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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT

**GENDER AND JUSTICE
COMMISSION**

MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013

AOC SEATAC OFFICE
SEATAC, WASHINGTON

**WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT
GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION**

2012-2013

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Executive Director

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013

CHIEF JUSTICE BARBARA MADSEN, CHAIR

JUDGE ALICIA NAKATA, VICE CHAIR

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Gender and Justice Commission (GJCOM)

Friday, November 2, 2012 (8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

AOC – SeaTac, 18800 International Blvd, SeaTac, WA

MEETING NOTES

Members Present: Chair, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Vice-Chair, Judge Alicia Nakata Ms. Sara Ainsworth, Judge Stephen E. Brown, Ms. Laura Contreras (via telephone), Ms. Terri Cooper, Honorable Ruth Gordon, Judge Judy Rae Jasprica, Judge Cynthia Jordan, Judge Richard Melnick, Mr. Ron Miles, Judge Mark Pouley, Judge Ann Schindler, Mr. David Ward, Judge Chris Wickham, Myra Downing and Pam Dittman (staff)

Guests: Ms. Erica Chung (IDGC), Ms. Jennifer Creighton (AOC), Ms. Joy Eckwood (WSBA), Ms. Paula Littlewood (WSBA), Ms. Meagan McNally (WSBA),

Members Absent: Judge Vickie Churchill, Ms. Emily Henry, Dr. Margaret Hobart, Ms. Judith Lonquist, Ms. Leslie Savina, Ms. Gail Stone

The meeting was called to order on November 2, 2012, at approximately 9:00 a.m.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

STAFF REPORT – Myra Downing

- **STOP Grant Quarterly Reports**
Quarterly progress reports were received from grantees. Projects have either been completed and/or are progressing.
 - Island County Superior Court is editing and cross-checking references for the production of domestic violence informational and educational brochures.
 - King County Superior Court hosted the 4th Annual DV Symposium in September. It was attended by over 400 individuals. A specific judicial track was developed. The grant assisted with 31 judicial officers in attending at little to no cost.
 - Snohomish County Clerk's Office is translating domestic violence brochures into Spanish, Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, and Arabic. The Clerk's Office is also installing cameras in their domestic violence program office to enhance safety of clients and employees.
 - Spokane County District Court provided an advocate to assist with domestic violence clients.
 - Thurston County Superior Court hosted a training for judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, and GAL/CASA/parenting evaluators in September. It was attended by approximately 200 individuals. The grant assisted with approximately 65 court staff and judicial officers to attend at little to no cost.
 - Thurston County Superior Court is piloting a risk assessment tool.
- **Fall Conference Evaluations**
The Commission sponsored/cosponsored four sessions at Fall Conference: *Beyond Inclusion: Beyond Empowerment; Immigration Benchguide (Criminal); What Makes it Cultural & How Would You Respond;* and *I Served My Country, Now How Can You Serve Me*. The evaluations provided good feedback and rated the sessions between good and excellent.

- Events
 - The Commission hosted *In Her Shoes* for the faith-based community. Judge David Larson and Judge Kimberly Walden presented the Dynamics of DV and Trish Kinlow lead a panel of advocates and others in an afternoon discussion.
 - The Commission and the WSBA will present a CLE to assist attorneys in recognizing domestic violence issues. *The Intersection of DV and Family Law and the Practice of Law* will be held on November 28, at the WSBA-CLE Conference Center at Century Square, Seattle, Washington.
- Upcoming Educational Programs sponsored and developed by the Commission:
 - *Domestic Violence* – hands on approach for DMCJA.
 - *How Far Will You Go* to effectively manage your courtroom for SCJA.
 - *Sexual Assault Protection Orders* for SCJA.

CHAIR REPORT – Chief Justice Madsen

- The Chief Justice co-chaired a summit on human trafficking cosponsored by the American Bar Association, and both the Gender & Justice and Minority & Justice Commissions. The summit discussed domestic and international trafficking and labor and sex trafficking. A short video from *Truckers Against Trafficking* was highlighted. The video is posted on the GJCOM Web site at http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/gjc/?fa=gjc.home or on the Truckers Against Trafficking Web site at <http://truckersagainstrafficking.org/>
- The BJA is working on restructuring itself and also looking at the overlap of different commissions, committees, and topic areas to promote better coordination, collaboration, and partnership.
- The Minority and Justice Commission is looking at minority disproportionality in the juvenile justice system.

REPORTS – GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- Erica Chung is the new director of the Initiative for Diversity Council (IDGC). Erica provided a brief history of IDGC and indicated that continued collaboration is important amongst IDGC and the Commission. Erica also mentioned IDGC will be hosting a Managing Partner Summit in May 2013.
- Joy Eckwood – In 2010, the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) embarked on a plan to develop and implement a comprehensive Membership Study, with specific focus on composition and retention of the WSBA membership with regard to diverse attorneys. The overall objective of the study was to gain an accurate picture of the profession’s composition, as well as to understand the reasons why attorneys leave the profession. Core focuses of the study were to examine ways in which to increase diversity within the profession, form a rational foundation upon which to base future policy and program priorities, and establish dependable benchmarks within a program evaluation structure.

The study identifies several challenges and opportunities that may require responses not only from the WSBA, but also from other stakeholders. For example, the study reveals that 45 percent of the WSBA membership is female. The gender gap narrows among younger and newer attorneys. The study also reveals that racial minorities equal 12 percent of the WSBA membership. Newer member cohorts are proportionately more diverse in traditional diversity categories. The study examined the experience of diversity groups and patterns of barriers experienced in their professional practice: Averaging across the three barriers, the group that most frequently encountered barriers overall is racial and ethnic minorities. In general, each diversity group rated social barriers as being most prominent (with two exceptions: parents and caregivers rated opportunity barriers slightly higher, and military personnel and veterans rated advancement barriers slightly higher). The challenges facing the legal profession create opportunities for the WSBA and its membership to collaborate in productive ways to improve both the experience of practicing law and the product of that practice.

Specific Suggestions from the WSBA was how might we partner? Session at conference?

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- DV Committee
 - Best/Promising Sentencing Practices. A meeting is being scheduled in December to discuss contracting with a vendor to work with Washington State and the Commission on this subject. The parties will be meeting again to discuss the findings of the conference call.
 - STOP Grant Funds FY12 (2013-2014). The application has been received from the Department of Commerce for the VAWA STOP Grant Funds. Once the contract has been signed, the Commission will distribute request for proposals (RFP) statewide. The DV Committee will evaluate and determine which proposals to fund.

- Immigration
 - Benchguide Updates. The civil and criminal immigration bench guides are in final editing. A Webinar on the civil immigration bench guide has been scheduled for December 17, 2012 from 12:15-1:30 p.m.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Judge Nakata distributed a survey asking Commission members:

- What do you believe should be the priorities of the Commission?
- What are the priorities of the Committee(s) you serve on?
- What issues pertaining to fairness and equality still need to be addressed by the Commission?
- What areas overlap with the Minority and Justice Commission?

Several ideas emerged.

- Who do we serve and how do we perceive the role of the Commission needs to be answered to ascertain what the priorities of the Commission should be. From the mission statement and also the answers to the survey, the Commission's role is seen through: providing educational opportunities, bridging gaps in services/areas, addressing unspoken biases, and improving court processes.
- Need to leverage STOP Grant funds.
- How do we address gender equality and equality as a whole?
- How do we measure success? How do judicial officers learn? One way judicial officers may learn is through the lawyers who appear before them.

Committees and Past/Present focus

- Incarcerated Women and Girls
 - The Committee is looking at systemic problems such as reintegration into society and the community and areas such as unmet legal needs, sentencing of custodial parent, access to public defenders, and over-representation of African-American women in the justice system
- Equality
 - The Committee is looking at under-representation of women in higher levels of the legal profession. Addressing the "glass ceiling" and the "mommy" track.
 - Suggested Topic to Address: LGBTQ.
 - Suggested Topic to Address: Access to court and court-house. Such as fee waivers.
- Immigration
 - The Committee is looking at educating judicial officers on immigration issues (criminal and civil).
 - Suggested Topic to Address: Human Trafficking.
 - Suggested Topic to Address: Judicial treatment of the disadvantages.
 - Suggested Topic to Address: Abuse and use of court system in immigration issues.

DV

- The Committee is looking at domestic violence issues and has designated funding through STOP grants. A decision was made by the Commission to use funds to focus on statewide solutions in addition to court specific. They are currently developing an RFP to seek assistance in determining best or promising monitoring and sentencing practices in DV cases.

Thoughts

- Who should we be partnering and/or collaborating with and how does that happen?
- How do we diversify the court system, not just the bench?
- Should the Commission move from a "Committee" approach to a "project" approach?

Discussion will continue at the January meeting.

Meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Revised: 01-07-2013

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Report to Washington State Institute for Public Policy

From Chief Justice Barbara Madsen and Judge Christopher Wickham
On Behalf of the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission

The Washington State Legislature passed HB 2363 which directs the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to:

- assess recidivism by domestic violence offenders
- examine effective community supervision practices as it relates to the WSIPP's findings on evidence-based community supervision; and
- assess domestic violence perpetrator treatment.

