



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, March 11, 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
Commissioner Rick Leo
Judge Catherine McDowall
Judge Lloyd Oaks
Judge Kevin Ringus
Judge Jeffrey Smith
Judge Mindy Walker
Judge Karl Williams
Commissioner Paul Wohl

Members Absent:

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
Judge Laura Van Slyck

Guests:

Judge Valerie Bouffiou, Guest
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge Tracy Flood, Guest
Judge Jennifer Forbes, SCJA
Judge Jessica Giner, Guest
Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, Rules Committee
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative
Judge Lisa Paglisotti, Guest
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative
Judge Megan Valentine, Guest
Judge Patricia Connolly Walker, JIS CMJ-CMS
Francis Adewale, WSBA
Melissa Johnson, Lobbyist
Allen Mills, Bluecrane Solutions, Inc

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
J Benway, Principal Legal Analyst
Tessa Clements, Behavioral Health Program Lead
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist
Frank Thomas, Senior Court Program Analyst

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.

WELCOME AND MINUTES

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

Judge Short introduced the 2022 Judicial College graduates that were in attendance.

A. Minutes

The minutes from the February 11, 2022 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.

PRESENTATIONS

National Association of Women Judges

Judge Lisa Paglisotti provided an overview of the National Association of Women Judges and shared information about their upcoming Women's Resource Fair.

AOC Office of Court Innovation Behavioral Health Unit Decision Package

AOC Behavioral Health Program Lead Tessa Clements gave a brief overview of the decision package that established the Behavioral Health Program team.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Liaison Reports

1. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

DMCMA President Kris Thompson was not present but provided a written report that the DMCMA's next board meeting will be held on March 15, 2022.

2. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

MPA Representative Regina Alexander was not present.

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. reported that representatives from the WSBA recently met with the Supreme Court to discuss the structure and future of the bar association. Mr. Adewale shared that the WSBA would like to ask the DMCJA for ideas about how to encourage new attorneys to relocate to more rural areas and would like to have further discussion about this issue at a subsequent board meeting. Judge Smith shared that this is also an issue in the medical field and that medical schools may have some models they can share.

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 was not present.

7. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Judge Tam Bui reminded the board that the BJA Court Education Committee is responsible for education and training for members of the judicial branch, and that they collaborate with AOC to develop education opportunities. Judge Bui noted that SB 5490 (Interbranch Advisory Committee) did pass the legislature this session and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The Chief Justice will be starting discussions on how best to approach this committee, including membership and top priorities.

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

Allen Mills, Bluecrane Solutions, Inc. introduced himself and shared that he is present today as a resource for questions related to the CLJ-CMS project. Judge Walker briefly shared an update on integration of third party software into CLJ-CMS. Mr. Mills noted that his impression is that the AOC is attempting to solve the problem of integration into the Tyler suite of products and that the upcoming report from Dexter Mejia at AOC should provide more detailed information about next steps. Judge Walker requested that the DMCJA provide funds for two Steering Committee members to attend the upcoming Tyler conference (Tyler Connect) in Indianapolis, Indiana. A poll was taken to gauge interest in providing up to \$4000 in expense reimbursement for two Steering Committee members to attend Tyler Connect, which passed by acclamation. This item will be carried over to Action at the next meeting.

9. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

Judge Jennifer Forbes, SCJA President-Elect, reported that SCJA is overall pleased with the legislative outcome this year, and that preparations for the Salary Commission discussions are ongoing. Judge Forbes shared that SCJA's annual business meeting will occur at the end of April, and a new President-Elect will join the DMCJA board meetings as the SCJA representative in May.

10. Racial Equity Consortium

Judge Michelle Gehlsen reported that the Consortium is continuing to draft a work plan that will outline their next steps.

B. Rules Committee Report

Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin reported that he and Judge Short recently met with the SCJA and the WSBA regarding a previously discussed issue with GR 9, where the Supreme Court Rules Committee is not following their own policy to have rules proposals vetted through the associations prior to publishing. Judge Goodwin will be drafting a letter to be sent on behalf of the DMCJA to outline the concerns.

1. Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 25, 2022 Rules Committee meeting are included in the packet.

C. Diversity Committee Report

Judge Karl Williams reported that the Diversity Committee has hired an intern to work on the EHM project.

D. Legislative Committee Report

Commissioner Paul Wohl requested that Melissa Johnson, DMCJA Lobbyist, provide the Legislative Committee report today. Melissa Johnson reported that the budget bill passed the legislature late last night, and the DMCJA was overall very successful in receiving funding for their priorities. Ms. Johnson shared that the DMCJA will be getting two new staff policy analysts, one of which will be a general analyst, and one that will focus on Blake-related work. She reported that \$4.9 million was allocated in the budget to therapeutic courts, that municipal courts will receive funding to implement Blake, and AOC's data quality program will receive funding for staff, with eFiling costs funded, and court room AV upgrade funding also available. Ms. Johnson noted that the one item that was not funded at all is courthouse security, and that she hopes the branches can come together on the Interbranch Advisory Committee to reach an understanding on this issue. Ms. Johnson also reported that on the policy side, bills regarding legal financial obligations (HB 1412), single judge courts (HB 1825), and auditor fee waivers (HB 1961) all passed the legislature this year. Ms. Johnson thanked everyone who participated in DMCJA's Legislative Day and noted that the Committee is working on exciting things for the interim period in preparation for the 2023 session.

