



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, November 18, 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 Whitney Rivera
Judge Charles D. Short
Judge Jeffrey Smith
Commissioner Paul Wohl
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

Guests:

Judge Samuel Chung, SCJA
Judge Michelle Gehlsen, Public Outreach Chair
Judge Angelle Gerl
Regina Alexander, MPA Liaison
Ellen Attebury, DMCMA Representative

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
J Benway, Principal Legal Analyst
Antoinette Bonsignore, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist
Brenden Higashi, DMCJA Policy Analyst

Members Absent:

Judge Catherine McDowall
Judge Karl Williams
Judge Dan B. Johnson, 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 12:34 p.m.

PRESENTATION – Judge Angelle Gerl

2023 Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst National Leadership Grant Recipient Judge Angelle Gerl shared her experience at the Annual National Association of Women Judges Conference.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Minutes

The minutes from the October 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. There being no changes, the minutes were approved by consensus.

B. Treasurer Report for September

Treasurer Judge Anita Crawford-Willis presented the treasurer report.

C. Special Fund Report for September

Special Fund Custodian Judge Karl Williams was not present, but the special fund statement was included in the packet.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

SCJA President-Elect Judge Samuel Chung reported that SCJA, along with representatives from DMCJA, Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court, recently presented to the Salary Commission to request a salary increase for judicial officers. The Commission made an initial recommendation of a 7% increase for judicial branch salaries, and they will hold monthly meetings with public comment until February when they will finalize the recommendation. Judge Chung reported that SCJA and DMCJA have also been working together on a recommendation to the Supreme Courts Rules Committee regarding adding association representatives to their committee, but this request was denied. Judge Chung shared that SCJA is starting a work life balance workgroup, and that they will be incorporating wellness programs for judges. The SCJA all day Legislative Committee meeting will occur in early September, where they will set priorities for the 2023 legislative session, and Judge Chung will share more details at the next DMCJA Board meeting. Judge Chung continues to seek opportunities for collaboration between SCJA and DMCJA.

B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

DMCMA President Ellen Attebury reported that two town hall events will be held in December to educate judges and administrators on the new ARLJ 14 requirements for mandatory administrator education and the academy in May. Commissioner Leo congratulated Ellen on winning the Court Manager of the Year award from the Council on Court Management.

C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Representative Regina Alexander reported that she did not have an update today.

D. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)

Representative Mark O'Halloran was not present.

E. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

Representative Gov. Brent Williams-Ruth 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 BJA held a meeting earlier today, and also congratulated Ellen Attebury on winning the Court Manager of the Year award at that meeting. Judge Bui reported that Judicial College will begin on January 29, 2023 and will have both in-person and virtual portions, along with Learning Management System self-paced components. Judge Bui shared that one of the primary topics at the BJA meeting today was language access, and that the Interpreter Commission shared both long- and short-term goals. With many recent retirements, there are concerns about how to get new interpreters into the pipeline. Judge Robertson reported that the BJA Court Security Task Force is continuing to advocate for local and state joint funding, and are waiting for the most recent budget forecast. Judge Robertson reported that Policy and Planning Committee are working on a series of webinars for how to present budget requests to local funders. Judge Logan reported that BJA Budget and Funding Committee is continuing to receive information from Chris Stanley at AOC, and that he has shared recently that the budget process may be more difficult this year versus last year's supplemental budget, due to there being less funds available than everyone had initially hoped. Judge Logan noted that each of the DMCJA funding requests has strong advocates, and that it will be very important to continue those discussions and requests for support.

H. Judicial Information System (JIS)

AOC JIS Business Liaison Arsenio Escudero was not present. Commissioner Leo explained that ITG Request 1339, Therapeutic Court Case Management, has been pulled by the requestor (Dr. Mikala Meize-Bowers) because she learned that the new CLJ-CMS would cover most of the same needs when it goes live.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bylaws Committee

Judge Kristian Hedine was not present.

B. Diversity Committee

Judge Willie Gregory was not present but a report from the committee is provided in the packet.

C. DOL Liaison Committee

Judge Angelle Gerl reported that the DOL Liaison Committee is continuing to work on several projects, including supporting an amendment to IRLJ 6.6 that will allow for certificate of weight measuring devices. The committee is working with AOC to submit an ITG request that will allow a link to official death records from Department of Health with JIS records.

D. Education Committee

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that committee now has a draft schema for the 2023 DMCJA Spring Program, and that he is excited that the event will be held in person, in Spokane at the Centennial Hotel in June. Judge Smith shared that they are currently searching for a keynote speaker for Sunday, and that depending on the cost of the speaker, they may request additional funding from DMCJA. Discussion ensued about potential keynote speaker options.

E. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)

Judge Mary Logan reported that JASP recently held a training for new counselors, and that due to the large number of participants they decided to hold a basic skills training, which was well received. JASP continues to work on building out a new platform regarding anger management.