HB 2363 also directs WSIPP to collaborate with the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission. The intent of this collaboration is an acknowledgement of the challenges and complexity of reducing recidivism of domestic violence perpetrators so victims are safer and the pattern of abuse is severed. It is a community problem requiring a coordinated systemic problem solving approach. As Dr. Thomas George states in his report, *Domestic Violence Sentencing Conditions and Recidivism*, "Over the last few decades, a wide variety of statutory, procedural, and organizational reforms have been enacted throughout the legal system to combat the widespread and destructive effects of domestic violence."

While efforts attempting to identify effective domestic violence treatment programs should be applauded, a quandary still remains for the court system. Research hasn't identified which perpetrators need lengthy treatment and which ones don't, as well as who is amenable to treatment and who isn't. There is wide variance in the conditions set by the court so it has been difficult to determine the combination of conditions that will be the most effective in reducing recidivism. Thus, judicial officers are left unclear about what sentencing conditions to impose.

Dr. George researched the effect of a variety of sentencing conditions in a multitude of combinations. He found that "[f]rom imposing only fines and/or proscriptions to crafting sentences that involve fines, proscriptions, jail, assessment, treatment, and probation, little consistency exists both within and across jurisdictions." He concludes that this suggests a "lack of clarity and consistency in goals underlying domestic violence sentencing and reflects the ambiguous relationships between goals and sentence conditions. It highlights the lack of research evidence on successful approaches to reducing recidivism upon which judicial officers could base their decisions."

Dr. George's work reflects the legislative mandate that WSIPP "must collaborate" with the Commission. Because of the complexity of domestic violence, the solution is also complex and multifaceted. The HB 2363 report to the legislature must include this reality. More work is needed in this area to determine what role

the courts can play in changing abusive behavior so that those victimized by it can feel safe.

Additional work needs to be done in exploring the potential combinations of sentencing conditions that seem to have a positive effect on recidivism and what resources are required by courts to implement these sentencing conditions. Currently, researchers are exploring the impact of judicial monitoring on reducing recidivism. Limited work has been done on identifying the different condition options and which combinations of conditions will be most effective. With the support of the legislature, the Commission is prepared to begin this work for Washington State.

All of the above addresses the "must collaborate" language in HB 2363. The Commission builds its work from the end of the research conducted by WSIPP. Our work will focus on identifying the policies and practices instituted within the court setting that have promise in reducing recidivism in domestic violence cases and as a result enhance safety for the victims.



Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

1206 Quince St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504
MS 41183
360-704-4135
360-704-4003 (fax)

James A. Bamberger, Director
jim.bamberger@ocla.wa.gov

To: Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Chair
Judge Alicia Nakata, Vice-Chair
Washington State Gender and Justice Commission

CC: Judge Anne Schindler
Myra Downing

From: Jim Bamberger, Director

Re: Updating Our Understanding of the Civil Legal Problems Experienced by Low Income
Washingtonians

Date: 12-31-12

Attached to this memo please find the Final Report of the Civil Legal Needs Study Scoping Group convened by the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid. The focus of the Scoping Group's work was to assess the need for and purpose of updating our understanding of the civil legal problems experienced by low income Washingtonians. The civil legal problems of low income Washingtonians were last documented in the 2003 Civil Legal Needs Study published by the Supreme Court Task Force on Civil Equal Justice Funding. In addition to determining that there is an imperative to update our collective understandings given the dramatic changes that have occurred since 2002-03, the Scoping Group's report outlines the focus, scope and methodology that it recommends be employed in any such update. The Scoping Group's efforts were supported in substantial part by the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR).

The Washington State Gender and Justice Commission was a key partner in defining the focus and scope of and helping underwrite the research effort associated with the 2003 Civil Legal Needs Study. The Commission was particularly interested in ensuring that the civil legal problems of women and children received a high level of scrutiny in the design and execution of the study methodology. The results of the 2003 study were striking, not only with respect to the overall prevalence and substance of civil legal problems experienced by low income Washingtonians, but the clearly documented disproportionality of civil problems experienced by women, especially victims of domestic violence. *Civil Legal Needs Study* at 29.

Consistent with the recommendations of the Scoping Group, the Office of Civil Legal Aid will work with WSCCR to reassess the substance, prevalence and consequences of the civil legal

1/8/2013

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problems of low income people over the next 18-20 months. In early 2013 we will convene a blue ribbon work group to oversee this effort. We will ask the Supreme Court to appoint a sitting justice to chair the group, which will also include leaders representing the Access to Justice Board, the Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee and other key stakeholder entities. Given the relevance of this initiative to the Gender and Justice Commission's mission and ongoing work, I am hopeful that the Commission will once again be an active partner in this effort. To this end, I respectfully request the opportunity to attend the Commission's January 11, 2013 meeting and discuss the manner in which it might support this effort.

NWADVTP

Position Paper Regarding Domestic Violence Treatment in Washington

This is in response to the research and meta-analysis required by RCW 26.50.800, which WSIPP, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, has been conducting to evaluate the effectiveness of domestic violence perpetrator treatment in our state. There has been talk in some circles of turning over clinical work with perpetrators to the Department of Corrections Probation Officers, and local probation departments, or sending domestic violence perpetrators to short term anger management type programs. Another option being talked about is jail time for DV offenses with no other intervention. If these changes were to occur, it would effectively remove current Washington State Certified Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programs from providing treatment services to court ordered offenders. State Certified programs meet or exceed 25 pages of regulations in WAC 388-60 designed to maximize victim safety and perpetrator accountability. Our concern is that the manner in which the research is being conducted leads to erroneous conclusions. Those conclusions can be the basis for very dangerous policy decisions that undermine the safety of domestic violence victims and the accountability of perpetrators.

1. Professional, independent review of the Meta-Analysis and other research required by RCW 26.50.800. The NWADVTP has contacted professional domestic violence researchers to conduct an independent review of the research, and meta-analysis that is being conducted by Marna Miller, PhD and her team at WSIPP. We have grave concerns about a meta-analysis that only considers a dozen random controlled studies while excluding scores of well conducted, peer-reviewed research projects that show the effectiveness of Domestic Violence Treatment. Further, research that only focuses on legal recidivism misses a more complete picture of how peoples' lives are positively affected by a well-coordinated community response to domestic violence that includes a strong clinical perpetrator treatment component. Though WSIPP believes its standards for evidence lead to more reliable results, we do not believe that the methodology employed by WSIPP can take stock of the complexities of Domestic Violence. The idea of turning over Domestic Violence Treatment to the Department of Corrections, and local probation departments is an idea that has not been adequately researched or discussed by all concerned parties. And without such dialogue and research, such a shift in policy can have dangerous and unexpected results.

We believe that victims truly can be safer with quality perpetrator treatment, and we believe that the best research bears this out. Community Corrections Officers and Probation Officers do a great job, but they do not have the clinical background and training to provide effective treatment to domestic violence offenders.

The professionals that we have contacted for review are: Eric Mankowski, PhD, Oregon State University; Donald Dutton, PhD, University of British Columbia, Canada; and Edward Gondolf, PhD, University of Indiana.

2. Domestic Violence is not a simple issue. Most cases are very complex with many offenders that we see in treatment presenting with multiple issues. The current standards outlined in WAC 388-60 give us minimum guidelines for treatment, and are up for review. Around 80 % or so of our offender clients have Chemical Abuse/Dependency issues at some level. Approximately 1/3rd of offender clients have some Mental Health issues including personality disorders. Most offender clients have Power & Control issues, and underlying those issues are:

- a. Attachment Disorders.
- b. Toxic Shame/Guilt from childhood.
- c. Trauma issues from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as a child.
- d. Trauma issues and PTSD from War, and Family of Origin.
- e. 85 % of male offenders, and close to 100% of female offenders have experienced or witnessed Domestic Violence in their Families of Origin.
- f. Dependency/Co-Dependency issues.
- g. Fear/Insecurity/Low Self-Esteem issues.
- h. Many offender clients lack life skills, and coping skills.
- i. Lack of emotional development, emotionally stunted.
- j. Externally focused orientation to life with little, if any, internal focus.

It has been found with most offenders that there is a large amount of denial, minimization and blaming that takes a considerable amount of time to work through. It often takes around three months or so of weekly treatment sessions to allow for a reduction in denial, minimization, and blaming. The above listed issues become a part of the offender's treatment plan. Those offenders with multiple issues as indicated above may need more than one year to address them effectively. If the above issues are not adequately addressed in treatment, the violence is likely to continue and new generations will be exposed to more violence. Short term interventions do not provide enough time or therapy to work through basic issues of denial, minimization or blaming, much less the other pieces necessary for significant and lasting changes in behavior. Arresting, and prosecuting without follow up intervention only aggravates the situation by putting the victims in more danger.

