



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, January 13, 2023 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference <https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/82910554410>

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair, Judge Rick Leo
Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
Judge Jessica Giner
Judge Catherine McDowall
Judge Lloyd Oaks
Judge Kevin Ringus
Judge Charles D. Short
Judge Jeffrey Smith
Commissioner Paul Wohl
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

Members Absent:

Judge Michael Frans
Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin
Judge Carolyn M. Jewett
Judge Whitney Rivera
Judge Karl Williams
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge Dan B. Johnson, BJA Representative

Guests:

Judge Samuel Chung, SCJA
Judge Beth Fraser, Snohomish Co District Court
Judge Angelle Gerl, DOL Liaison Chair
Ellen Attebery, DMCMA Representative

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
Antoinette Bonsignore, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Tracy Dugas, Court Program Specialist
Brenden Higashi, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Sharon Swanson, Blake Implementation Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Judge 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 12:35 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Post-Conference Summary

Judge Beth Fraser shared about her experience at the National Judicial College's Anti-Racist Courtroom conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

B. Blake Update

Sharon Swanson, Blake Implementation Manager at AOC, provided an overview of the current status of standing up a refund bureau to address Blake refunds.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Minutes

The minutes from the November 18, 2022 meeting were previously distributed to the members. There was no December 2022 meeting. Judge 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 December

Treasurer Judge Anita Crawford Willis presented the treasurer report.

C. Special Fund Report for December

Special Fund Custodian Judge Karl Williams was not present but the special fund report is available in the packet.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

SCJA President-Elect Judge Samuel Chung reported that SCJA didn't have a board meeting in January, however they have still been busy. SCJA recently wrote a letter to Department of Social and Health Services in response to a letter DSHS distributed regarding civil commitment. Judge Chung shared that SCJA members continue to participate in the Salary Commission process, and the most recent report from the Commission indicated the importance of the upcoming economic forecast that will come out in February. The SCJA Legislative Committee also continues to be very active now that the 2023 session has started. Judge Leo requested that DMCJA staff share the SCJA letter with DMCJA members.

B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

DMCMA President Ellen Attebery reported that DMCMA recently held several town hall events regarding the new requirement that judges must designate a court administrator to attend mandatory education, and shared that mandatory education is a top priority for the association.

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 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)

Representative Judge Logan shared that she recently spoke to Chris Stanley regarding the branch's budget requests, and he explained that the theme this session regarding the budget will be "keeping the train on the tracks" with an emphasis from the governor on homelessness and climate. Judge Logan also reported that so far, Court security has been unpopular with certain legislators and that the issue will require additional advocates for the funding request to be successful this year.

H. Judicial Information System (JIS)

AOC JIS Business Liaison Arsenio Escudero provided updates on several JIS projects. Members inquired if the Protection Order Document Systems is available to judges in courts of limited jurisdiction, and Arsenio confirmed that the documents are available to these judicial officers. Brief discussion ensued about how to access the documents, with Judge Logan sharing that she recently tried it out for the first time and it was very helpful to have access to the information in a protection order case.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bylaws Committee

Judge Kristian Hedine was not present.

B. Diversity Committee

Judge Willie Gregory was not present.

C. DOL Liaison Committee

Judge Angelle Gerl reported that the Abstract Driving Record bill based on the Committee's suggested language has now dropped, and reminded the Board that this bill will allow probation officers to provide a full ADR to individuals seeking treatment services. In addition, the Committee has now established a small subcommittee (with Judge Gerl, Judge Howson, and Carla Weaver from DOL) to work on establishing a relicensing model. Judge Gerl noted that the rules amendment suggested by the committee, changing IRLJ 6.6 regarding overweight certificates for weigh scales, will go to the DMCJA Rules Committee next week. Finally, Judge Gerl shared that the ITG request that will allow death certificate information to be shown in JABS is currently held up at the DMCMA endorsement step. Judge Leo inquired if Ellen Attebery could take this issue up with DMCMA, and she agreed that she would.

D. Education Committee

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that the Education Committee met last week to review and refine the draft schema for Spring Program, and that planning is going well, but one of the anticipated speakers will present at the fall conference instead so they will be seeking a replacement (possibly Dr. Stedham, who recently presented to DMCJA on the topic of mindfulness).

E. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)

Judge Mary Logan reported that SCJA has requested that JASP provide a presentation on their work, and that the committee continues work on the anger management self-help module.

F. Legislative Committee

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that the 2023 legislative session has now started, and that the DMCJA Executive Legislative Committee meets weekly to discuss bills of interest and plan for testimony. Judge Ringus shared that he and Judge Rivera, Co-Chairs of the Committee, continue to field and respond to many questions from legislators.

G. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen was not present.

H. Rules Committee

Minutes from the October 25, 2022 Rules Committee meeting are included in the packet. Judge Catherine McDowall reported that the Committee decided not to propose any amendments to GR 22 after discussing the MPA request, as the Committee views the rule as sufficient for keeping all therapeutic records private. Judge McDowall shared that the GR 19 proposal regarding video proceedings has not yet progressed with the Supreme Court Rules Committee, but this is likely because they are looking at it with the Remote Proceedings Work Group. The DMCJA Rules Committee continues to look at the 7.6 amendments that DMCJA opposed and for which they requested an emergency stay that was denied, and the Committee hopes to gather more specific feedback from courts about how the new rule is working in practice.

I. Therapeutic Courts Committee

Judge Jenifer Howson was not present.

ACTION

A. DMCJA Logo Package

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve purchasing the Classic Package for a logo design from Dayle Designs, with funds taken from the Board Expenses line item.

B. Ratification of vote to reallocate funds from the Legislative Pro Tem line item (\$1500) and from the Board Meeting Expense line item (\$3500) for a total of \$5000 to the Legislative Committee line item to ensure that the Committee can cover the travel costs for those judges attending the Legislative Day event scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2023 in Olympia.

M/S/P to ratify the electronic vote that was previously taken on this item.

DISCUSSION

A. Membership Survey

AOC Policy Analyst Dr. Brenden Higashi, Ph.D. reported that there have been about 53 judicial officers who have completed the survey so far, but the deadline will be extended one week to capture more responses.

B. Budget Requests and Changes

1. YMCA Request for Donation

Judge Leo introduced this item and explained that YMCA regularly requests financial assistance for their Mock Trial programming and that this year they have requested an increase, from the \$2000 amount they requested last year, to \$2500. Discussion ensued about the current status of the DMCJA budget and the Board decided to provide the funds already allocated (\$2000). No vote was held because this amount is already established in the 2022-2023 budget.

2. Education Committee – Speaker for Spring Program

Judge Smith shared that the Education Committee has received a commitment from Dr. Robert Livingston to provide the Keynote address at Spring Program for a reduced fee, however the Committee will still need to establish additional funding sources. Discussion ensued about possible alternative funding, and how the Keynote could be broadcast to a wider audience via livestreaming. Members noted that Dr. Livingston would need to agree to a livestream. Judge Smith will bring this topic back to the Education Committee for further discussion, and this item will carry over to the next Board meeting agenda.

3. Update on Potential In-Person Meetings (cost, etc.)

Judge Leo reminded the Board that at the last meeting, there was discussion about a desire from some members to begin holding meetings in-person, so he requested that staff request quotes from various venues to establish the cost for those meetings since the AOC SeaTac office continues to be closed. Judge Leo shared that at about \$2000 per meeting, he feels it is cost prohibitive while we have additional funding requests outstanding. Judge Smith responded that he recently spoke to Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator, and that his impression was that re-opening the SeaTac office does not appear to be a priority.

4. Staff at DMCJA Retreat

Staff continue to work on a proposal to present to AOC leadership about the necessity of having all four of them the DMCJA Board Retreat, as costs may be covered by AOC if all staff are needed at the event.

C. Legislative Day Update January 31, 2023

Judge Kevin Ringus provided a brief update on this upcoming event, and shared that currently 28 judicial officers are scheduled to meet with their legislators. Judge Smith noted that he recently attended the Law School for Legislators event with the new legislators and they were all welcoming and asked great questions.

D. Interbranch Advisory Committee Update

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that the most recent Interbranch Advisory Committee meeting was held via Zoom, where members received a preview of the Governor's budget and overview of the general budget process. The next meeting will likely be scheduled around cutoff and held via Zoom again.

E. Council on Independent Courts Policy and Procedure Manual

Judge Rebecca Robertson explained that the Council on Independent Courts Policy and Procedure Manual required some updates based on feedback they had received from Reiko Callner, and changes regarding the types of issues that the Council tries to address. Most of the changes are technical or simple wording changes. Since a redlined version of the original manual was not provided today, that will be provided in the packet for the next meeting agenda so that members can more easily see the changes. This item will move to Action next month.

Judge Robertson also inquired about an issue regarding person name matching, especially in cases of name changes, and Judge Leo responded that he would be discussing with staff to determine the status.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Judge Leo brought the following informational item to the Board's attention.

- A. Rules Committee letter to the Supreme Court and Supreme Court Rules Committee requesting stay of CrRLJ 7.6 and response letter from Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven C. González

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Attendee Information Sharing
- B. The next DMCJA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.