyle Mott  
Judge Kimberly Walden  
Judge Jennifer Forbes, SCJA  
Regina Alexander, MPA  
Mark O'Halloran, WSAJ  
Bryn Peterson, WSBA  
Kris Thompson, DMCMA  
Rhea Yo, LCYC  
Gabriel Neuman, LCYC

### AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff  
J Benway, Legal Services Senior Analyst  
Vicky Cullinane, Business Liaison  
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist  
Christopher Stanley, CFO/MSD Director

## CALL TO ORDER

Judge Charles D. Short, 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 12:33 p.m.

Judge Short welcomed and introduced the new board members – Judge Michael Frans, Judge Catherine McDowall, Judge Lloyd Oaks and Judge Mindy Walker.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)** - Judge Short introduced Rhea Yo JD, Legal Supervisor and Gabriel Neuman, Legal Extern who gave a presentation: *Procedural Barriers Faced When Filing Name Change Petitions*.

The LCYC asks that courts ensure their clerks are trained on how to process name change petition recording fee waivers.

**Cultural Spotlight** - Judge Short noted that Rex Buck Jr, Wanapum Band Elder, was not able to join the meeting today and may present in the future.

## LIAISON REPORTS

### A. **Administrative Office of the Courts AOC**

Ms. Rubio was not present and did not report. Judge Short introduced new CFO/Management Services Division Director Christopher Stanley.

### B. **Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)**

Judge Mary Logan reported that the BJA Budget and Finance Committee has not met recently.

Judge Tam Bui reported that the BJA Court Education Committee is responsible for developing educational standards for courts and the judicial college. One of the immediate requests, brought to the CEC by way of a recent presentation and recommendation from the SCJA Equity and Fairness Committee, is an amendment to GR 26 which governs continuing education. The amendment would include education in diversity, equity and inclusion.

The BJA sponsored a Judicial Leadership Summit on Interbranch and Legislative Relations on June 18, 2021 via Zoom, of which the focus was improving communications between branches and improving access to justice for people in need of the courts. There were discussions on interbranch relations, policy and funding, and future opportunities to collaborate. Participants committed to effectively engage legislative stakeholders throughout the year, and to early communication of policy and funding needs.

### C. **District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)**

Kris Thompson reported that she has not yet held a meeting as president of the DMCMA. They have been assisting with the effort to support Judge Lev in Bellingham Municipal Court through the Courts Helping Courts program.

### D. **Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)**

Regina Alexander reported that the first MPA meeting will be held July 19, 2021.

### E. **Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)**

Judge Jennifer Forbes reported that she was not able to attend the recent retreat, but the SCJA is actively working on solutions to manage the impact of the Blake decision. They are currently gearing up for legislative session, researching funding opportunities including supplemental budget requests for Blake and potentially for the Uniform Guardianship Act. Judge Forbes reported that the SCJA is looking for opportunities to partner with DMCJA.

### F. **Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)**

Mark O'Halloran, Esq. advised that the WSAJ is offering an open invitation to attend the WSAJ Judicial and Awards Reception on August 18, 2021 at the Columbia Tower Club in Seattle, honoring Judge of the Year Honorable LeRoy McCullough of King County Superior Court.

### G. **Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)**

Bryn Peterson, Esq. had nothing to report and offered to answer any questions.

### H. **Racial Justice Consortium**

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis and Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen were not present to report.

### I. **CLJ-CMS Project**

Judge Kimberly Walden reported there is a pause on OFM implementation. Leadership has met with Justice Madsen and representatives from Tyler Technologies to discuss issues they are experiencing and concerns,

including courts that are not actively participating in the implementation. They hope to have implementation completed by this time next year, and continue to look at funding, policies, and rule-making solutions. They do not want to jeopardize the project by pushing forward through concerns, but they have received a lot of feedback and hope to be back on track soon.

DMCMA President Kris Thompson inquired if there would be a statewide rule regarding OFS in lieu of multiple local court rules. Judge Walden stated that a statewide rule for anything is very challenging but is not off the table, and they are looking at every option.

## **BREAK**

Judge Short called for a short 10 minute break.

