



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, February 10, 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 Michael Frans
Judge Jessica Giner
Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin
Judge Carolyn M. Jewett
Judge Catherine McDowall
Judge Kevin Ringus
Judge Whitney Rivera
Judge Charles D. Short
Judge Jeffrey Smith
Commissioner Paul Wohl
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

Guests:

Judge Andrea Beall, Conf Planning Chair
Judge Valerie Bouffiou, Lynnwood Municipal Court
Judge Samuel Chung, SCJA
Judge Tracy Flood, Bremerton Municipal Court
Judge Veronica Galván, Minority & Justice Commission
Judge Michelle Gehlsen, Public Outreach Co-Chair
Judge Angelle Gerl, DOL Liaison Chair
Judge Lisa Mansfield, Lakewood Municipal Court
Regina Alexander, MPA
Trish Kinlow, DMCMA Representative
Mark O'Halloran, WSAJ
Brent Williams-Ruth, WSBA
Margaret Yetter, DMCMA

Members Absent:

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
Judge Lloyd Oaks
Judge Karl Williams
Judge Dan B. Johnson, BJA Representative
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
Antoinette Bonsignore, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Carolyn Cole, Court Program Analyst
Brenden Higashi, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Laurie Sale, Court Program Specialist

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 12:32 p.m.

Judge Leo remarked that several time-sensitive issues had arisen this week and that he was impressed by the responsiveness of the committee chairs and other members. Judge Leo thanked everyone for their hard work.

Judge Leo continued by sharing that he attended the last Salary Commission meeting this week, where it was decided by the Commission that there will be a 7% increase in judicial branch salaries this year (4% cost of living, plus 3%), and an additional 5% next year (3% cost of living, plus 2%). Judge Leo noted that no other entity whose salary is determined by the Commission received a percentage raise beyond cost of living for both years.

PRESENTATIONS

A. 2023 Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst National Leadership Grant Recipient Judge Lisa Mansfield: Experience at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting

Judge Lisa Mansfield provided an overview of her experience at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting.

B. Minority and Justice Commission Request: Sponsorship for the 2023 National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Conference – Judge Veronica Galván and Carolyn Cole, CDE

Carolyn Cole explained that the Minority and Justice Commission is hosting this event in May and requested that DMCJA sponsor the event at the \$5000 level to be used towards educational programming. Discussed ensued about the logistics of how sponsorship would work and what DMCJA might receive in return as a “perk” of being a sponsor. The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to move this item to Action today.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Minutes

The minutes from the January 13, 2023 meeting were previously distributed to the members. 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 January

Treasurer Judge Anita Crawford Willis was not present but the treasurer’s report is available in the packet.

C. Special Fund Report for January

Special Fund Custodian Judge Karl Williams was not present but the special fund report is available in the packet. Judge Gehlsen noted that information intended for the special fund custodian is still being sent to her at Bothell Municipal Court. Judge Smith responded that he will look into this.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Superior Court Judges’ Association (SCJA)

SCJA President-Elect Judge Samuel Chung reported that SCJA is willing to provide some funding for the Education Committee request regarding Dr. Livingston as keynote speaker at DMCJA Spring Program. Judge Chung noted that he and SCJA have been looking for more opportunities to collaborate, and they are hoping to have more motivational speakers throughout the year which could then be made available to DMCJA, too. SCJA’s Work Life Balance workgroup is hosting a wellness program, and will be putting together a program on sleep. Judge Smith responded to thank Judge Chung and SCJA, and noted that there is a possibility for a livestream of the keynote address but recording is unlikely due to requirements from the speaker.

B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

Trish Kinlow reminded the Board that every Presiding Judge is required to submit a form to AOC to declare who from their court will be the court administrator attending the upcoming academy. Trish mentioned that DMCMA is looking into addressing some issues with low court staff salaries, and that they are interested in having a statewide salary survey for the courts.

C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Representative Regina Alexander reported that the MPA conference is coming up in April, and registration is open now. Regina encouraged Board members to send their court’s probation officers to this conference, as it is a great opportunity for them to get a lot of relevant and important education during one event.

D. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)

Representative Mark O’Halloran shared that the WSJA will hold its Spring Conference on May 3-5, 2023 at W Hotel in Seattle, and that DMCJA members are invited and encouraged to attend.

E. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

Representative Gov. Brent Williams-Ruth reported that the WSBA Board of Governors will be meeting with the Supreme Court soon, and that there are a few big projects being discussed regarding the future of the bar association, such as whether to utilize excess funds to purchase buildings around the state. An intensive statewide effort to get feedback from stakeholders regarding licensure will begin in late June of this year.

F. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

State Court Administrator Dawn Marie Rubio was not present.

G. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Representative Judge Robertson was not present.

H. Judicial Information System (JIS)

AOC JIS Business Liaison Arsenio Escudero submitted a written report available in the materials.

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 each of the committee projects established this year are moving along. A proposal to amend IRLJ 7.6 regarding certification of weigh scales has been submitted to the Supreme Court. The ITG request for death certificate information has now been endorsed by DMCMA and is being analyzed by AOC staff. The bill to increase access to Abstract Driving Records (SB 5347) is moving through the legislature. And the committee has established a subcommittee to address a potential model for relicensing, in collaboration with the Therapeutic Courts Committee. This subcommittee will be sending out a survey to all DMCJA members soon, to establish which courts already have a relicensing program and other details.