3. An effective Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence requires that all parties involved in Domestic Violence intervention communicate, and cooperate with each other on a regular on-going basis. The major components of a Coordinated Community Response have historically been the Criminal Justice System, Victim Advocacy Services, and Domestic Violence Treatment Providers. There have been others in the community that have also been a part of this response such as Faith Based

Communities, Employers, Violent Crime Victims Advocates, and others providing adjunct services like Chemical Dependency Treatment, Mental Health Services, Non-Violent Parenting Programs, etc.

Most cities, and counties around the State of Washington have meetings in which the members of the Coordinated Community Response come together, at least once per month, to discuss issues with services that are needed in those communities. Those Domestic Violence Intervention Committees (DVIC's), Taskforces, or Commissions have helped to keep the Coordinated Community Response moving in a positive, healthy direction. Many of these groups have been meeting for many years. One of the oldest groups is the Tacoma/Pierce County DVIC which has been meeting regularly since 1989.

Over the past few years, we have seen a deterioration of some of those groups, and the overall effectiveness of a Coordinated Community Response in many communities around the State of Washington due in part to the economy and shrinking resources. This deterioration has put more victims of domestic violence at risk, and our overall numbers of domestic violence crimes in the State of Washington have been steadily increasing since 2008 according to WASPC statistics.

We do realize that financial concerns and other priorities have contributed to the deterioration of the Coordinated Community Response. In some communities key players in the Coordinated Community Response are volunteering their time to continue the meetings that are so necessary in maintaining an active Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence.

We believe that the right of all human beings to live safely, and peacefully should be the number one priority in all our communities. We need to not lose sight of our priorities if we are to help keep victims safe.

4. RCW 26.50.150 and WAC 388-60 set the minimum standards for Domestic Violence Treatment. Certified Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Programs are mandated to adhere to WAC 388-60, but they also have some leeway as to how these standards are implemented by programs. This is as it should be so that offenders can choose a program that fits their needs as is regulated by Federal Statute.

Washington State Department of Health and other regulatory agencies have never been allowed to show preference of one mode of therapy over another. Such decisions are left up to the professionals providing the services, as long as the requirements of the statutes are fulfilled.

At times, some people have promoted specific models of treatment and modes of therapy implying that somehow one is better than another. There is little evidence to prove their case. It is more likely that the therapist-client therapeutic bond would be a

better indicator of the client's success in making behavioral change than what mode of therapy is being employed. It has been effectively shown that punitive forms of treatment do not work as they interfere with the establishment of a therapeutic bond, and they model the same inappropriate behaviors that we are attempting to have our client's correct in their own lives.

Many certified programs in the State of Washington use a mode or model of therapy that is Cognitive Behavioral Based with some other aspects of other models included as well. Most programs use a process oriented group therapy that allows for clients to process their issues in a group setting. There are also some culturally relevant treatment programs that include culturally specific elements and language into the treatment process. There are culturally relevant programs for Spanish Speaking Cultures, Native American Cultures, Russian-Ukrainian Cultures, and Afro-American Cultures.

Some of the modes of therapy used in treatment programs around the State of Washington include, but are not limited to:

- a. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).
- b. Reality Therapy, and other versions of Reality type Therapy.
- c. Developmental Therapy.
- d. Adlerian Therapy.
- e. Transpersonal Therapy.
- f. Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT).
- g. Culturally Relevant Therapies.
- h. Trauma-informed Therapies.

There are also some adjunct types of therapy in addition to Domestic Violence Treatment that are beneficial to the success of our clients, such as:

- a. Trauma Reduction Therapies (EMDR, Hypnotherapy, NLP, etc.).
- b. Chemical Dependency Treatment and 12 Step Program Participation.
- c. Alanon, Co-Dependency Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, as an adjunct or aftercare program, etc.
- d. Mental Health Counseling/Medication.
- e. Individual Therapy for PTSD, Personality Disorders, etc.

Most Domestic Violence Treatment Programs in the State of Washington require clients to complete homework assignments. Some of the assignments may include:

- a. Writing and presenting of Life Story to the group.
- b. Empathy Letter to the victim/victims.
- c. Reports on certain topics/books pertinent to the client's recovery.
- d. Recovery Plans/Safety Plans.
- e. Cultural Stories to present to group.
- f. Ceremonies/rituals to make change and reduce violence.

- g. Anger and Control logs.
- h. and many other types of assignments pertinent to the clients recovery.

Domestic Violence Treatment Programs have to address the serious problem of relapse of Chemical use as well as Behavioral Relapse. Though relapse is not a requirement for clients going through treatment, it seems to be problematic for some of our clients. This needs to be taken into consideration when doing research about recidivism. Some clients seem to need to prove to themselves that they have a problem. Relapse tends to happen for some clients before they make real lasting change. So, some clients will have their programs extended or re-start treatment more than once in some cases, and make several trips to see the judge or probation officer for violations of their agreement or for new offenses. Domestic Violence Treatment and lasting recovery from the perpetration of violence is a process that is on-going for the rest of the client's life. We need to realize that it is a process, and not a one time or short term event.

5. Domestic Violence Treatment does work. When there is a solid Coordinated Community Response treatment works very well for many people. Most treatment providers know this. It's why we continue to do this difficult and often thankless work. Providers are encouraged to have some way of measuring outcomes with their programs. Some programs have well thought out methods of tracking client outcomes. There has not been much real research done on treatment programs in the State of Washington. There needs to be quality research on all available programs to clearly see the validity and effectiveness of Domestic Violence Treatment. Most research has been done on other programs outside the State of Washington with attempts to compare them to what we do in Washington. Not all programs are the same in length, content, or structure.

6. Short term CCAP/MRT type programs have not been adequately researched to show their effectiveness in addressing Domestic Violence issues. Some short term programs that have cropped up in the State of Washington have not been shown to be effective for long-term recovery from violence and abuse. Some programs see an offender anywhere from one or two sessions to maybe 20 sessions with no consistency in length or content. Many of these types of programs do not have time to address issues of denial, minimization, and blaming effectively, and they certainly don't have time to address the myriad of other issues. There seems to be a movement among some judges and attorneys to find different ways to address Domestic Violence issues. Looking for ways to improve the quality of Domestic Violence Intervention is what we all want, but without a solid understanding of the complexities of Domestic Violence we can end up with simplistic, ineffective solutions to very complex issues.

7. What we see as valid outcomes of DV Treatment, and possible outcome based evaluations. In addition to completing all of the requirements of WAC 388-60

and the treatment program contract, some programs around the state have developed tools to assist in measuring outcomes of perpetrator treatment. One such tool is the Perpetrator Index that was developed many years ago by the Tacoma/Pierce County DVIC, a work group of the Pierce County Commission Against Domestic Violence. The Perpetrator Index was developed with input from victim advocacy services, criminal justice system, and treatment providers. It is currently used by some programs around the State of Washington. There are probably other types of outcome evaluations being used in different parts of the state. We would like to see a collaborative effort to create a way to conduct outcome type research with treatment programs around the state. Documentation needs to go beyond recidivism looking at the reduction of negative behaviors and activities, replaced by positive behaviors and activities. Having verification of these behavioral changes from the victim and others in the client's life without placing the victim in a dangerous position would be an important part of this process.

8. Possible solutions to current situation in DV Program supervision with DSHS, peer review, possible DOH Credentialing, and possible RCW and WAC revisions. It is obvious to most people that the State of Washington has never put forth resources to adequately supervise and monitor Domestic Violence Treatment Programs. Additionally, people in those positions over the years have not possessed the experience or training needed to effectively supervise DV treatment programs (no offense to any of them). One of the requirements is to have experience working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence in a State Certified Treatment Program. The people who are charged with Program Management at DSHS typically have worked alone, with no administrative or clerical help. They provide certification of programs, re-certification of programs, and investigation of complaints against programs. The DSHS advisory Committee that is outlined in WAC 388-60 has not met in close to 15 years. The explanation that has been given has been that DSHS does not have the money to pay travel expenses to members of that committee. Most people would volunteer their time, and travel expenses to provide quality input to DSHS regarding Domestic Violence Treatment. There is no excuse for not having the Advisory Committee meet on a regular basis as is required by WAC 388-60.

The NWADVTP (formerly known as WADVIP) has over the years attempted to provide programs with Peer Review/Consultation (free of charge). We have also provided on-going continuing education in the form of Annual Domestic Violence Conferences (since 1994), and short term workshops where we bring in Domestic Violence Experts from the local community, and around the world to present on relevant issues, and new ideas on the Treatment of Domestic Violence. Presentations have been made by; Ellen Pence, PhD, Lenore Walker, EdD, Donald Dutton, PhD, Daniel Sonkin, PhD, Caroline West, PhD, Barbara Hart, PhD, and Oliver Williams, PhD just to name a few. With some local

expert presenters such as: Anne Ganley, PhD, Roland Maiuro, PhD, April Gerlock, PhD, ARNP, and others from the Northwest. These trainings continue to be widely accepted and attended by treatment providers. The NWADVTP currently represents approximately 75 % of Domestic Violence Treatment Providers from around the State of Washington with some members from Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia.