## **BREAK OUT SESSIONS**

Judge Short played a short video from YouTube – *Linda Hill: Innovation is Not about Solo Genius*, after which the meeting participants were split into five informal breakout groups, where members were invited to discuss three prompts listed on the agenda, which were based on the video.

Upon returning to the main session, each group was offered an opportunity to share what they discussed. It was agreed that this may be a good topic for the upcoming Spring Conference.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. Minutes**

The board meeting minutes from May 7, 2021 were adopted by general consensus with no changes made.

### **B. Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2021**

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the Treasurer's Report.

### **C. Special Fund Report for the period ending June 30, 2021**

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the Special Fund Report.

### **D. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **1. Rules Committee**

AOC Legal Services Senior Analyst J Benway reported that the minutes from the Rules Committee Meetings from March 24, 2021, April 28, 2021 and May 19, 2021 are included in the meeting packet.

#### **2. Diversity Committee**

Judge Karl Williams reported that a survey will be sent to the membership regarding funding for indigent defendants for alternative jail sentences (EHM, SCRAM, etc).

#### **3. Legislative Committee**

Judge Kevin G. Ringus and Commissioner Paul Wohl reported that the Legislative Committee has not met since the end of session but several workgroups are being developed. They are preparing to reach out to membership to survey legislative interests for the upcoming session. Judge Ringus reported that

AOC has hired new Office of Judicial & Legislative Relations Associate Director Brittany Gregory, and he will be meeting with her soon.

## DISCUSSION

### A. ITG 265 Board Endorsement Confirmation and request to consider DMCJA Board Subset Endorsing Group

AOC Business Liaison Vicky Cullinane briefly explained the history of ITG and the purpose of the group and how decisions are made. Judge Short inquired if there was a time deadline for a decision from DMCJA and recalled that a year ago DMCJA had already approved something for Kitsap (the initial endorsement). Vicky Cullinane indicated a vote by the Board in August would not cause delay. She reported that the CLJ-CMS connection has to be priority, with these requests taken secondary, as approved. M/S/P to move to Action Item for the August 2021 meeting. Vicky Cullinane asked the board to consider creating a subset endorsing group with designated members to review these requests in the future.

### B. Rules Committee Proposals

#### 1. CrRLJ 3.3 – Time for Trial

Judge Jeffrey Goodwin & AOC Legal Services Senior Analyst J Benway presented a proposal from the DMCJA Rules Committee to adopt amendments to CrRLJ 3.3 – Time for Trial.

M/S/P to move to an action item on today's agenda.

#### 2. CrRLJ 3.4 - Presence of the Defendant

Judge Jeffrey Goodwin & AOC Legal Services Senior Analyst J Benway presented a proposal from the DMCJA Rules Committee to adopt amendments to CrRLJ 3.4 - Presence of the Defendant

M/S/P to move to an action item on today's agenda.

#### 3. CRLJ 17, CRLJ 56, CRLJ 60, ER 413

Judge Jeffrey Goodwin & AOC Legal Services Senior Analyst J Benway presented WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee proposals to Amend CRLJ 17, CRLJ 56, CRLJ 60, ER 413, of which comments/board approval was previously sent to WSSC on June 29, 2021

M/S/P to move to an action item on today's agenda.

Judge Forbes stated that the SCJA is also reviewing these rules and there is potential for collaboration.

### C. Public Outreach Committee Proposal

Judge Kyle Mott presented the Public Outreach Committee's proposal to establish a DMCJA social media presence, including Facebook and Twitter accounts. The committee would rely on court administrators or a designee from each court to provide the content for the committee to disperse on social media. M/S/P to move to an action item on today's agenda.

### D. Long Range Planning Committee Chair Position Discussion

A discussion ensued regarding the chair positions as discussed at a prior meeting. It was decided that the DMCJA Vice-President will remain Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee.

## **E. Discussion Regarding the Creation of DMCJA Workgroups**

### 1. SB 5476 Blake

Judge Van Slyck mentioned that this bill has many aspects, including behavioral health, criminal, law enforcement, and grant funding. Judge Van Slyck will discuss this work group with AOC representatives at a meeting scheduled this week, and stated that current active committees may be able to take on this work.

