



DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023
12:30 PM – 3:30 PM
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Judge Jeffrey Smith, Chair
Commissioner Patrick Eason
Judge Michael Frans
Judge Michelle Gehlsen
Judge Angelle Gerl
Judge Jessica Giner
Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin
Judge Carolyn M. Jewett
Judge Rick Leo
Judge Catherine McDowall
Judge Lloyd Oaks
Judge Whitney Rivera
Judge Karl Williams
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative
Judge John H. Hart, BJA Representative
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

Guests:

Judge Kristin Ferrera, SCJA Representative
Judge Karama Hawkins Calloway
Judge Kristian Hedine, Bylaws Committee Chair
Judge Rhonda Laumann, Conference Planning Committee Chair
Judge Catherine McDowall, Rules Committee Co-Chair
Mark O'Halloran, WSAJ Representative
Frankie Peters, DMCMA Representative
Meagan Terlep-Boxley, MPA Representative

AOC Staff:

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Primary Staff
Antoinette Bonsignore, DMCJA Policy Analyst
Brenden Higashi, PhD., DMCJA Policy Analyst
Dexter Mejia, Associate Dir., Court Services Div.

Members Absent:

Judge Anita Crawford-Willis

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Jeffrey Smith, 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.

PRESENTATION

TED Talk: [Vernā Myers: How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them | TED Talk](#)

A discussion ensued regarding the content of the TED Talk.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Judge Smith provided an overview of the recent Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Summit joint event with the District and Municipal Court Management Association and the Misdemeanant Probation Association that occurred on October 27, 2024.

A. Minutes

The minutes from the October 13, 2023 meeting were previously distributed to the members. Judge Smith mentioned the minutes were in the packet but there was no call for corrections so the minutes for October will be included in the December meeting packet for review.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)

SCJA President-Elect Kristin Ferrera reported that a group of SCJA judges recently participated in a juvenile justice summit with stakeholders, with the goal of building relationships as part of a larger plan they are developing to improve juvenile justice. Judge Ferrera did receive an overview of DMCJA's legislative proposal for 2024 and will be requesting that it be included on the SCJA Legislative Committee agenda for their kickoff meeting on December 1. SCJA is also solidifying plans for their spring conference, where they are hoping to have more nuts and bolts education, particularly on recent statute changes.

B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

DMCMA President-Elect Frankie Peters reported that the CLJ Summit, previously mentioned by Judge Smith, went very well and it was meaningful to have all three associations present in one discussion. Frankie noted that there were some difficult topics covered during the discussion. Judge Smith responded that he was glad that tough conversations were had, as it will ultimately improve collaboration between the associations.

C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Representative Meagan Terlep-Boxley reported that MPA was grateful to be invited to the CLJ Summit, and although she was not able to attend herself, she received reports that everyone left the event feeling very positive about how the conversations will proceed. Meagan reminded the Board that the American Probation and Parole Association Winter Institute and Executive Summit will be held in Seattle this year in February, and registration for both events is open now with some spots for judges still available. The 2024 MPA conference will be held in Vancouver, WA.

D. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)

Representative Mark O'Halloran reported that WSAJ has winter conference coming up in November and the Chief Justice will be attending as a speaker.

E. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

Representative Dan Clark was not present. He will be unable to attend until the December meeting.

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 reported that she had nothing to report for the Policy and Action Committee. Judge Bui also reported nothing to report for Court Education Committee.

H. Judicial Information System (JIS)

Dexter Mejia, AOC Associate Director of the Court Services Division, reported that Tacoma Municipal Court is now live with the new Enterprise Justice court management system. Dexter noted that there have been many lessons learned already with the pilot project, and in the future they will hold regional town halls, more stakeholder collaboration, and system demonstration events. More information about the progress of the pilot project, and the integration platform project, are available in the materials today. Dexter noted that a new member of his team, Alex MacBain, will be attending the DMCJA Board meetings starting in December.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bylaws Committee

Judge Kristian Hedine was not present.

B. Diversity Committee

Judge Willie Gregory was not present. Judge Gehlsen mentioned that the Diversity Committee recently had a speaker that was appreciated, and Dr. Higashi noted that the speaker provided an overview of homeless rights and the committee also discussed potential programming for the DMCJA spring conference.

