



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, January 14, 2022, 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 Michelle K. Gehlsen
Judge Drew Ann Henke
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
Commissioner Rick Leo
Judge Catherine McDowall

Guests:

Judge Rachelle Anderson, SCJA
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, Rules Committee
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative
Judge Kimberly Walden, JIS CMJ-CMS
Regina Alexander, MPA

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
J Benway, Principal Legal Analyst
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist
Christopher Stanley, Chief Financial and
Management Division 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 pm.

WELCOME AND MINUTES

Judge Short welcomed everyone to the January 2022 meeting of the DMCJA Board of Governors.

A. Minutes

The minutes from the December 10, 2021 meeting and the December 28, 2021 special meeting were previously distributed to the members. Judge Short asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by consensus.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Liaison Reports

1. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

DMCMA President Kris Thompson was not present.

2. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

MPA Representative Regina Alexander reported that MPA will meet next week.

3. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)

WSAJ Representative Mark O'Halloran, Esq. was not present.

4. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

WSBA Representative Francis Adewale, Esq. was not present.

5. Minority Bar Associations

No representatives from the minority bar associations were present.

6. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

State Court Administrator Dawn Marie Rubio reported that AOC has been authorized to order COVID-19 rapid tests, which would be distributed through a similar process to that used for personal protective equipment distribution early in the pandemic. Judge Smith inquired if these tests are specifically for court staff or if they could be used for juries, and Dawn Marie Rubio responded that the tests could be used at the discretion of the courts.

7. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Judge Tam Bui reported that the BJA will sign in to give testimony on SB 5490 (Interbranch Advisory Committee). The BJA Court Education Committee met today to finish their review of the strategic planning documents and they will be providing more information soon.

Judge Robertson reported that the BJA Courthouse Security Task Force has been meeting with legislators in support of the request for equipment and personnel funding.

8. CLJ-CMS Project and Rules for e-Filing/Judicial Information System (JIS) Report

Judge Kimberly Walden reported that the project is moving forward, and AOC is in the process of hiring a new Deputy Project Manager. Judge Walden shared that a current, contentious issue is the ability for the Tyler product to integrate with other software, which may not be part of the original project scope. Discussion ensued about costs associated with integration, timeframe, and how DMCJA can support integration for the project.

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to move this item to Action today.

9. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

Judge Rachelle Anderson, SCJA President, reported that SCJA has decided to hold their spring conference virtually again this year. Judge Anderson shared that they are busy with legislative session work, including discussions about HB 1901 (Civil Protection Order trailer), juvenile issues, resentencing, peace officers use of force, and SB 5490 (Interbranch Advisory Committee).

10. Racial Justice Consortium

Judge Michelle Gehlsen reported that she has no updates at this time. Patty Lally, Racial Justice Consortium staff, will be presenting to the DMCJA Board at the next meeting on February 11, 2022.

B. Rules Committee Report

Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin reported under Discussion item A.

1. Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 24, 2021 Rules Committee meeting and December 2, 2021 Special Rules Committee meeting are included in the packet.

C. Diversity Committee Report

Judge Karl Williams reported that the committee recently met and began to review the electronic home monitoring (EHM) survey results. Judge Williams shared that the results indicated that more populated jurisdictions tend to have mechanisms in place for EHM financial assistance whereas less populated areas generally did not have jail alternatives. Judge Williams suggested that given how issues are currently intersecting (COVID-19, financial hurdles, jail issues), it may be a good time to consider approaching the legislature for funding. Judge Williams emphasized that all jurisdictions should be able to provide an alternative to jail that is not based on ability to pay. Separately, Judge Williams reported that Pierce County Equity and Social Justice Committee has been working on a plan for implicit bias training and he would like to add this item to a future DMCJA Board meeting agenda.