We believe that the current WAC 388-60 should be revised and updated as a means of continuing to improve the quality of clinical work done in Domestic Violence Treatment Programs in our state. Topics for discussion about WAC updates among all stakeholders could include:

- a. Domestic Violence specific education/training requirements for potential providers (review or upgrade as needed).
- b. Change the name of our organization from WADVIP to NWADVTP.
- c. Re-activate the DSHS Advisory Committee as a volunteer committee.
- d. Establishing standards for Family Court Evaluations, and Criminal Court Assessments.
- e. Possible Peer Review/Consultation for Domestic Violence Programs.
- f. Improved trainee and staff supervision.
- g. Other possible changes as suggestions are submitted.

Washington State has been at the forefront of addressing the issues of Domestic Violence in all of its complexities, in order to create a safer community for all of our citizens, especially those who are most vulnerable. The State of Washington has been deemed as progressive by many in the Domestic Violence movement around the country. This is not a time to retreat from the gains that have been made over the last several decades in establishing an effective Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence: it is a time to build on those gains and move forward in a progressive manner. To do that will require hearing from all who are affected by and concerned about Domestic Violence. Nothing less than the best, fullest, and most accurate information is what will allow us to shape policies and practices that can truly help to end the on-going cycle of Domestic Violence in our community.

Respectfully,

NWADVTP Board of Directors

“Electronically Signed”
Steven C. Pepping, MA, CDP, DVP
NWADVTP President

Diversity Pipeline Programs for Youth

Diversifying the Bench and Bar in Washington State Prepared by Margaret E. Fisher

January 2013

Background

The Gender and Justice Commission has a long-standing commitment to bring diversity to the bench and bar. I was asked to explore and report on existing diversity pipeline programs for youth. To do this, I contacted and met or spoke with representatives of all the key secondary school pipeline programs in Washington and at the national level, spoke with the admissions officers at all three law schools. In addition, I met with the Washington State Bar Association Diversity Manager.

Before reporting on my findings, I did want to identify that today the term diversity encompasses a broader field than traditional racial and gender diversity. The American Bar Association includes racial and ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) further defines diversity as including socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, language, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, geography, disability, and age. The GJCOM should decide whether to broaden its diversity efforts.

In summary, I learned that:

- Existing pipeline programs for secondary students in the state are generally unaware of other pipeline programs, are very interested in learning more, and value the idea of collaboration.
- The Washington State Bar Association has no plans to offer pipeline programs itself but is developing criteria for when it will partner with pipeline programs.
- Both the ABA Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) and LSAC support a wide range of pipeline programs from middle school through graduate school (non-law) and are interested in supporting efforts in Washington State to be better focused on diversity recruitment to legal and judicial careers.

Types of Pipeline Programs

In Washington State there are many secondary school pipeline programs. Each has its unique approach and targeted audience. They fall basically into three categories: (1) those that exist specifically to get minority, poor, and traditionally disenfranchised youth into legal and judicial careers; (2) those that address broader law-related careers; and (3) those that have multiple goals including exposure to legal and judicial careers and involve broader audiences but include minority, poor, and the traditionally disenfranchised.

There are many national diversity programs for secondary school students, some but not all with a Washington presence, which support diversity in the law and judicial systems. These include CLEO, Just the Beginnings Foundation, LSAC, Street Law, Inc., and others.

Sample Existing Middle and High School Pipeline Programs (see attached chart)

A. Seattle

1. The Future of Law Institute of the King County Bar Association is the most focused effort aimed at diversity. High school students:
 - Attend substantive legal workshops at both Seattle University School of Law and the University of Washington Law School.
 - Participate in career counseling.
 - Participate in a mock trial and a courthouse tour.
 - Meet with legal professionals.
 - Partner with an attorney, judge, or law student mentor for the school year;
 - Have access to competitive paid and unpaid summer internships in law firms and courts.
 - Compete for a \$500 scholarship if they go on to higher education and \$1,000 if they go to law school.
 - Receive a newsletter with law-related scholarships, events, and interviews with local legal professionals.
2. Since 1990, the First AME Church in Seattle has offered an annual Youth and Law Forum. Now in partnership with the Loren Miller Bar Association, the city of Seattle, law enforcement, and other groups, this one-day program for youth and their families provides opportunities to interact with representatives of the legal community to gain firsthand information on how the legal system works for and with them.
3. The Gender and Justice Commission has sponsored the Color of Justice Program for young women and youth of color in secondary schools. This program runs for just more than half a day. It consists of a keynote by female and minority leaders of the bar and judiciary, panel discussions with judges and lawyers sharing personal insights, and small group discussions over lunch. Variations include mock trials and other interactive activities that engage students and explore the role of the judiciary and lawyers in everyday life.
4. Street Law classes at both Seattle University School of Law and the University of Washington Law School exist in high schools in Seattle with high minority populations. These classes run for the semester and involve two hours per week taught by law students and a culminating mock trial.

5. The national Corporate Diversity Pipeline Program is organized through Street Law, Inc., and the Association of Corporate Counsel. This involves minority attorneys at corporations teaching lessons and leading activities to students who come to the corporation to see how corporation counsel work. Schools are selected upon the basis of their diverse population. In Seattle, Chief Sealth High School participates with Allstate Insurance.
6. Seattle Youth Traffic Court involves Garfield High School students in sentencing defendants who have received traffic citations in Seattle. A very diverse group of high school students from Garfield High School spend hours each week through the school year working as colleagues with judges, lawyers, law students, law professors, law enforcement, as they act as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, court staff, and jurors.
7. CLEO and Just the Beginning Foundation held a week-long high school summer institute at Seattle University Law School from 2009-2011. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Jones took a lead with this. However, Paula Lucas, Director of Just the Beginning Foundation reported in November 2012, that “we were unable to get enough community support and buy-in to continue to sustain our program there. That said, several of our partners and Judge Jones have been exploring ways for us to reconnect there.”

B. Tri-Cities

Tri-Cities Youth Law Forum, sponsored by the Minority and Justice Commission, celebrated its tenth anniversary in October 2012. This program focuses on judicial and legal careers as well as court reporters, interpreters, corrections officers, law enforcement, and others. This forum added an evening event in 2012 for students unable to attend the one-day forum. The forum itself is one day and approximately 200 eighth through twelfth graders attend. Mentorships are encouraged but there is no formal structure to ensure this happens.

C. Pierce County

Pierce County Youth and the Law Community Forum is sponsored by the Pierce County Minority Bar Association, the bench, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and law enforcement. This one-day program reaches 100-200 youth each year. The primary purposes are to change youth attitudes towards law enforcement, reduce disproportionality minority confinement, and encourage respect for the law enforcement and judicial systems. The pipeline aspect is a by-product, but not a direct goal.

D. Spokane

1. Gonzaga Law School and the Spokane County Bar Association Diversity Committee offer a Color of Justice program in partnership with the federally funded Gear Up program for first-generation students who are identified in seventh grade and are part of the program throughout high school. These

students are encouraged and supported to attend college with presentations on a wide variety of careers.

2. Spokane also has a Street Law program at Gonzaga Law School, although it varies from the Seattle University Law School and University of Washington Law School programs.

E. Other Programs

1. In addition, other programs in Washington operate such as the YMCA Mock Trial Competition, YMCA Youth Legislature, Judges in the Classroom, Street Law taught by judges, We the People, Youth Courts, and iCivics. These programs exist in many communities throughout Washington. Although they are not specifically a pipeline program, they do serve that purpose.
2. National database – the ABA operates a database of pipeline programs throughout the United States, with a wide variety of approaches and methods. (See attached chart.) They organize the programs by type, target audience, scope of participation, education level, and by state.

Intensity of the Focus on Legal and Judicial Careers

There is a continuum of intensity of the focus where these pipeline programs fall. A one-half day program for diverse middle and high school students is at one end – planting the seed for possible fruition. At the other end are some of the college and law school programs cosponsored by the CLEO that teach how to prepare for the LSAT, how to write essays/personal statements, and sample programs on how to adjust to the rigors of law school.

Question

Where should this revised program fall on the end of the continuum – from planting a seed in a half-day program or a more intensified effort?

Options for Consideration

1. One option that I recommend is hosting a strategic planning event of the various pipeline programs and interested state and national parties (See attached chart). Joy Eckwood, Diversity Program Manager at the Washington State Bar, reported to me that she believes that WSBA would be very interested in co-hosting such an event. LSAC indicated that this is the type of program that they are interested in funding through their *Diversity Initiatives Fund General Grants*. (Grant application cycles are January 1, and June 1.)

The purpose of this strategic planning would be to introduce programs to each other, develop collaboration among individuals and organizations, eliminate duplication and maximize resources, identify what is lacking and work to involve resources, non-profit, government agencies, and the bar association in moving forward.

2. The Future of Law Institute (FLI) of the King County Bar Association offers the most significant and meaningful secondary school program that has as its specific focus to diversify the bar and bench (see above).

Another option is to enhance the FLI program and consider further expansion to the other diverse audiences and other geographical areas.