F. Legislative Committee

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that a written report from the Legislative Committee is in the packet, but that the next meeting date will be December 9 and not December 2 as stated on the report. Judge Ringus shared that the committee has received some questions from legislators regarding Blake impacts, and that staff had recently sent a request to the DMCJA listserv to ask judicial officers to provide feedback on both Blake and protection order impacts. Judge Rivera reported that the DMCJA Lobbyist, Melissa Johnson, has really been an asset to the Association especially as it relates to providing information to the Co-Chairs.

G. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that the committee's October 17, 2022 draft minutes are included in the packet. Judge Gehlsen thanked Commissioner Leo and Judge Robertson for their work on the Salary Commission presentation, and thanked the Legislative Committee for putting together the upcoming Legislative Day on January 31. Judge Gehlsen reported that the DMCJA Facebook page is now up and running, that the committee is still accepting presentations for the Toolkit, and that they are considering sending out a monthly one-page newsletter.

H. Rules Committee

Judge Wade Samuelson was not present but minutes from the September 27, 2022 committee meeting are included in the packet.

- I. **Therapeutic Courts Committee**
Judge Jenifer Howson was not present.

ACTION

- A. **Bylaws Committee Proposal to amend to include “fellow” memberships**
The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to send this proposal to members for a vote at the Annual Meeting in June, and to establish a workgroup to answer some of the logistical questions that may arise about how this membership level would work in practical terms. Workgroup members will include Judge Short, Judge Oaks, Judge Smith, Judge Ringus, and the group will be staffed by Antoinette Bonsignore.
- B. **Rules Committee Proposal re: IRLJ 6.6 GR 9**
M/S/P to approve this proposal from the DMCJA Rules Committee and submit to the Supreme Court Rules Committee.
- C. **Ratification of vote to confirm endorsement of ITG 1349 – Pacific City/Algona Muni KCD-Court Management System (CMS) to Enterprise Data Repository (EDR) Data Exchange**
M/S/P to ratify the previous email vote to confirm endorsement of ITG 1349.
- D. **Ratification of vote to approve to submit Rules Committee Proposed IRLJ amendments**
M/S/P to ratify the previous email vote to approve to submit Rules Committee proposed IRLJ amendments.
- E. **Rules Proposal Re: CrRLJ 7.6**
M/S/P to submit the letter as previously circulated to Board members with the addition of a line about the letter being sent on behalf of the entire Board. The letter is to be sent to the Chief Justice with a cc to the Supreme Court Rules Committee Co-Chairs, Justice Johnson and Justice Yu.

DISCUSSION

- A. **Staff at DMCJA Retreat**
Commissioner Leo explained that AOC may be willing to cover the costs for all four DMCJA staff to attend the Retreat in May if each staff person is handling different tasks for the event. Discussion ensued about the importance of having all staff attend this event.
- B. **DMCJA Logo – Survey Results and Funding for New Proposal**
Commissioner Leo explained that since there was no consensus on the logo options previously provided, he had asked Tracy Dugas to research the option of hiring a graphic design firm to create a logo. Tracy reported that the cost for a full package, which provides unlimited versions and revisions, is \$599. Commissioner Leo noted that since this cost was not included in the 2022-2023 DMCJA budget, the Board would need to vote to expend the funds. This item will carry over to Action for the December meeting.
- C. **December Board Meeting Via Zoom – SeaTac Office still closed**
Commissioner Leo explained that the AOC office in SeaTac continues to be closed for public meetings, so the December Board meeting which had been tentatively scheduled for in person, will be held via Zoom only instead. The next tentative in-person meeting is February. Discussion ensued about other venue options if the Board would still like to meet in person prior to the Retreat. Tracy Dugas will research venues and associated costs for presentation at the next Board meeting.
- D. **Rules Proposal Re: CrRLJ 7.6**
Commissioner Leo and Judge Goodwin explained that the recently adopted proposals for CrRLJ 7.6 rule amendments are problematic for many reasons, and that Judge Goodwin has drafted a letter to explain the issues that courts of limited jurisdiction will face if these the changes are effective on January 1, 2023 as currently ordered, and to request a stay. Judge Goodwin noted that the DMCJA

Rules Committee did provide comments to the Supreme Court Rules Committee on this proposal but that the concerns expressed in those comments were not addressed by the Supreme Court.
M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- A. Rules Committee Proposed Changes to GR 9
- B. 2023 Court System Education Save the Dates
- C. Webinar: Mindfulness – What, Why, How: November 30, 2022
- D. Kitsap District Court [Protection Orders Bench Binder Documents](#)
- E. [CLJ Caseload Dashboard](#) – *This is in beta/testing phase still*
- F. Webinars for Presiding Judges: ARLJ 14 Town Hall: December 1, 2022 & December 15, 2022

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Attendee Information Sharing
- B. The next DMCJA Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.