D. Legislative Committee Report

Commissioner Paul Wohl reported that the 2022 legislative session started today, and that DMCJA's legislative priorities continue to be funding for therapeutic courts and court security, a policy analyst for the Association, and funding for eFiling. Commissioner Wohl noted that several other items of interest are being circulated such as language for an HB 1320 (Protection Order) trailer bill, and bills relating to deferred prosecutions, vacating convictions, and the Interbranch Advisory Committee.

E. Therapeutic Courts Committee Report

Judge Laura Van Slyck reported that she is grateful for those who presented at the House Public Safety Committee Work Session while she was on medical leave. Judge Van Slyck shared that the committee is researching the possibility of holding a webinar or listening session for legislators to share information about therapeutic courts, and that the committee is hoping to have a written update prepared and distributed at Spring Program.

F. Public Outreach Committee Report

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that the committee will next meet in two weeks.

G. Education Committee Report

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that a survey was sent out to members regarding Spring Program about the possibility of meeting in-person, and an emergency board meeting was held in late December to discuss the results and the current position of AOC regarding contract requirements. Judge Smith reported that at that time most board members expressed that they felt it was inappropriate for DMCJA to take on the financial liability required to contract for an in-person event. Judge Short noted that staff are currently researching a potential alternative venue which has a more lenient cancellation policy, and Judge Smith responded that a decision about in-person versus virtual programming will be determined once we have more information.

H. Treasurer's Report

Judge Karl Williams reported that dues are starting to come in, and he will have a status update at the next meeting.

I. Special Funds Report

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that the special funds report is available in the materials.

BREAK

ACTION

1. **The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to support integration of the OCourts suite of products into the CLJ-CMS (Tyler Technologies) project based on information known at this time**
2. **The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to authorize Rules Committee to send comments to the BJA COVID Recover Task Force as outlined in the memo**
3. **The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to proceed with holding the Board Retreat in-person at Campbell's Resort in Chelan, WA on May 13 and 14, 2022**

DISCUSSION

A. Rules Memo regarding DMCJA response to COVID Recovery Task Force proposal

Judge Goodwin reported that Rules Committee would like to submit a response to the BJA COVID Recovery Task Force regarding their proposals, as several of their suggested rules may be problematic for CLJs.

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to move this item to Action today.

B. Spring Program Update – Survey Results

This item was discussed under Education Committee Report.

C. Board Retreat Update

Tracy Dugas reported that a survey was sent to Board members regarding the possibility of holding an in-person retreat this spring. 11 (out of 15) members voted to hold the retreat in-person, with a date preference of May 13 and 14. Tracy shared additional information about the costs typically associated with this event, and that if DMCJA signs a contract with Campbell's Resort in Chelan, the cost for cancelling within 90 days of the event will be around \$5000. Judge Smith opined that there may be an issue with the optics of the board meeting in person while conference is held online.

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to move this item to Action today.

D. Additional budget requests – Chris Stanley

Judge Short shared that there have been reports that the legislature may have excess funding available for one-time requests. Chris Stanley explained that AOC will be providing a list of additional one-time funding requests to key legislators and that the Associations have the opportunity to submit information about their unfunded projects for consideration. Chris Stanley noted that he will be taking care to make sure the legislators understand that these requests are in addition to AOC's decision packages and they should not supplant the previously-submitted budget package. Discussion ensued about the possibility of requesting additional funding for various projects including JABS data quality issues, backlog managers, audio/visual needs that were not approved for CARES funding, therapeutic courts and the Court FAIR ("Secret Court Shopper") project. Chris Stanley shared that the deadline for items to be included on the list for consideration will be January 21, 2022.

INFORMATION

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

- A. Press Release – Retired Washington Supreme Court Justice Mary Elizabeth Fairhurst – Celebration of Life January 30, 2022 – POSTPONED
- B. Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst National Leadership Grant – Guidelines
- C. DMCJA Call for Candidates – board positions

OTHER BUSINESS

The next DMCJA Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 11, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., held via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.