3. Another option is to consider a partnership with Gear Up, as the Spokane Color of Justice Program does. Gear Up is a federally funded program that identifies and supports first-generation, low-income students in going to college. The program identifies students in cohorts from seventh through twelfth grades, and works with them for this entire period.

This eliminates the need to recruit students and gives a long-term exposure to these students. Note though that legal and judicial careers are two of several careers that are presented at the sessions with students.

4. A major gap that I identified in Washington is the lack of pipeline programs at the college level. While groups at the college level do offer career days to diverse audiences, none is dedicated specifically to legal and judicial careers. CLEO offers a wide array of college programs but not in Washington – see attached chart. The programs range from awareness programs in college, four-week pre-law residential programs, assistance in taking the LSAT and applying to law school. LSAC offers the *discoverlaw.org* Web site that provides ongoing support to college students interested in possible law and judicial careers. I would recommend offering a program at the college level, in conjunction with CLEO and LSAC.

There are many options to consider. I think any or all of those set out above would have very positive outcomes.

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2013 Diversity Pipeline Programs

Name	Purpose	Schedule and Length of Program	Nature of Program
<p>Future of Law Institute www.futureofthelaw.org Sponsors: King County Bar Association; WA bench; state, local, and minority bar associations; law schools Contacts: Chair, Megan McCloskey, 2012-2013 Staff Liaison, Christine Dreps, chrisd@kcba.org; Janielle Harris, JanielleH@kcba.org Seattle, WA</p>	<p>Minority and economically disadvantaged high school students interested in learning more about legal and judicial careers.</p>	<p>Year-long; recruitment in early October through liaisons with schools from King County Bar Association members and from on-going program connections. Recruitment from business law and college preparation courses. 500 students from 25 schools, 2002-2009 and 55 students participated in the summer internship in 2012.</p>	<p>Substantive legal workshops; Career counseling; Mock trial, courthouse tour; Meetings with legal professionals; Matched with attorney, judge, or law student mentor for the school year; Competitive paid and unpaid summer internships in law firms and courts; Parents' workshops; Scholarship of \$500 to attend a vocational school, community college, or a university and \$1,000 to attend law school; and FLI Newsletter with news of law-related scholarships, events and interviews with local legal professionals.</p>
<p>Color of Justice Sponsor: Gender and Justice Commission Contact: Myra Downing, myra.downing@courts.wa.gov</p>	<p>This program encourages minority and female students from grades six to twelve to consider law and judgeships careers.</p>	<p>Program has partnered with Seattle University Law School to bring Seattle secondary students to attend a program from 9 to 1 p.m.</p>	<p>GJCO staff recruit students through contacts with schools.</p>

Name	Purpose	Schedule and Length of Program	Nature of Program
<p>First AME Church of Seattle's Youth and Law Forum www.fameseattle.org/505296.ihml Sponsor: First AME Church, Loren Miller Bar Association, City of Seattle, law enforcement, and other groups Contact: Katheryne Davis, Nancy Stephens, Judge LeRoy McCullough, leroy.mccullough@kingcounty.gov Seattle, WA</p>	<p>The Youth & Law Forum recognizes that decisions made as a youth contribute to future endeavors. The Forum strives to assist students in making decisions that lead to success.</p>	<p>One-day program of workshops, entertainment, and a relaxed forum where youth and their parents interact with representatives of the legal community to gain firsthand information on how the legal system works for and with them.</p>	<p>Partners recruit youth and families for this program that runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>
<p>Tri-Cities Youth Law Forum Pasco, WA Sponsors: Minority & Justice Commission with partners Contact: Monto Morton, monto.morton@courts.wa.gov</p>	<p>Focus on careers in the justice system – court reporter, interpreter, corrections officer, forensics officer, K-9 unit, judges, and lawyers. Promote connections of youth to judges, law enforcement, attorneys. Mentoring – encouraged but not structured.</p>	<p>One evening for youth with problems attending school and one day for students (more than 200 eighth to twelfth graders) with an interest in law, whom schools have recommended.</p>	<p>Schools recommend youth with an interest in the law to attend the forum. Educational Service District does the recruitment – told to focus on economic disadvantaged and youth of color.</p>

Name	Purpose	Schedule and Length of Program	Nature of Program
<p>Pierce County Youth and Law Community Forum http://www.orgsites.com/wa/pembal/ Tacoma, WA Sponsors: Pierce County Minority Bar Association; Bench, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Contact: Judge Frank Cuthbertson</p>	<p>Provide youth with positive exposure to law enforcement personnel, judges, attorneys, and other community role models. Primary purposes are to effect an attitude change towards law enforcement, reduce disproportionality minority confinement, and encourage respect for law enforcement and justice system. Pipeline is not a direct goal, but is a by-product.</p>	<p>One-day program in the spring; speaker, icebreaker in which youth meet and talk with law enforcement and other legal personnel. Youth trained beforehand perform a skit from which a mock trial is organized in four to five courtrooms. Prosecutors, judges and defense attorneys work with the youth to prepare for the trials. 100-200 youth plus parents, teachers, and community leaders plus 40 law volunteers.</p>	<p>Community groups, parks departments, church groups, and other organizations recommend youth to participate, including youth who are doing well on probation. Targeted to low income and minority high school students.</p>
<p>Corporate Diversity Pipeline Program, Partnership of Street Law, Inc. and Association of Corporate Counsel, with program at Chief Seattle High School, Seattle, WA www.streetlaw.org/en/programs/corporate_legal_diversity_pipeline_program Contact: Lee Arbetman, larbetman@streetlaw.org</p>	<p>The design of this effort is to increase minority students' knowledge and interest in the law and legal careers.</p>	<p>Program partners corporate legal departments with nearby, diverse high school law classes. Corporate counsel teach lessons and lead activities, including arranging field trips to corporate headquarters.</p>	<p>Street Law recruits schools through its law school network after a corporation has been recruited.</p>

Name	Purpose	Schedule and Length of Program	Nature of Program
<p>Gonzaga Law School Susan Lee, Admissions Director, SLee@lawschool.gonzaga.edu and John Sklut, jsklut@lawschool.gonzaga.edu</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Color of Justice (twice) with Spokane County Bar Diversity Committee – partners with Gear Up - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs – for first generation, low income students. 2. Street Law – LSAC funds program as a student club. 		<p>Gear Up accepts cohort at seventh grade through high school low-income, first generation students and exposes them to multiple careers and provides support to get to college. Law school is one career.</p>	
<p>Seattle University School of Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whitney Earles, wearles@seattleu.edu Collaborates with Alaska's Color of Justice Program 2. Street Law and Youth Traffic Court Margaret Fisher, fisherm2@seattleu.edu 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partners with Alaska's AOC and others to offer two programs (a) with Mt. Whitcomb High School in Sitka AK, a residential high school for diverse students and (2) Anchorage program at the University of Alaska. 2. Law students teach two hours per week in area high schools for one semester, with culminating mock trials. High school students sentence peers for traffic violations. 	

Name	Purpose	Schedule and Length of Program	Nature of Program
<p>University of Washington Law School</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alaska Color of Justice, Michelle Storms, mestorms@u.washington.edu 2. Street Law, Julia Gold, julgold@u.washington.edu 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participates in FLI and Alaska's Color of Justice program – recommends strategic planning meeting and will help in whatever way is needed. 2. Law students teach in area high schools for two quarters. 	
<p>Just the Beginning Foundation www.jtbf.org</p> <p>Executive Director Paula Lucas, plucas@jtbf.org</p>	<p>Pipeline programs directly aimed at inspiring young students and increasing diversity in the legal profession and judiciary.</p>	<p>Partnered with CLEO for Summer Institute for High School Students in Seattle.</p>	<p>Middle School and High School Summer Legal Institutes; Advanced Summer Legal Institute; law student externships; law student scholarships; programming in schools that target under-served and minority high school and college students, and biennial conferences that bring together diverse legal leaders of local communities.</p>
<p>WSBA</p> <p>Megan McNally – Justice & Diversity Initiatives, Foundation Director and Director of development Joy Eckwood, jove@wsba.org</p>		<p>Does not offer a pipeline program but will partner with organization(s) based on who it is and criteria that is under development.</p>	<p>Very interested in being a convener or co-convener of strategic planning meeting on pipeline programs in Washington.</p>

Name	Purpose	Schedule and Length of Program	Nature of Program
<p>ABA Council on Legal Education Opportunities, www.cleoscholars.com/ Sponsor: American Bar Association Contact: Bernetta Hayes, Bernetta.Hayes@americanbar.org Based in Chicago and partners with programs throughout the USA</p>	<p>Expand opportunities for minority, low-income, and disadvantaged students to attend law school</p>	<p>Partnered with Just the Beginning Foundation for Summer Institute for High School Students in Seattle</p>	<p>High School and College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-law students in college. • CLEO/Thurgood Marshall The Road to Law School; Sophomore Super Saturdays; Juniors Jumpstart the LSAT; and Achieving Success in the Application Process pre-law seminars designed especially for undergraduate students. • College Sophomore Summer Institute: four-week residential pre-law program; • Ambassadors distribute information on campus & receive a stipend. • Six-Week Summer Institute for graduating college students planning to attend college. • Achieving Success In The Application Process for juniors, seniors & graduate student to provide tools to understand application process & become competitive law school applicants. • Attitude is Everything – college graduates who have been accepted into an ABA-