D. Education Committee

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that Education Committee now has a well-defined schema and that it is almost ready for distribution. Judge Smith confirmed that Dr. Livingston will be the keynote speaker and plans are underway for that piece. A member inquired if there will be a hybrid option available for the conference (that is, can members attend remotely) and Judge Smith responded that the committee determined that hybrid attendance was not feasible due to costs and logistics.

E. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)

Judge Mary Logan was not present.

F. Legislative Committee

Judge Whitney Rivera reported that she recently met with Representative Lauren Davis to discuss HB 1715 (Domestic Violence), and that she was receptive to feedback regarding court impacts. Judge Rivera and Judge Ringus also testified on Senator Robinson's possession bill (SB 5536). Judge Ringus shared that the Executive Legislative Committee continues to meet every week, and that introduction of new bills has slowed down somewhat as policy cutoff approaches on February 17. Judge Smith noted that he was very pleased with the DMCJA Legislative Day event on January 31, that many judges were in attendance and able to meet with their legislators to discuss courts of limited jurisdiction issues.

G. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that the Committee continues to work on legislative support, including beginning to plan another You've Been Served event for 2023, and social media efforts.

H. Rules Committee

Minutes from the November 22, 2022 Rules Committee meeting are included in the packet. Judge Catherine McDowall reported that CrRLJ 7.6 continues to be a concern to the Committee, and that the Supreme Court requested DMCJA to meet with Washington Defenders Association to discuss differences in opinion on the issues. It was also noted that new rules adopted in October did not make it into the physical version of the rule book that was recently published.

I. Therapeutic Courts Committee

Judge Jenifer Howson was not present.

Judge Beall, Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, was in attendance and provided a brief update on the plans for social activities during conference. Judge Beall shared that costs are much higher this year than in the past and that the committee will likely need additional funding allocated in order to provide the number and type of social events that attendees will be expecting based on past conferences. Staff of the committee, Brenden Higashi, will prepare a proposal for the next board meeting to explain the additional costs and how much funding will be needed.

ACTION

A. Council on Independent Courts Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

This item will be carried over to next month.

B. DMCMA Request to Release Mandatory Education Funds in 2022-2023 Budget

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the release of these funds as allocated in the budget.

C. Rules Committee Proposal re: GR 42 Amendment

M/S/P to approve the submission of the proposal to the Supreme Court

D. Diversity Committee Request for Additional Funding and Education Committee Speaker for Spring Program

M/S/P to move \$5000 from the Board Meeting Expenses line item to the Education Committee line item (to contribute to the costs for the keynote speaker, Dr. Livingston, at Spring Program), and \$1500 from the Board Meeting Expenses line item to the Diversity Committee (to contribute to the reception for the pro tem training co-hosted with WSBA).

E. Minority and Justice Commission Request: Sponsorship for the 2023 National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Conference

M/S/P to provide a \$5000 sponsorship donation to this event paid out of DMCJA budget reserves, with the expectation that the Association will receive some comped tickets in exchange for the donation, preferably in the form of day passes. DMCJA prefers to receive the same number of tickets that SCJA receives for their donation.

DISCUSSION

A. DMCMA Request to Release Mandatory Education Funds in 2022-2023 Budget – Margaret Yetter, DMCMA Education Committee

Margaret Yetter explained that DMCMA is now ready to receive the funding that has been allocated in the DMCJA budget for many years. Discussed ensued about whether or not there will be an expectation of these funds in future years, and Ms. Yetter responded that DMCMA is hoping to get as many administrators through this year as possible, which would remove much of the financial burden in future years. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

B. Diversity Committee Request for Additional Funding – Judge Charles Short

Judge Short explained that the Diversity Committee co-hosts a pro tem training with WSBA every other year which includes direct outreach to the minority bar associations, with the goal of increasing diversity on the bench. This year, the Committee and WSBA would like to hold a reception and WSBA has asked to share the costs. Judge Short requests an additional \$1500. Discussion ensued about which line item might be most appropriate. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

C. Education Committee Speaker for Spring Program – Judge Jeffrey Smith

Judge Smith explained that he has secured several sponsors for this keynote, and that the Education Committee will require a contribution of \$5000 from DMCJA. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

Discussion also occurred regarding additional costs for Spring Program, called “incidental fees,” that DMCJA has paid for or contributed to since 2010. These costs have also risen substantially and will require an increase of approximately \$7000 from the budget allocation, or services (such as snacks) will need to be cut from the conference. This item will move to Action on the next agenda.

D. Rules Committee Proposal re: GR 42 Amendment

Judge Catherine McDowall presented the draft proposal from the Rules Committee and requested that the board approve that the proposal be sent to the Supreme Court Rules Committee. Judge Gerl noted that Office of Public Defense helped with the language of the proposal, and it was a collaborative effort. Judge McDowall requested that this item be moved to action today because the Supreme Court will meet again in March. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- A. Letter to Governor Inslee regarding Commission on Judicial Conduct
- B. Memo from DSHS re: hospital Admission Triaging and SCJA Response to DSHS Memo
- C. DMCJA Request for Emergency Stay of CrRLJ 7.6 with member comments

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Attendee Information Sharing
- B. The next DMCJA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 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.