



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
Friday, September 9, 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 Catherine McDowall  
Judge Lloyd Oaks  
Judge Kevin Ringus  
Judge Whitney Rivera  
Judge Charles D. Short  
Judge Jeffrey Smith  
Judge Karl Williams  
Commissioner Paul Wohl  
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative  
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative

### Guests:

Judge Samuel Chung, SCJA  
Judge Michael Finkle  
Judge Michelle Gehlsen, Public Outreach Chair  
Judge Angelle Gerl, DOL Liaison Chair  
Judge Nathaniel Green, Bylaws Chair  
Judge Willie Gregory, Diversity Chair  
Regina Alexander, MPA Liaison  
Melissa Johnson, DMCJA Lobbyist  
LaTricia Kinlow, DMCMA Representative

### AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff  
J Benway, Principal Legal Analyst  
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist  
Antonio Escudero, JIS Business Liaison

### Members Absent:

Judge Dan B. Johnson, BJA Representative  
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

## 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.

Commissioner Leo shared that the first DMCJA policy analyst has been hired by AOC, and their anticipated start date is September 16, 2022.

## PRESENTATION – Protection Order Updates, Judge Jeffrey Goodwin and Judge Michael Finkle

Judge Goodwin and Judge Finkle provided a brief overview of some recent changes to protection order statutes, including retroactivity and weapons surrender orders.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Minutes

The minutes from the July 8, 2022 meeting were previously distributed to the members. Commissioner Leo noted one typographical error in the Presentation section, and asked if there were any additional changes that needed to be made to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by consensus with the aforementioned correction.

### B. Treasurer Reports for July & August

Treasurer Judge Anita Crawford Willis presented the treasurer reports for July and August.

**C. Special Fund Report for July & August**

Special Fund Custodian Judge Karl Williams presented special fund reports for July and August.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

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

SCJA President-Elect Judge Samuel Chung reported that the SCJA and the DMCJA are continuing to collaborate on improving the GR 9 rules process, and have recently submitted a suggestion to the Supreme Court Rules Committee.

**B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)**

DMCMA President-Elect LaTrisha Kinlow was present on behalf of President Ellen Attebury. Trish thanked DMCJA for their support of the recently approved changes to ARLJ 14 that will require education for court administrators. Trish shared that DMCMA is launching an Administrator Academy, hopefully during their conference next year, which they intend to hold in-person if possible.

**C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)**

Representative Regina Alexander was not present.

**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 Tam Bui reported that the next BJA meeting will be held on September 16, 2022. Judge Bui shared that the Court Education Committee (CEC) is currently working on education criteria as a guide for various groups and the trial court associations to prepare for spring conferences. Judge Bui noted that the CEC has received feedback that MPA members are not currently receiving adequate education, and the committee hopes to address this need. Judge Mary Logan reported that the BJA Budget and Funding Committee recently met to review the decision packages submitted by Chris Stanley and draft their recommendations for the upcoming BJA meeting.

**H. Judicial Information System (JIS)**

AOC JIS Business Liaison Arsenio Escudero gave a brief overview of recent JIS updates and provided an overview of the ITG request process.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Bylaws Committee**

Judge Nathaniel Green was present on behalf of Judge Hedine and reported that the Bylaws committee is working on adding a section to the bylaws regarding "fellow memberships" which they hope to present to the board at the October meeting.

**B. Conference Planning Committee**

Judge Andrea Beall was not present but previously reported that the conference planning committee only meets leading up to the Spring Conference, and only when conference is in-person, as the

committee is in charge of planning networking and social activities for the conference. The committee will address how to further incorporate diversity and inclusion into their committee work when they next meet, which will be in January 2023, if the 2023 Spring Conference is held in-person.

**C. Diversity Committee**

Judge Willie Gregory reported that the committee reviewed and discussed the DMCJA Priorities and that the priority they have taken to heart is priority 1, Identifying and Eliminating Systemic Racism in our Justice System. Judge Gregory noted that the Diversity Committee collaborates with the WSBA on a pro tem training that occurs every other year in March, and that committee members provide some of the training, which is targeted towards minority bar associations. Judge Gregory reported that the committee will also be working with the BJA on the strategic initiative on jail alternatives as the idea for that task force was proposed by them. The committee regularly invites presenters to attend their meetings to discuss diversity and workplaces, and member judges talk about how diversity is handled in their courtrooms. Judge Gregory will be attending the Executive Diversity Summit in November.

**D. DOL Liaison Committee**

Judge Angelle Gerl reported that the committee reviewed the DMCJA Priorities and chose four related projects to work on this year. First, the committee has submitted a legislative proposal which will allow individuals to more easily access an Abstract Driver Record. Secondly, the committee has submitted a proposed rules amendment to address weigh station scales. Third, the committee will be reviewing models for relicensing programs in conjunction with the Therapeutic Courts Committee. And finally, the committee will be submitting an ITG request that will allow AOC's systems to incorporate a date of death when available from the Department of Licensing. Commissioner Leo commended Judge Gerl and her committee on their attention to the Priorities project and thanked her for setting a great example.

**E. Education Committee**

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that the Education Committee will be holding their retreat in October, which is where they will begin putting together the 2023 Spring Program. Judge Smith shared that a poverty simulator, which is a participatory type of education presentation, will be present at the next conference which will be held in-person in Spokane. Education staff had previously sent out a request for DMCJA members to submit ideas for conference topics but they did not receive very many responses, so Judge Smith encouraged anyone with ideas to still submit them. Judge Smith also remarked that the 2023 Board Retreat will be held in-person at the Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop.