		<p>accredited law school. Graduate School (not law school) Law School.</p>
<p>Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) Yessenia Garcia Lebron, ygarcia@lsac.org Yusef Abdul-Kareem, YAbdul-Kareem@lsac.org</p>	<p>LSAC is interested in bringing people and organizations together not to compete but to maximize resources— identify where there are duplications and what is lacking. Prefers providing resources and networking groups. Lots of collaborations with undergraduate and law schools.</p> <p>See discoverlaw.org to provide college students with an on-going connection once event is over – all LSAC programs must include registration on the Web site.</p> <p>Interested in Washington having a strategic planning meeting and there may be funding to implement a plan – two funding cycles on January 1, and June 1, highly competitive</p> <p>ABA’s Diversity Pipeline Resource Manual (funded by LSAC) http://apps.americanbar.org/abanet/op/pipeline/dir/search.cfm</p> <p>1. Type of pipeline program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student-oriented conference and class year round. ● Student-oriented conference and class summer only. ● Law school and career information. ● LSAT preparation program. ● Study skills, tutoring and academic support. ● Moot court. ● Mentoring/advising service. ● Scholarships and financial aid assistance. ● Internships and hands-on experiences. ● Clerkship. ● Bar passage programs. ● Parents focused program. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other. <p>2. Target audiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● African American/Black. ● Asian American. ● Latino. ● Native American. <p>3. Scope of participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open to a general or national audience. ● Restricted to an institution, community, or defined audience. <p>4. Education level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early intervention (pre high school). ● High School. ● 2-year post-secondary (community college, junior college, etc.). ● 4-year post-secondary college and universities. ● Law school. ● Returning students and adult career change. <p>5. Washington programs: Future of Law Institute.</p>
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JIN PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Name of Project: **Protection Order Monitoring System Project**
Agency Responsible: **Thurston County Superior Court**
Participating Agencies:

Report as of Date:
Dec 2012
Month / Year

Project Manager: **Kara Carlson**

Executive Sponsor:
Administrative Office of the Courts

IAA#: IAA12271

Description: The purpose of this project is to assist the Court in developing a software program that will interface with outside and third-party data-sets, enabling Thurston County Superior Court to access in real-time pending or filed criminal and civil No Contact Orders and Protection Orders.

Technology:

Technology Platform

The No Contact Order Display System will be built using a .NET Framework. The web application will be written in C# and leverage AJAX/JavaScript for dynamic web page development. As a result, security, scalability and maintenance will largely become an anticipated low-impact benefit of this overall approach.

In addition to a web interface for judicial officers and law enforcement to access no contact orders, the system will contain extended system features including the following administrative/management functions:

1. User account management and maintenance,
2. Search,
3. CSS,
4. System administration.

Technology Stack

The No Contact Order Display System will utilize a technology "stack" that contains a number of important underlying pieces:

- ✓ Server - A server is a computer which provides information or services to other computers on a network or web.
- ✓ Operating system - The software that runs the server will be Windows.
- ✓ Database - A structured collection of records or database to store most content and configuration settings for the site.
- ✓ Web server - The software component responsible for serving web pages which in this case will be Windows.
- ✓ C# – A programming language that allows web developers to create dynamic content that interacts with databases. (VS 2010, .NET 4.0)

Budget: AOC has provided \$50,625.00 to the Court for the project. Pursuant to Grantor guidelines, the Court is required to provide a match equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the funds provided to AOC. Up to one hundred percent (100%) of the match may be in-kind.

Accomplishments: Thurston County Superior Court has devised a Workgroup comprised of Superior Court staff and the Thurston County IT department. The workgroup posted an RFP for proposals and has subsequently signed a contract with the vendor, Vitasys, to develop the monitoring software program. The vendor, Vitasys, has met with the Workgroup. The goals and scope of the project have been defined. The Thurston County IT department has been integral in the progress of this project thus far. The IT department is assisting in the internal program design and architecture of the monitoring system. The IT department is also working the County Clerk's office to automate the process in which civil protection orders are exported for upload into Laserfiche then to the monitoring system. The vendor has devised system mock-ups of the monitoring system and will present these mock-ups to the workgroup at our January 2013 meeting.

The workgroup has also been successful in determining the process in which the Clerk's office will export the orders for upload to the monitoring system. Through this conversation, the workgroup realized the current process could be streamlined. Members of the workgroup are now meeting to simplify this process. The goal of the streamlined process will result in the orders being transmitted from the Clerk's office to the Sheriff's Department digitally (the current process involves manual printing and scanning of these orders). It is hoped that this digital process will reduce the number of 'man' hours needed to upload these order by the Sheriff's Department to the Laserfiche system.

Issues / Risk: As a workgroup, we have worked to overcome a few obstacles. Initially, it was necessary to clearly define the scope of this project. The ultimate goal is for the monitoring system to include all protection orders and no contact orders within Thurston County as a whole. Right now the scope has been limited to civil Domestic Violence Protection Orders that are signed by Superior Court Judicial Officers and criminal orders signed by Superior and District Court Judicial Officers. A second obstacle has been in regards to the licensing agreement that Thurston County has with Laserfiche. This license limits the access that Thurston County can allow the third party vendor to have. The vendor and Thurston County IT department are working with Laserfiche to determine solutions/costs associated to allowing this access.

Recommendation: There may be additional costs involved for purchasing licenses to establish/maintain the monitoring system beyond the first year. These costs extend beyond the project and will need to be approved by the Court Administrator as annual budget expenses.

Plans for next period: During the next reporting period, the workgroup plans to finalize the details of the system design and give final approval to the vendor to move forward with program designing. The workgroup will meet on January 4, 2013 to finalize these last details. During the meeting, the vendor will also provide a presentation on the proposed mock-ups (screen display), a brief 'how-to, and system capabilities. The grant agreement, outlines that the project be completed by March 31, 2013. We are currently on track with the phases that the Vendor has outlined for Thurston County in order to meet this deadline.

Domestic Violence and its Impact on Your Practice,
Your Clients, and Your Ethical Obligations
November 28, 2012

Evaluation

The Washington State Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education and Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission co-sponsored a seminar *Domestic Violence and Its Impact on Your Practice, Your Clients, and Your Ethical Obligations* on November 28, 2012. Participants of the seminar were both in-person and online via live web broadcast. (6.5 CLE Credits (5.5 General credits and 1.0 Ethics Credits) were awarded for this seminar.)

Evaluations were completed by 23 participants. Participants were asked to evaluate the presenters and for those who participated online, they were also asked several open-ended questions in regards to their online experience.

1. Why did you choose to attend this program online?
 - a. Keeping up with latest in domestic violence/relevance (5)
 - b. Convenience (10)
 - c. Topic of Interest (8)
 - d. CLEs needed (3)
2. What was the most important thing you took away from this webcast?
 - a. Prevalence of domestic violence (4)
 - b. Impact on children (1)
 - c. Orders: clarity of written orders, complexities, types, conflicts (4)
 - d. Ethical considerations (2)
 - e. How frustrating it can be to deal with DV victims who often return to the abuser (1)
3. *If you could improve something in this webcast, what would that be?*
 - a. *Answers were related to technical aspects of online experience*
4. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Judge Joan DuBuque. (Judge DuBuque presented on the *Dynamics of Domestic Violence*)
 - a. Judicial point of view valuable (1)
 - b. Good background on DV and the RCWs (3)
 - c. Put "face" on discussion of issue; good to explore emotional dynamic of dv and clarify what dv focus is here (between intimate partners vs. breadth of what RCW 26.50 provides) (1)
5. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: David Ward. (Mr. Ward presented on the *Purpose and Goals of the Domestic Violence Protection Act.*)
 - a. Historical perspective overview providing context for law as it is today was much appreciated. (8)
6. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Judge Chris Wickham. (Judge Wickham presented on *Types of Orders* (including relief, best practices in obtaining & drafting orders, importance of using mandatory forms, and conflicting orders.))
 - a. Practical information (2)

- b. Judicial point of view valuable (1)
 - c. Objective way of presenting materials (1)
 - d. Useful overview. Raised complex issues that needed to be discussed (1)
 - e. Important points on clarity of orders (1)
7. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Detective Sergeant John Pagel. (Detective Sergeant Pagel presented on *Law Enforcement's Response to Orders*.)
- a. Could have been a stand-alone presentation (2)
 - b. Need more practical/specific suggestions on how to overcome the problem areas with the intersection of law enforcement and legal issues. (3)
8. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Seth Ellner. (Mr. Ellner presented on *Are the Kids Alright? The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children*.)
- a. Written materials were needed (3)
 - b. Good practical approach and reality check (1)
 - c. Provided good overview of impacts on children (1)

Questions 9 – 11 re: Ethical Panel (overall):

- a. Significance of RPCs in DV context appreciated (1)
 - b. Appreciated specific options for action, hypotheticals (2)
9. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Jennie Laird (Ms. Laird was part of a panel presentation on *Ethical Responsibilities of Attorneys in Cases Where DV is Present*.)
- a. Good written materials (1)
 - b. Engaging presentation (1)
 - c. Minimal exposure, but applicable (1)
10. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Judge John Erlick (Judge Erlick was part of a panel presentation on *Ethical Responsibilities of Attorneys in Cases Where DV is Present*.)
- a. Well spoken (1)
 - b. Would have appreciated the slides as part of presentation materials (1)
11. Let us know your thoughts on speaker: Stella Pitts (Ms. Pitts was part of a panel presentation on *Ethical Responsibilities of Attorneys in Cases Where DV is Present*.)
- a. Practical approach (1)
 - b. Sharp (1)

12. – 24. These questions and answers addressed technical aspects with online participants.