C. DOL Liaison Committee

Judge Angelle Gerl reported that the committee most recently met on September 11 and they will meet again on November 6. Currently the committee is working on a template for relicensing, updates from DOL, and discussing a DOL reinstatement letter and inability to pay.

D. Education Committee

Judge John H. Hart reported that the DMCJA Education Committee recently held their retreat but he was unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute due to a trial. At the request of Judge Hart, Judge Smith announced that Spring Program will be held at the Tulalip Resort next year. Judge Hart noted that the CEC funded DMCJA's Spring Program at \$95,000 for 2024 versus \$82,000 for 2023, but costs are substantially higher now and include a requirement to live-stream the education events. The Committee will be transitioning to a more comprehensive curriculum, with nuts and bolts, judicial skills, fundamental knowledge, and substantive law being components. The survey conducted by the Committee showed that DMCJA members prefer this approach to a piecemeal event. Judge Hart also noted that the Committee will be re-focusing on the mentorship program, and that each judge should ideally both have a mentor and be a mentor to others.

E. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)

Judge Mary Logan reported that JASP continues to work on the course regarding anger, and that JASP would like to have more of a presence during Spring Program.

F. Legislative Committee

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that a written report is available in the packet. The Board decided last meeting to approve/adopt the legislative agenda for 2024, and the Committee will now transition into Executive Legislative Committee work. The Exec Leg Committee will meet every Monday morning beginning the first day of legislative session (January 8) to discuss bills and issues. Judge Ringus reminded the Board that DMCJA's Legislative Day will be held on January 31 in 2024 and to please register when registration is available.

G. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported that the last meeting was on October 10 so there is nothing new to report at this time. The next Committee meeting will be held on December 12.

H. Rules Committee

Judge Catherine McDowall reported that Rules Committee met last month and a big topic of discussion was the ongoing issues with CrRLJ 7.6. The Committee requested input via a survey to DMCJA membership, and decided to hold a webinar to try and address issues courts are experiencing, but Judge Samuelson quickly realized when attempting an outline of the webinar that no broad education will help because the issues are too specific to each court. Instead, the Committee will be offering itself as a resource to courts who need assistance in complying with the problematic sections.

I. Therapeutic Courts Committee

Judge Jenifer Howson was not present.

ACTION

A. Refer “Conference Planning Committee” Name Change to Bylaws Committee for Drafting of Language

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to refer the Conference Planning Committee name change to the Bylaws Committee for drafting of language to be presented to the Board for approval.

B. Changing Bank Accounts

M/S/P to allow the Executive Committee (Board Officers) to make the final decision on which banking institutions that DMCJA will utilize going forward.

DISCUSSION

A. Changing bank accounts

Judge Goodwin reported that he believes it is in the best interest of the Association to change banking institutions. The current main bank, Bank of America, requires all officers to be present in person to make changes to the officers on the account, and is difficult to work with when trying to make other account changes. Customer service from BoA is also lacking, and staff/the bookkeeper have found them difficult to work with. Judge Goodwin noted that there are a lot of factors to consider when picking a new bank, and that he will continue to work with the bookkeeper and staff to make sure that the process at a new banking institution would work well for everyone. Judge Goodwin suggested that changing banks should occur prior to dues notices being sent this year, so that new dues payments could be processed by the new bank. Due to the short timeframe, he requested that the DMCJA Board Officers be allowed to make a final determination on which bank to go with once more information is provided by the candidates.

M/S/P to move this item to Action today.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Judge Smith brought the following informational items to the Board’s attention:

- A. Tribal State Court Consortium (TSCC) Annual Meeting September 17, 2023 Summary
- B. 2024 Judicial Branch Supplemental Budget Request
- C. New Behavioral Health Team Therapeutic Courts Website

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Attendee Information Sharing

Judge Jewett thanked the Public Outreach Committee for holding brown bag lunches for the Law Day event and for their assistance in providing ideas for courts to hold their own events.

B. The next DMCJA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2023 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.