**F. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)**

Judge Mary Logan reminded the board that JASP is not structured like other committees, as they have members from both DMCJA and SCJA and their work involves contracting with an outside provider to assist with providing resources to judicial officers who need additional support. Judge Logan reported that the JASP annual training for peer counselors will occur in October, and that a new self help training on anger is now available on the learning management system.

**G. Legislative Committee**

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that the Legislative Committee has been meeting monthly throughout the summer, which is a change from past years when the committee took a break during that time. Judge Ringus noted that he and Judge Rivera, as committee Co-Chairs, have been holding regularly meetings with legislators to discuss the upcoming legislative session. Judge Ringus shared that the committee discussed the DMCJA Priorities and noted that several of the priorities call out the Legislative Committee specifically, and those projects will be priority. The committee also intends to look at legislative proposals and bills through a DEI lens this year when reviewing for court impacts. Judge Ringus reported that the committee will be holding a Legislative Day in Olympia with a tentative date of January 31, 2023.

#### **H. Public Outreach Committee**

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that more information about the work of the committee is provided in the written report in today's materials packet. Judge Gehlsen briefly shared that the Social Media Subcommittee has been working on the DMCJA Facebook page which will go live soon, and that she will attend an upcoming DMCMA meeting to request that court administrators and managers assist us with generating content for the page. Judge Gehlsen also reported that the *You've Been Served: A Courthouse Dialogue* event will be coming up soon, on September 21, and the committee has been working closely with the DMCJA Lobbyist Melissa Johnson to ensure that participating courts are prepared to host state legislators and local officials.

#### **I. Rules Committee**

Judge Catherine McDowall reported that the Rules Committee had a very busy summer, as many rules were out for comment in the last few months. Judge McDowall shared that the committee received feedback from municipal court judges that they were concerned about the CrRLJ 3.4 amendment proposed by the DMCJA because they interpret the new language differently than what the committee was anticipating. The Rules Committee intends to submit a request for a technical amendment in order to correct any issues with interpretation, as this was an unintended consequence of striking some language from the Rule. Judge McDowall noted that technical amendments can generally be adopted quickly by the Supreme Court because they do not need to follow the same rules process as full rules proposals. Judge Goodwin noted that he and Judge McDowall recently met with Justice Johnson to discuss a proposed amendment to CrRLJ 7.6 from the Washington Defender Association regarding probation holds, but they were unable to come to a solution. Judge McDowall reported that in regards to the Priorities project, the Rules Committee will be reviewing proposed rules through a lens of racial justice and are planning (as time allows) to do a review of rules more generally to see if there are changes needed to eliminate bias.

1. The minutes from the June 28, 2022 Rules Committee meeting were provided in the packet.
2. The minutes from the July 26, 2022 Rules Committee meeting were provided in the packet.

#### **J. Therapeutic Courts Committee**

Judge Fred Gillings and Judge Jenifer Howson were not present.

### **ACTION**

#### **A. Proposed Legislative Items for the 2023 Session**

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the DMCJA 2023 Legislative Agenda as proposed by the Legislative Committee in the memo dated September 2, 2022.

#### **B. JASP FY 2021-2022 Budget Rollover Request**

M/S/P to approve the budget request from JASP to roll over the remaining funds from 2021-2022 into the 2022-2023 JASP budget.

#### **C. Public Outreach Committee Additional Funding Request – Meals for *You've Been Served* Event**

M/S/P to approve moving up to \$3000 into the Public Outreach Committee budget for reimbursement for meals at the *You've Been Served* event on September 21, 2022. Funds will be moved from the Board Expenses line item.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **A. DMCJA Logo**

Commissioner Leo introduced this item by explaining that the DMCJA has never had a logo, although most other judicial branch groups have one, including the SCJA. Commissioner Leo had requested that

staff provide general guidelines to the AOC Communications team to draft a few proposed logo options which would include the color blue (to contrast with colors used by other associations) and the George Washington head in a seal format. Two options were presented for the board's review, and members presented concerns that the inclusion of George Washington may not accurately represent the values of the association. Judge Smith suggested that he is aware of a service that could provide many logo options quickly from which the board could choose, and he is willing to inquire to begin this process for the DMCJA. This item will be carried over to Discussion on next month's agenda.

**B. Proposed Legislative Items for the 2023 Session**

Judge Kevin Ringus and Judge Whitney Rivera noted that a memo is included in the materials for today's meeting that outlines the proposals the committee would like to see move forward this year. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

**C. Public Outreach Committee Additional Funding Request – Meals for *You've Been Served* Event**

Judge Michelle Gehlsen reported that the upcoming You've Been Served event will involve providing meals for state legislators and local officials at participating courthouses, and requested an additional budget allocation of up to \$3000 for the committee to reimburse participating courts for this expense. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

**D. JASP FY 2021-2022 Budget Rollover Request**

Judge Mary Logan explained that JASP had previously requested that they be allowed to carry over remaining funds from 2021-2022 into their 2022-2023 budget, and that the board had considered this request during the Retreat in May but had decided to wait until the bookkeeper was able to provide the exact dollar amount that would be carried over. That figure is now available and JASP would like the board to consider the request to carry over those funds. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

**E. Staff at the DMCJA Retreat**

This item was not discussed and will be carried over to Discussion on next month's agenda.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- A. Registration Flyer: 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Washington Judicial Conference, September 18-20, 2022
- B. October Board Meeting to be held via Zoom
- C. Updated Board Meeting Schedule

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Attendee Information Sharing
- B. The next DMCJA Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.