### 2. HB 1320 Civil Protection Orders

Commissioner Wohl noted that current statute requires two different work groups to be set up and make recommendations to the legislature by December.

### 3. SB 5307 Uniform Pretrial Release and Detention Act (48 hour rule)

AOC Staff will check to see if there is an existing workgroup.

### 4. DMCJA Policy Analyst workgroup

Judge Short and Judge Gehlsen will be the leads for this workgroup.

### 5. Grant Writer workgroup

Judge Short will be the lead for this workgroup. He inquired if there was anyone with grant writing experience, stating he could use the help.

### 6. JABS workgroup

Judge Gehlsen will be the lead for this workgroup.

### 7. Bench Book workgroup

AOC Legal Services Senior Analyst J Benway stated that Legal Services is planning on updating the bench books now that they have received new funds from the legislature, and that new staff at AOC will be responsible for this. J will let the DMCJA know if there are ways they can help with the process.

## **F. Lobbyist Work Group Contract Discussion**

Judge Samuel G. Meyer shared that a potential lobbyist has been chosen by the workgroup – Melissa Johnson from Bogard & Johnson. The draft contract is in the materials packet for review. A brief discussion ensued regarding Melissa's experience.

M/S/P to move to an action item on today's agenda.

## **G. Fall Conference Business Meeting Date/Location Discussion**

Judge Short presented options for the Fall Conference board meeting, which is currently scheduled for Sunday, September 12, 2021, and he proposed moving it to Friday, September 10, 2021 and holding the meeting via Zoom video conference.

Judge Short's proposal to hold the fall business meeting on Friday, September 10, 2021 via Zoom was approved by consensus.

#### **H. President's Reimbursements for Approval**

Judge Short advised that Immediate Past President Michelle K. Gehlsen had two expenses during her term that were over \$100 and require board approval, a purse gifted to the outgoing lobbyist and flowers and candy that were sent to the Bellingham Municipal Court.

M/S/P to move to an action item on today's agenda.

#### **I. DMCJA Board Meeting Schedule/Materials to Membership Discussion**

Judge Short inquired if the board had any opinions on whether the materials packet should be sent to the entire DMCJA membership prior to meetings, or if some other manner of notifying the membership of the meeting schedule/agenda items would be appropriate to institute.

It was decided that a meeting reminder and link to the meeting materials would be sent to the full membership prior to each meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**1. DMCJA Rules Committee Proposal to adopt amendments to CrRLJ 3.3 – Time for Trial**

M/S/P to approve the DMCJA Rules Committee proposal to adopt amendments to CrRLJ 3.3.

**2. DMCJA Rules Committee Proposal to adopt amendments to CrRLJ 3.4 – Presence of the Defendant**

M/S/P to approve the DMCJA Rules Committee proposal to adopt amendments to CrRLJ 3.4.

**3. WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee proposals to Amend CRLJ 17, CRLJ 56, CRLJ 60, ER 413**

M/S/P to approve the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee proposals to Amend CRLJ 17, CRLJ 56, CRLJ 60, ER 413.

**4. Public Outreach Committee Proposal**

M/S/P to permit the Public Outreach Committee to create a DMCJA social media presence.

**5. Lobbyist Contract**

M/S/P to approve the lobbyist contract on behalf of DMCJA with Melissa Johnson, effective immediately.

**6. President's Reimbursements**

M/S/P to approve reimbursements to Judge Gehlsen as presented.

## **INFORMATION**

Judge Short brought the following informational items to the Board's attention.

### **A. 2021-2022 Board, BJA Reps, Chairs Roster**

Judge Short asked the board, BJA reps, and chairs review the document for accuracy of name spelling and contact information.

### **B. New DMCJA Appointments to External Committees**

Judge Lisa Leone was appointed to the JIS CLJ "CLUG" User Group. Judge John Hart and Judge Scott Ahlf were appointed to the JISC.

### **C. Judge Michael Roewe Obituary**

### **D. AOC Workgroup on Therapeutic Funding**

### **E. Washington State Association of Counties Letter to AOC regarding Distribution of Blake Proviso Funds, AOC Response Letter and Disbursement Plan Info Sheet**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next DMCJA Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 13, 2021 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., held via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.