



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, March 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 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 Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

Guests:

Judge Andrea Beall, Conference Planning Chair
Judge Valerie Bouffiou, Lynnwood Municipal Court
Judge Samuel Chung, SCJA President-Elect
Judge Tracy S. Flood, Bremerton Municipal Court
Judge Michelle Gehlsen, Public Outreach Co-Chair
Judge Jenifer Howson, Therapeutic Courts Co-Chair
Regina Alexander, MPA
Kris Thompson, DMCMA Representative
Brent Williams-Ruth, WSBA

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff
Antoinette Bonsignore, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Brenden Higashi, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Dexter Mejia, Assoc Director, Court Services Division

Members Absent:

Judge Dan B. Johnson, BJA Representative
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative

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 12:34 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Minutes

The minutes from the February 10, 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 February

Treasurer Judge Anita Crawford Willis was not present during this portion of the meeting but the treasurer's report is available in the packet.

C. Special Fund Report for February

Special Fund Custodian Judge Karl Williams referred members to the special fund report available in the packet.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

SCJA President-Elect Judge Samuel Chung reported that SCJA recently held a work-life balance program on sleep and that they received a positive response from attendees. They will be voting at the annual meeting to potentially turn the workgroup into a standing committee, and they will continue to invite DMCJA to their webinars and events going forward. Judge Chung also shared that SCJA will be incorporating some social events into their conference this year, including a reception for judges of color on the first day. Judge Smith inquired if the webinar on sleep was recorded, and Judge Chung responded that it was and that the recording can also be shared with DMCJA.

B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

Representative Kris Thompson reported that DMCMA is putting the finishing touches on their Court Administrators Academy that will occur in May.

C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Representative Regina Alexander reported that there is nothing new to report.

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 reported that WSBA representatives recently met with the Washington State Supreme Court, which was their first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began. WSBA has made several important decisions recently, such as adopting a new definition of "at large positions," and creating new geographic regions. They will also be looking to change the process for their budget, starting with a discussion of their priorities. The next meeting will occur on May 19 in Yakima.

F. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

State Court Administrator Dawn Marie Rubio was not present.

G. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Representative Judge Bui reported that the BJA will discuss attorney issues and challenges around retention and recruiting attorneys, including public defenders and deputy prosecuting attorneys.

H. Judicial Information System (JIS)

Dexter Mejia, AOC Associate Director in the Court Services Division, briefly introduced himself and explained that he will now be providing updates to the DMCJA Board on JIS and related projects. Dexter shared that the CLJ-CMS project is currently working through solution validation activities, which is a complete testing of the systems configuration. The team is waiting to see if an integration platform receives legislative funding in order to move forward with that additional project. The Protection Order Document System, which allows judicial officers to view protection order documents across the state, recently went live and includes all superior courts except Clark and Klickitat counties. They are currently seeing about 40 to 50 hits a week, and are still exploring access to tribal court protection orders but discussions are ongoing. As courts go live on the CLJ-CMS system, CLJ protection order documents will also become available.

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 was not present.

D. Education Committee

Judge Jeffrey R. Smith reported that Education Committee is still making a few adjustments to the plan for the conference due to speaker availability. A recent count shows that about 88 newer judicial officers have never attended conference in person due to only virtual programming for the last several years. Judge Smith noted that costs for this kind of in-person event have skyrocketed since the last conference in 2019.

E. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)

Judge Mary Logan was not present.

F. Legislative Committee

Judge Ringus reported that legislative session will end on April 23 this year, and thanked the members of the committee, staff, and lobbyist Melissa Johnson, for analyzing bills and assisting with the work of the committee. Judge Rivera, Co-Chair, gave a brief overview of a few bills of interested and echoed the appreciation from Judge Ringus about the work everyone has put in this year.

G. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that the Public Outreach Committee will meet next week, and that they have begun discussions about the next "You've Been Served" event, tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2023. Judge Gehlsen reminded the board to please submit articles and ideas for the DMCJA Facebook page to DMCJAPublicOutreach@gmail.com.

H. Rules Committee

Minutes from the January 24, 2023 Rules Committee meeting are included in the packet. Judge Goodwin reported on behalf of the committee co-chairs that next month there will be a report available that details the proposals available for comment by April 30.