Other comments

- a. More on intersection of law enforcement & courts in dv cases. Maybe information involving evidentiary issues. Realize not always used in initial commissioner/ex parte hearings, but interested in what judges/court would still consider.
- b. A CLE that addresses any particular distinctions in DV as it pertains to LGBT relationships, especially for those who may lack direct insight into dynamics unique to them: we need this.
- c. Should be an annual CLE.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

FINAL REPORT

Award No. SJI-10-E-096	Date Report Prepared December 24, 2012
Project Title Immigration Issues in the Courts	Report No. 10
	Reporting Period
	Final Report (yes or no) Yes
Grantee Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts	Subgrantee

Project Activities Completed with Grant Funds

Because of the SJI grant, one of the most significant activities accomplished was ensuring that immigration issues were discussed and addressed in Washington State Courts. All stakeholders were contacted and informed of the goals of this project and asked for their input. This information was used in developing our educational programs and resource materials for our judicial officers.

This was clearly illustrated by the meeting between Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Judge Mary Yu (one of the Chairs for this project), and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss immigration issues occurring within Washington State Courts. The meeting was productive with agreements being reached about practices and protocols between the courts and ICE.

An Immigration Criminal Bench Guide and a Civil Bench Guide were developed with these funds. Three laminated bench cards were also developed. Two educational programs and a webinar were also possible because of SJI funds.

The Relationship between Activities and the Task Schedule and Objectives

One of the most beneficial relationships was the coordination between the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice and Minority and Justice Commissions. The regularly scheduled meetings assisted in creating a natural way to assist in the completion of work on this project. Included with this was access to judicial officers, immigration experts, and administrative support needed to complete the work. In addition, there was an existing pipeline for proposing and presenting educational programs to judicial officers.

Significant Problem Areas

This project had two significant challenges.

First, it saddened all of us when we learned that Ms. Ann Benson, our immigration expert, was diagnosed with a brain tumor and needed chemotherapy. This was extremely significant for our project because she had been the main author and educator for immigration work in Washington State. We were granted two extensions to accommodate her schedule.

Secondly, we were unable to effectively utilize our Immigration Advisory Committee. Members of this committee were of great assistance initially but were not engaged for any additional work.

What assisted in the Success for this Project

Dr. John Martin was always available to provide advice and feedback. He was always willing to assist us when requested. He was the initial driving force for this project.

Ann Benson drafted, redrafted, and redrafted the Criminal Bench Guide, even through her illness. She never got frustrated or discouraged. In addition, she made an outstanding presentation to our judicial officers in the fall of this year.

Judge Mary Yu and Judge Ann Schindler were fiercely committed to ensuring that the educational programs and the two bench guides were useful and of the highest standards. They were tireless in their reviews and edits of the Criminal Bench Guide.

This project would not have been possible without the funds provided through the SJI grant. Thank you.

Lack of diversity in Wash.'s new legislature

Published November 26, 2012

The Washington state Legislature that will gather in Olympia early next year will be the least diverse group of state lawmakers in a generation, mostly due to fewer women.

Even as the U.S. Congress is becoming more diverse, Washington's 63rd Legislature will include 44 women, or about 30 percent, among its 147 members - the fewest since 1990, The Seattle Times reported Sunday (<http://is.gd/UwvMIS>).

Overall, nearly two-thirds of the Legislature, or 95 lawmakers, will be white men - the most since 1992

Depending on a too-close-to-call House race in Vancouver - where Democrat Monica Stonier, who identifies as Asian and Hispanic, holds a 100-vote lead - there may be just one Latino lawmaker, the lowest number since 1996, the newspaper reported.

There will also be two African Americans, two Native Americans, five Asian Americans and, for the first time, an Iranian American, according to the latest vote tallies. There will be six openly gay or lesbian members.

The dearth of diversity is particularly apparent in the Republican Party, whose legislative ranks next year include no minorities and either 16 or 17 women, the Times reported.

Lawmakers and advocates say there aren't more women and minorities in the Legislature for a number of reasons, including poor recruitment, low salaries, competing needs for women and the rancorous nature of politics being a turnoff.

"This doesn't happen overnight," Tim Ceis, a Democratic member of the Washington State Redistricting Commission, told The Times. He said increased minority representation will come, eventually. "It takes organizing. It takes candidate recruitment. It takes time."

The commission, which redrew district boundaries last year after the once-a-decade census, made increased minority representation a goal. Among other moves, the commissioners created the state's first Latino-majority district, the 15th, in the Yakima area.

But few Latinos volunteered to run for office there this year. Democrat Pablo Gonzalez, 21, a Central Washington University student, challenged incumbent David Taylor, R-Moxee, in the 15th but took just 38.9 percent of the vote.

Gonzalez said he felt his surname hurt him.

Beth Reingold, a political-science professor at Emory University in Atlanta, said other state Legislatures are generally not losing female and minority representation, although few are experiencing the same gains as they did during the 1990s.

She called Washington's trend strange, noting that the ranks of U.S. female lawmakers and legislators of color have more or less remained constant over the past decade.

For Cyrus Habib, the Iranian American who just won an open Eastside seat, the problem is party leadership.

"We need to do a much better job of recruiting people into the party," said Habib, of Kirkland, who also will become the second blind state legislator in the country when he is sworn in. "The No. 1 reason people give for not running for office is that they haven't been asked."

Brown, the outgoing Senate majority leader, said women are often hindered by needs at home.

"Women who could potentially serve in the Legislature still have a more difficult balancing act with respect to their families and professional life than men do," she told The Times.

Recruiting new people into political life has also gotten harder as politics has gotten nastier, said Kim Abel, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Washington. "I think the incivility is making it hard for some people to step forward," she said.

Several Republicans said they believe the party has been doing a good job of recruiting women and minorities.

"I think we have a lot to be proud of," said longtime Sen. Pam Roach, R-Auburn, adding: "We don't elect people based on gender or race. We elect people based on their philosophy."

<http://www.theolympian.com/2012/11/25/2331624/lack-of-diversity-in-washs-new.html>

Op-ed: Fix the King County Bar Association's candidate ratings

Published November 26, 2012

By Hong Tran - Special to The Times

MANY voters decide whom they vote for based on the candidate's party affiliation. However, some political races, such as for the election of judges, are nonpartisan. So how do voters who have little or no contact with the judicial system decide whom to vote for?

When I decided to run for King County Superior Court earlier this year, I knew I needed to be evaluated by the King County Bar Association's Judicial Screening Committee. This committee reviews judicial candidates' qualifications and gives them a rating of not qualified, qualified, well qualified or exceptionally well qualified.

Based on my experience and seeing what happened in other judicial races the committee rated, it's clear that the bar association needs to fix its ratings system.

Other organizations such as the Municipal League and Washington Women Lawyers also rate judicial candidates. However, King County Bar Association has traditionally been considered the leader among the organizations that conduct the judicial ratings. Indeed, the governor relies on the association's ratings to decide whom to appoint when there are vacancies.

The candidates submit a questionnaire that chronicles their work history, lists references, including supervisors, opposing attorneys and judges who are familiar with the candidates' work. The committee members generally do not know the candidate, so the rating is based on the information the committee obtains from references, the questionnaire and a 20-minute interview with the candidate.

I have 20 years as a legal practitioner with both civil and criminal experience. The committee asked me exactly three questions during the interview. The bar association gave me a not qualified rating. After a number of judges I have appeared before protested the not-qualified rating and I provided evidence of misconduct by a committee member, the bar association to withdraw the rating and assemble a new interview panel.

My second round with screening committee wasn't much better. They spent time asking about my choice of Halloween costume years ago. (I dressed as Sarah Palin.) When they did ask about my work, they cast my reputation for being a strong and effective advocate for my low-income clients as a reason to doubt my ability to be a "neutral" judge.

I'm not alone in wondering about the value of these ratings. Seattle lawyer Elizabeth Berns, who also campaigned for an open seat on the King County Superior Court, described her judicial screening committee as "hostile," according to an Associated Press report. She further reported that the committee sent her materials for Supreme Court candidate Sheryl Gordon McCloud, the article said. When Berns contacted the bar association to ask for an explanation about her not qualified rating, the response she received began, "Dear Ms. Allen."

