



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, July 8, 2022 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference <https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/82910554410>

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair, Commissioner Rick Leo
Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
Judge Michael Frans
Judge Jessica Giner
Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin
Judge Carolyn M. Jewett
Judge Lloyd Oaks
Judge Kevin Ringus
Judge Charles D. Short
Judge Karl Williams
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

Members Absent:

Judge Catherine McDowall
Judge Jeffrey Smith
Commissioner Paul Wohl
Judge Dan B. Johnson, BJA Representative

Guests:

Judge Andrea Beall, Conference Planning Chair
Judge Samuel Chung, SCJA Liaison
Judge Angelle Gerl, DOL Liaison Chair
Judge Kristian Hedine, Bylaws Chair
Judge Whitney Rivera, Legislative Co-Chair
Judge Wade Samuelson, Rules Co-Chair
Ellen Attebury, DMCMA Liaison
Jen Crossen, MPA Liaison

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist
Arsenio Escudero, JISC Business Liaison
Garret Tanner, CLJ-CMS Project Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Rick Leo, 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.

PRESENTATION – Integrating DMCJA Priorities into Committee Work, Commissioner Rick Leo

Commissioner Rick Leo explained that the DMCJA Priorities are created every year by the Long Range Planning Committee and then presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Leo is requesting that each committee review the 2022-2023 DMCJA Priorities and choose a priority that will be incorporated into their work over the next year. Each committee Chair will present a report in September to explain the project they have chosen.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Minutes

The minutes from the May 14, 2022 meeting were previously distributed to the members. Commissioner Leo asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by consensus.

B. Treasurer and Special Fund Reports for May/June

Treasurer Judge Anita Crawford Willis referred members to the Treasurer's Report which is available in the packet.

Special Fund Custodian Judge Karl Williams referred to the Special Fund Report in the packet. Judge Williams reminded members that special fund dues will be assessed in the next dues collection process (end of this year).

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to accept the Treasurer and Special Fund Reports for May and June.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

SCJA President-Elect Judge Samuel Chung reported that the SCJA recently completed their five-year plan, which includes eight long range planning goals. Judge Chung will share their work towards those goals as they move throughout the year. Judge Chung also reported that the Salary Commission workgroup has been meeting regularly with a public relations consultant to establish messaging, and that the SCJA has been working to address some issues with the Supreme Court rulemaking process. Judge Robertson responded that she has noticed judicial independence remains an important priority for the SCJA and that she would like to invite the SCJA to add a representative to the DMCJA's Council on Independent Courts which has a focus on those issues, so she will reach out to Judge Chung after the meeting today.

B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

DMCMA President Ellen Attebury reported that it has been an exciting year for DMCMA. They have created a new court administrator job description, and the proposal for mandatory education has been approved and will be effective January 1, 2023. Ellen shared that DMCMA may work on a model clerk job description next, and they have been making improvements to their processes such as consistent email addresses for their board members, and updating their website. Judge Williams inquired if there will be financial support along with the mandatory education requirement, and Judge Goodwin noted that as this is now part of a rule, the hope is that local funding will be easier to come by. Commissioner Leo also noted that DMCJA has some funding set aside for this purpose as well.

C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Representative Jen Crossen reported that she is filling in for Regina Alexander as the MPA representative today. Jen shared that MPA recently held their annual conference, with a focus on trends in trauma, and they have been providing trainings on de-escalation. MPA hopes to host more statewide virtual and hybrid trainings that will be open to judges and clerks, with topics including best practices and motivational interviewing.

D. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)

Representative Mark O'Halloran was not present.

E. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

Representative Francis Adewale was not present.

F. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

State Court Administrator Dawn Marie Rubio was not present.

G. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Judge Robertson shared that the BJA Policy and Planning Committee has established two task forces: one for remote proceedings, and one for alternatives to incarceration, which are currently being set up with members. Judge Logan reported that the Budget and Funding Committee has not met recently. Judge Bui reported on behalf of the BJA Education Committee that the Supreme Court recently

adopted diversity/equity/inclusion credit requirements and mandatory education for administrators. Judge Bui also shared that the Interbranch Advisory Committee recently met for the first time.

H. Judicial Information System (JIS)

AOC JIS Business Liaison Arsenio Escudero reported that AOC has been working on the required changes to JABS to accommodate the requirements of HB 1320 and HB 1901. Regarding statewide access to protection order documents, AOC is still determining the details of the solution but the documents will be accessible through JABS. Arsenio reported that recent issues with slowness between JABS and Odyssey are still being addressed. Arsenio shared that CLJ-CMS remains a top priority for AOC and that there has been a decision package drafted for the integration platform that will be required for courts to utilize third party software integrated into CLJ-CMS. Arsenio noted that the solution will take time to implement, follow industry best practices, be scalable, reliable, and available. Commissioner Rick Leo shared that he has recently been in contact with Justice Madsen, Chair of JISC, and that she provided him with an overview of where the project stands if anyone has questions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Leo explained that a sample monthly report is available in the packet. He would like each Chair to either attend the Board meeting or provide a written report each month. Leo asked Judge Logan if she would like to have JASP included on this list and she said yes. She reported that JASP is currently working on an anger management program.

A. Bylaws Committee

Judge Kristian Hedine reported that Bylaws Committee is still working on a way to include tribal (fellow) memberships but that they should have proposed language soon to present to the board for consideration as a future bylaws amendment.

B. Conference Planning Committee

Ellen Attebery (on behalf of Judge Beall) reported that this committee does not generally meet until January and that they are excited to potentially plan for an in-person event this year.

C. Council on Independent Courts

Judge Rebecca Robertson reported that CIC has now scheduled its first meeting of the year.

D. Diversity Committee

Judge Karl Williams (on behalf of Judge Gregory) reported that the electronic home monitoring study conducted by the committee was drafted into a proposal to the BJA for a strategic initiative, and it was accepted. The hope is that the task force will ultimately work to provide legislative funding for pretrial and post-conviction services throughout the state.

E. DOL Liaison Committee

Judge Angelle Gerl reported that she is new to being the Chair of this committee, but that she has been on the committee for two years. This committee is responsible for maintaining the relationship between DMCJA and the Department of Licensing, and in the past, they have worked on issues relating to suspensions for failure to appear, and reporting requirements for ignition interlock devices. The first committee meeting of the year will be held next week.

F. Education Committee

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith was not present.

G. Legislative Committee

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that the committee has been meeting regularly, including earlier today, to determine which of the six proposals from DMCJA members should be put forth to the board for

consideration this year. The committee is working in collaboration with the Public Outreach Committee on an event for legislators in September, and will also be planning a Legislative Day early in 2023. Judge Ringus noted that DMCJA submitted several concept papers that are now in the decision package process, and they will be further developed and incorporated into the branch budget if they are approved by BJA and the Supreme Court. Important topics this year include therapeutic courts funding and options for a “Blake fix” bill.

H. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Beth Fraser and Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen were not present.

I. Rules Committee

Judge Wade Samuelson reported that he and Judge McDowall recently held their first Rules Committee meeting as Co-Chairs, and one of the first items they are tackling is proposed IRLJ amendments based on SB 5226. Judge Samuelson remarked that the proposed amendments do much more than what is required by the law, create a different standard for ability to pay, and would be burdensome on court labor and resources. Judge Goodwin, as outgoing Chair, shared that another recent issue the committee is working on relates to GR 31. A recent rule amendment limits public access to juvenile records, but the rule was stayed to give the Supreme Court and stakeholders and opportunity to further review the impacts of the changes. Judge Goodwin also reported that there has been discussion between the DMCJA and the SCJA about how to better participate in the rulemaking process, as currently they do not have the opportunity to review and comment on proposals until after publication, even though this is the process outlined in GR 9. The DMCJA Rules Committee is working directly with the Supreme Court Rules Committee to address some of these issues.