E. Therapeutic Courts Committee Report

Judge Laura Van Slyck was not present but provided a report that the next Therapeutic Courts Committee meeting is scheduled for April 6. An outreach letter to committee members and new therapeutic court grantees has been distributed.

F. Public Outreach Committee Report

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that the committee will be requesting additional funding this year for an in-person work session and requested that this item be added to the April board meeting agenda for Action. Judge Gehlsen shared that the committee is also working on a "take your legislator/executives to the court" event for the fall, and that soon a toolkit will be available on Inside Courts with examples of presentations to city councils or similar audiences.

G. Education Committee Report

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that a Save-the-Date for the 2022 DMCJA Virtual Spring Program (June 6 through June 10, 2022) has been sent to membership.

H. Treasurer's Report

Judge Karl Williams reported that 2022 dues continue to be received.

I. Special Funds Report

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that the Special Funds account has generated \$5.98 in interest.

J. Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee Chair Judge Michelle Gehlsen directed members to the materials, providing the 2022 candidates for election as follows:

President-Elect	Judge Jeffrey Smith
Vice-President	Judge Karl Williams
Secretary/Treasurer	Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
Board Position #2 FT District	Judge Jeffrey Goodwin & Judge Mindy Walker
Board Position #3 PT District	Judge Chancey Crowell & Judge Carolyn Jewett
Board Position #4 FT Municipal	Judge Jessica Giner & Judge Gloria Ochoa-Bruck

ACTION

- A. The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to update the guidelines for the Justice Mary Fairhurst Grant to change the requirement from "active on a committee" to "active on a committee on behalf of DMCJA."
- B. M/S/P to approve the HB 1294 Model Interlocal Probation Agreement as presented.
- C. M/S/P to make a donation of \$2500 from the general fund for the Minority and Justice Commission Annual Symposium provided that use of these funds for this purpose would not violate judicial ethics.
- D. M/S/P to provide support of up to \$2500 from the Special Fund for hiring a public relations firm to help with messaging in preparation for Salary Commission presentations.
- E. M/S/P to adopt the resolution as presented to create the David A. Steiner Leadership Award.
- F. M/S/P to adopt the proposed Guidelines for DMCJA Social Media Posting as policy.

DISCUSSION

A. Resolution for Judge Steiner Award

Commissioner Rick Leo introduced the draft language for the Steiner Award and requested that the Board vote on this item.

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

B. 2023-205 Biennium Budget Development & Submittal

Judge Short reminded the Board that Chris Stanley, AOC Management Services Division Director, is providing the opportunity for those throughout the judicial branch to submit concept papers for budget decision packages. Judge Short provided a brief explanation of each of the ideas submitted to the DMCJA for consideration and requested that members take a poll to prioritize these items. A link to the poll was provided in the chat.

C. Public Outreach Social Media Policy Draft

Judge Gehlsen introduced the Guidelines for DMCJA Social Media Posting Policy from the Community Engagement Subcommittee and requested that the Board vote to approve the policy. The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to move this item to Action today.

D. Rules Committee Proposal to Amend CRLJ 55

Judge Goodwin introduced the proposal to Amend CRLJ 55 and requested that this item be placed on the April board meeting agenda for action.

E. Special Funds Expenditure – Salary Commission PR Consulting Firm

Commissioner Leo introduced this item and explained this year, the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials ("Salary Commission") will meet to determine updated salaries for elected officials, including judicial officers. Commissioner Leo noted that the Salary Commission holds a series of meetings beginning in the fall, and that the first two speakers from the judicial branch at those meetings will be Judge Forbes from SCJA, and himself. An ad hoc workgroup of judges usually meets on Salary Commission years to discuss how to approach the meetings, and this year that workgroup has decided that recommend that SCJA and DMCJA jointly contract with a public relations firm to help with preparation and messaging. Judge Forbes noted that the workgroup has been watching videos of past meetings, and it has become clear that they have not always communicated well with their audience (i.e. the Commissioners). Commissioner Leo shared that a proposal from FM Public Affairs is available in the meeting materials today and requested that this item be moved to Action.

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

INFORMATION

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

- A. Joint Minority Mentorship Program (JMMP)
- B. Rules Published for Comment and Preliminary Responses
- C. Save the Date – 2022 DMCJA Virtual Spring Program, June 6-10, 2022
- D. Webinar – Washington's New Civil Protection Order Law, April 6, 2022
- E. BJA Strategic Initiative Request for Proposals – due April 21, 2022

OTHER BUSINESS

The next DMCJA Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., held via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.