I. Therapeutic Courts Committee

Judge Jenifer Howson reported that the committee is supporting AOC grant recipients who are about to run out of funding as of June 30, and they have heard from several additional judges who are interested in starting a therapeutic court. The committee is collaborating with the DMCJA DOL Liaison Committee on a model for relicensing that can be utilized in therapeutic courts across the state.

J. Conference Planning Committee

Judge Andrea Beall reported that she has submitted an additional funding request for 2023 Spring Program social activities. This item was discussed further under item 6B.

K. Nominating Committee

Judge Charles Short presented the slate to the Board. Although not required to vote on approval of the slate, the Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to move this item to Action today.

ACTION

A. Council on Independent Courts Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

M/S/P to approve the presented updates to the Council on Independent Courts Policy and Procedures Manual with minor editorial edits completed by staff.

B. Incidental Fees for DMCJA Spring Program

M/S/P to move \$20,000 from budget reserves to the Board Meeting Expenses budget line to cover this cost and other fees associated with the Board Retreat, security, and other items that will require funding between now and end of the budget year on June 30, 2023.

C. DMCJA Rules Committee Letter to WSCCR Rules re: CrRLJ 7.6

M/S/P to have the DMCJA President sign and immediately submit this letter to WSSC Rules Committee on behalf of DMCJA.

D. Conference Planning Committee Request for Additional Funding

M/S/P to move \$1500 from the Education Committee budget line to the Conference Planning Committee to help cover expenses for Spring Program.

E. Nominating Committee – Slate for 2023-2024

M/S/P to accept slate as presented by the Nominating Committee.

F. Fellow Members Workgroup Update: Memo Re: Granting Tribal and Other Judges Associate DMCJA Membership

M/S/P to remove this topic from the ballot for vote by full membership at the 2023 Annual Meeting in June but to maintain the workgroup in place to continue discussions about how to implement this idea.

DISCUSSION

G. Fellow Members Workgroup Update: Memo Re: Granting Tribal and Other Judges Associate DMCJA Membership

Judge Short provided a brief overview of the work of the Fellow Members Workgroup and explained that once the group began to look into the logistics of having this additional membership type, it became apparent that the issue was more complicated than they had initially anticipated. In particular, they received some answers from Dirk Marler regarding legal questions, that did not provide enough clarity for the group to feel comfortable with putting forth a vote to full membership about fellow members. In addition, DMCJA would likely need approval from CEC to allow tribal judges to attend spring conference and other programming, and there may be issues with spending state funds on non-state judges. The benefits DMCJA may be able to offer to fellow members are likely limited and it is unknown if this membership type would interest tribal and other judges due to these limitations. At this time, the workgroup recommends that the DMCJA Board vote to pull back the potential bylaws amendment from the ballot at the 2023 Annual Meeting. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

H. Conference Planning Committee Request for Additional Funding

Judge Leo noted that the additional request for funding is available in the packet for review. Judge Smith explained that Education Committee is willing to cover this cost (\$1500) if the board votes to move funding from the Education Committee budget line to the Conference Planning Committee budget line. M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

I. DMCJA Rules Committee Letter to WSCCR Rules re: CrRLJ 7.6

Judge Goodwin explained that the Rules Committee would like to have Judge Leo, as DMCJA President, submit a letter to the Washington State Supreme Court Rules Committee on behalf of the Association outlining the ongoing concerns with the amendments to CrRLJ 7.6. 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. Response from Sharon Swanson re: Blake Questions
- B. Save-the-Date Flyer: Why Can't We Be Friends? Improving Communication and Cooperation Between Courts and the Media, Friday May 12, 2023 in select cities
- C. Upcoming Webinar: Fundamentals of "Masking" and Suspensions for CDL Holders in Washington Traffic and Criminal Courts, June 28, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (online)
- D. 2023 National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Conference, May 21-24, 2023 in Seattle (hosted by Minority and Justice Commission)
- E. The Racial Justice Organizational Assessment Tool for Courts from NCSC

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Attendee Information Sharing
- B. The next DMCJA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 14, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

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