



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024**  
**12:30 PM – 3:30 PM**  
**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Judge Jeffrey Smith, Chair  
Judge Anita Crawford-Willis  
Judge Michelle Gehlsen  
Judge Jessica Giner  
Judge Carolyn M. Jewett  
Judge Rick Leo  
Judge Lloyd Oaks  
Judge Whitney Rivera  
Judge Karl Williams  
Judge Tam Bui, BJA Representative  
Judge Mary Logan, BJA Representative  
Judge Rebecca Robertson, BJA Representative

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Patrick Eason  
Judge Michael Frans  
Judge Angelle Gerl  
Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin  
Judge Catherine McDowall  
Judge John H. Hart, BJA Representative

**Guests:**

Judge Kristin Ferrera, SCJA Liaison  
Judge Karama H. Hawkins  
Judge Rhonda Laumann, Conference Planning Chair  
Judge Kevin Ringus, Legislative Committee Chair  
Judge Charles Short  
Trish Kinlow, DMCMA Liaison  
Frankie Peters, DMCMA  
Meagan Terlep-Boxley, MPA Liaison  
Angela Silva, Collaborative Partners Initiative  
Jackie Smith, Collaborative Partners Initiative

**AOC Staff:**

Stephanie Oyler, Primary DMCJA Staff  
Tracy Dugas, DMCJA Staff  
Brenden Higashi, PhD., DMCJA Policy Analyst  
Alex MacBain, Senior Court Program Analyst

**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 12:34 p.m.

**PRESENTATION**

- A. Ted Talk: [Sheila Marie Orfano and Densho: Can stereotypes ever be good?](#)  
The Board watched a Ted Talk and held brief discussion about the content.
- B. *Who We Are* Documentary [Trailer](#) [Rent/Buy Documentary](#)  
Judge Smith requested that Board members view the documentary *Who We Are* prior to the next meeting. The film is available for rent on several platforms.
- C. Presentation from Collaborative Partners Initiative – Grant Writing Successes  
Collaborative Partners Initiative (CPIN) provided an overview of the work they've completed with courts of limited jurisdiction over the last year. A summary of their work is provided in the meeting materials.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. Minutes**

The minutes from the December 2023 meeting were previously distributed to the members. Judge Smith 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 2023**

Treasurer Judge Jeffrey Goodwin was not present.

**C. Special Fund Report for December 2023**

Special Fund Custodian Judge Anita Crawford-Willis was not present. Tracy Dugas reported that about 50 members have paid special fund dues utilizing the online payment portal.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)**

SCJA President-Elect Kristin Ferrera reported that SCJA is continuing to work on legislative issues, including a proposal for judicial education. SCJA also continues to work on an internal anti-harassment policy for members.

**B. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)**

DMCMA President LaTricia Kinlow reported that the DMCMA spring conference will be held at the Northern Quest (Spokane) in May. She suggested that leadership for each of the CLJ associations (DMCJA, DMCMA, and MPA) should attend the conferences of the other associations. A second CLJ Summit will be held in the coming months to follow up on issues raised at the first summit in October.

**C. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)**

Representative Meagan Terlep-Boxley reported that registration for the MPA conference ends today, and MPA's Education and Training Chairs will be providing free training on fentanyl and substance abuse.

**D. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)**

Representative Mark O'Halloran was not present.

**E. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)**

Representative Dan Clark 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 Tam Bui reported that BJA Court Education Committee met this morning; they are continuing the work of revamping their policies. There will be an emphasis on livestreaming of education next year. Annual Conference will be held September 22-25, 2024. Judge Logan reported that BJA Budget and Funding Committee continues to discuss budget issues with Chris Stanley. Chris has regularly been presenting to the legislature and others on the judicial branch budget, and discussions for the next biennium will begin in May or June. Judge Robertson reported that the Trial Court Security Task Force has now been turned into a permanent Security Committee for BJA.

**H. Judicial Information System (JIS)**

Alex MacBain, Senior Court Program Analyst, reported that AOC is working with the Tribal State Court Consortium to engage with tribal courts on utilizing the Protection Order Document System (PODS). Regarding CLJ-CMS, the steering committee recently received a letter from Pierce County District Court requesting to be removed from the pilot, so AOC will be scheduling a meeting to better understand their reasons for that decision and plans for moving forward. The Enterprise Integration Platform project is nearing the end of the vendor selection process, and contract execution should happen by early February. More information is available in the meeting 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 was not present.

### D. Education Committee

Judge John H. Hart was not present.

### E. Judicial Assistance Services Program (JASP)

Judge Mary Logan reported that JASP has completed the Anger to Authenticity course, which has been handed off to Scott Hillstrom to be built into the Learning Management System (eLearning). JASP will be presenting at Judicial College this year.

### F. Legislative Committee

Judge Kevin Ringus reported that the Executive Legislative Committee meets every week on Mondays during legislative session. Although this is a “short” legislative session ending in early May, there have been a substantial number of bills filed. The cutoff calendar has also been changed this year, with bills needing to be out of committee in their house of origin by January 31, which is the day that DMCJA Legislative Day will be held. Judge Ringus remarked that the incompetency bill, HB 2152, has been somewhat contentious. Several other issues and bills have been discussed by the committee, and members have testified.

### G. Public Outreach Committee

Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen reported they the committee met this week, where they discussed the Legislative Day event planning with the Legislative Committee Co-Chairs. “You’ve Been Served,” the Public Outreach event where legislators are invited to courthouses, will be held again this year in the fall but planning for that event will be on-hold until May.

### H. Rules Committee

Judge Catherine McDowall was not present.

### I. Therapeutic Courts Committee

Judge Jenifer Howson was not present.

## ACTION

A.

## DISCUSSION

### A. Blake Update

Judge Smith reported that Justice Yu has convened a Blake Workgroup and requested his participation on behalf of DMCJA. Judge Smith noted that the goal of the workgroup appears to be seeking a way for the trial courts to help the Refund Bureau work better and more efficiently. Judge Smith reported that he has asked DMCJA staff to send out a poll to CLJ Presiding Judges to find out how courts are

handling Blake cases, how the prosecutor is involved in the process, whether or not courts have done any hiring to assist with the work, and if information is available on court websites. Brenden Higashi added that it appears that many advocates want the Blake processes to be similar from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and for courts to have information about the process easily accessible on their websites.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Attendee Information Sharing**

Judge Smith reported that there will be a CLJ Summit Debrief next week for those who attended to discuss how things are going. As Trish mentioned earlier in the meeting, leadership of the associations are hoping to hold another Summit in early spring.

Judge Smith reported that the Nominating Committee has put out the call for letters of interest for the Board seats that will be open next year, and encouraged everyone to consider who might be a good fit.

Judge Smith reported that the Reserves Committee will be meeting soon to review the current state of the budget, discuss the bank transition, and see if there are funds to reallocate to the budget line items that may be going over.

Judge Smith reported that AOC has been recruiting for the open DMCJA Analyst position and that second round interviews will occur next week.

- B. The next DMCJA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 9, 2024 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.