J. Therapeutic Courts Committee

Judge Fred Gillings and Judge Jenifer Howson were not present.

ACTION

A. Ratification of Board Appointment

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to ratify the appointment of Judge Whitney Rivera, Edmonds Municipal Court, to fill the unexpired term of Position 5 on the DMCJA Board.

B. Reimbursement of Lobbyist Gift from Special Fund

M/S/P to approve reimbursement of \$300 to Judge Charles Short from the Special Fund for the 2022 gift to the DMCJA lobbyist, Melissa Johnson.

DISCUSSION

A. Board Position 5 – Vacancy

Judge Laura Van Slyck retired effective June 30, 2022. The remainder of her term expires June 2023. Commissioner Leo has appointed Judge Whitney Rivera, Edmonds Municipal Court, to the board seat and requests the board’s support in ratifying this appointment. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

B. Board Position 10

Commissioner Leo explained that this position was created to increase diversity on the board, and the previous occupant remains in a new board position, so the position will not be filled this year.

C. Board Operational Rules Update

Commissioner Leo explained that the Operational Rules are outdated and no longer reflect current practice, such as references to appearance via phone and a mention that members must attend meetings in-person. Commissioner Leo inquired if anyone would be willing to volunteer to review the document for potential changes, but there were no volunteers at this time. Commissioner Leo suggested that Judge Hedine, as Bylaws Chair, may be the most appropriate person to review this document. Primary staff will inquire with Bylaws Committee staff.

D. Future Agenda Presentation Ideas

Commissioner Leo explained he would like to continue to have presentations at future board meetings and that topics can be diverse, including legal topics or presentations by nonprofit organizations. Judge Oaks suggested that the presentations center on the theme of the DMCJA Priorities. Discussion ensued about potential topics, including tribal judges, fingerprint collection, and protection orders. Members are encouraged to be creative in their ideas for presentation topics, and can send any ideas to staff.

E. Lobbyist Gift Reimbursement

Judge Short reported that as is standard practice, he purchased a \$300 gift for the DMCJA lobbyist, and is now requesting reimbursement from the Special Fund. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

F. Interbranch Advisory Committee

Judge Ringus reported that the Interbranch Advisory Committee met for the first time on June 17, 2022 with representatives present from all three branches, with the Chief Justice and Senator Pedersen being voted as Co-Chairs. As this was an initial meeting, everyone present was able to introduce themselves and provide a brief statement about what they hoped to accomplish with the Committee. The Committee also received brief presentations about the legislative and judicial budget processes. Judge Ringus noted that his impression was that legislators would like to see the judicial budget when it is submitted to the governor versus waiting until it is officially published.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Commissioner Leo shared that in addition to the items below, there is a webinar on July 21 at noon for the DMCJA grant writing services from CPIN, and encouraged all judges and administrators to attend in order to learn more about the grant writers and the services they can provide to courts.

Commissioner Leo brought the following informational items to the Board's attention.

- A. Webinar: Judicial Branch Funding – How Money Flows and Where it Goes, Christopher Stanley, AOC Chief Financial and Management Officer
- B. DMCJA Response to Comments Submitted in Opposition to Proposed CrRLJ 3.3 and CrR 3.3
- C. Court Recovery Task Force Final Report: [“Re-Imagining Our Courts: Pandemic Response and Recovery Lead Courts Into the Future.”](#)
- D. New AOC Program: Trial Court Legal Services

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Attendee Information Sharing

Judge Logan shared that the Washington State Institute for Public Policy recently shared a study on mandatory arrests in domestic violence cases. The report is available here:

[Wsipp_Mandatory-Arrest-for-Domestic-Violence-A-Systematic-Review_Report.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

- B. The next DMCJA Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 12, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.