When I asked for an explanation of my ratings, I was told the committee does not provide an explanation. Although it publishes the criteria it uses to rate judicial candidates, it does not have to explain the reasons for its ratings to the candidate or to the public. It amounts to a veil of secrecy.

King County Superior Court Judge Chris Washington knows that ratings can be manipulated. The Seattle Times reported how prosecutors angry with his sentencing decision, joined to lower his ranking in a King County Bar Association poll. Professor John Strait, a former co-chair of the bar association's judicial-screening committee, acknowledged the process could be manipulated.

The ratings process must be more transparent. The screening committee should be required to publish the score it gives a candidate in each of the 10 categories and explain the rationale for its overall rating.

The bar association also should give candidates an opportunity to respond to any negative information received from a reference during the interview portion of the screening process if the committee relies on the information in the ratings process. These changes are necessary to ensure that the process is transparent and fair to the candidates and to the voters.

Hong Tran is a public defender at The Defender Association. She is a former staff attorney at the Unemployment Law Project and the Northwest Justice Project.

http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2019770521_hongtranoped.xml.html

Women In Combat

Published December 3, 2012

By JULIE WATSON - Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Marine 1st Lt. Brandy Soublet is about as far from the war front as possible at her desk in the California desert, but she's on the front lines of an experiment that could one day put women as close to combat as their male peers.

The Penfield, N.Y. woman is one of 45 female Marines assigned this summer to 19 all-male combat battalions. The Defense Department in the past year has opened thousands of combat positions to women to slowly integrate them and gauge the impact such a social change would have on the military's ability to fight wars.

No branch is likely to feel that change more than the Marine Corps.

The small, tight-knit force is the most male of the armed services and prides itself on having the toughest and most aggressive warriors. The Corps historically has higher casualty rates because it is considered to be the "tip of the spear," or the first to respond to conflicts. It also was among the last military branches to open its doors to women, forming the first female Corps in 1943, according to the Women's Memorial in Washington D.C.

But changing times are challenging the traditions of the force, long likened to a brotherhood. Modern warfare has put women in combat like never before over the past decade, even though a 1994 policy bars them from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade level, which were considered too dangerous since they are often smaller and closer to combat for longer periods.

Already under pressure to provide the same opportunities for women, the Defense Department was hit Tuesday with a second lawsuit by female service members - including two Marines - charging that the gender barriers unfairly block them from promotions open to men in combat.

The lawsuits are intended to accelerate the military's slow march toward lifting the ban that plaintiffs allege has barred women from 238,000 positions.

Defense officials say they recently opened 14,500 jobs to women, and they need to move cautiously to ensure the change will not disrupt wartime operations. Soublet and the other 44 women are part of the quiet, slow transformation. Women make up about 7 percent of the Marine Corps compared to about 14 percent overall among the military's 1.4 million active military personnel.

She said some Marines initially eyed her pioneering presence in the all-male battalion with skepticism.

"The way that I would describe it to friends and family was it was kind of like I showed up to work in a costume," the 25-year-old logistics officer said in a phone interview from Twentynine Palms, a remote desert base east of San Diego. "They stared a little bit but after a while it wasn't like that anymore."

That experience may play out on bases and boats worldwide as the Pentagon levels the battlefield.

The Corps earlier this year opened its grueling infantry officer training school to female Marines and surveyed 53,000 of its troops with an anonymous online questionnaire about the impact of erasing gender barriers. Survey results are expected to be released soon after review by the defense secretary.

Only two female Marines volunteered for the 13-week infantry training course at Quantico, Va., and both failed to complete it this fall. No women have volunteered so far for the next course offered in January, officials said.

Soublet said she was nervous she would feel unwelcome in the combat engineer battalion. Six months into her historic assignment, she said she has been treated equally.

"I have heard, you know, whisperings, like 'Hey, before you got here we decided to maybe take down some pictures and clean up our language a little bit,' but other than that, they haven't really expressed anything to me," said Soublet, who will remain two years in her battalion and is expected to deploy with them to Afghanistan this spring.

The Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James F. Amos said he met with the top leaders of the 19 battalions and told them to establish the proper command climate. The early steps of assigning females to artillery, tank, combat engineer and other all-male battalions have been successful, but there may be some anxiety if women join infantry, Amos said.

Camp Pendleton combat Marine Carlos Laguna, who left the Corps in 2011, agreed.

"The screams of women, they have a big psychological effect on men. A woman just has a different pitch," said Laguna, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder after two tours in Iraq. "If we're in a firefight and a woman is shot or lost her arm, male Marines like me would want to stop and help. It's our nature to help women."

The survey addressed those concerns, asking males if they would be distracted or "feel obligated to protect female Marines." It also asked whether women would be limited because of pregnancy or personal issues.

Female Marines were asked if they would feel pressured to suppress their femininity.

Former Marine Capt. Kristen Kavanaugh, who runs The Military Acceptance Project, a San Diego-based organization promoting equality in the services, found those questions offensive.

"I don't think women who signed up to give their life for their country are worried about the appearance of their femininity," she said.

Former Marine Capt. Anu Bhagwati was only the second woman to complete a martial arts instructor training school, earning a black belt in close combat techniques. But she said years of discrimination caused her to quit in 2004, after serving in Virginia, Japan and North Carolina.

"I learned early on that the Marine Corps will expect you to fail if you are a woman," said the head of the Service Women's Action Network, which helped the women file the lawsuit. "I faced so much discrimination and sexual harassment that it made me wonder why I was serving."

Soublet said in her three years in the Corps she has found her fellow Marines to be respectful and professional.

"This isn't a big deal," she said. "We're Marines, we're here to do a job and it doesn't matter what our gender is."

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/12/03/v-lite/2389321/correction-women-in-combat-story.html>

Female military members sue to serve in combat

Published November 27, 2012

BY PAUL ELIAS

Four female service members filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the Pentagon's ban on women serving in combat, hoping the move will add pressure to drop the policy just as officials are gauging the effect that lifting the prohibition will have on morale.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in San Francisco, is the second one this year over the 1994 rule that bars women from being assigned to ground combat units, which are smaller and considered more dangerous since they are often in battle for longer periods.

The legal effort comes less than a year after the ban on gays serving openly was lifted and as officials are surveying Marines about whether women would be a distraction in ground combat units.

"I'm trying to get rid of the ban with a sharp poke," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hunt, who was among the plaintiffs in the latest lawsuit and was injured in 2007 when her Humvee ran over an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

Hunt and the other three women said the policy unfairly blocks them from promotions and other advancements open to men in combat. Three of the women are in the reserves. A fourth, Marine Corp Lt. Colleen Farrell, leaves active duty this week.

Women comprise 14 percent of the 1.4 million active military personnel. The lawsuit alleges that women are barred from 238,000 positions across the Armed Forces.

At a Washington, D.C., news conference, Pentagon press secretary George Little said the Defense Department was making strides in allowing more women to experience combat. He said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has opened about 14,500 combat positions to women.

"And he has directed the services to explore the possibility of opening additional roles for women in the military," Little said. "His record is very strong on this issue."

American Civil Liberties Union Ariela Migdal, who represents the four women, said Panetta's actions weren't enough. She called for an end to the combat ban. "These tweaks and minor changes on the margins do a disservice to all the women who serve," she said.

"It falls short," she said. "It is not enough."

Marine Corps Capt. Zoe Bedell said she left active duty, in large part, because of the combat exclusion policy. Bedell said she was frustrated that her advancement in the Marines was blocked by her inability to serve directly in combat units.

"The military is the last place where you are allowed to be discriminated against because of your gender," she said.

Bedell said the blurred front lines of modern warfare, with suicide bombs and sniper attacks, have put more and more women in combat situations.

More than 144 female troops have been killed and more than 860 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars began, according to Pentagon statistics. Roughly 20,000 of the 205,000 service members currently serving in Afghanistan are women.

Military leaders say they want to make sure lifting gender-based barriers would not disrupt the cohesion of the smaller combat ground units and military operations.

The Marine Corps' top leader, Gen. James Amos, ordered a survey of 53,000 troops to get their views, including whether they believe women in those units would distract male Marines from doing their jobs.

The results have not been released yet.

The lawsuit alleges the ban violates constitutional female service members' equal rights. "As a direct result of this policy," the lawsuit states, "women - as a class and solely because of their gender - are barred from entire career fields.

The lawsuit also alleges that women are already serving unofficially in combat units.

Air National Guard Major Mary Jennings Hegar sustained shrapnel wounds in 2009 when she exchanged fire on the ground in Afghanistan after her Medevac helicopter was shot down. Both she and Hunt received Purple Heart medals for their injuries.

The lawsuit was assigned to U.S. District Judge Edward Chen, an appointee of President Barack Obama.

<http://www.theolympian.com/2012/11/27/2333739/female-military-members-sue-to.html>

Troops debate risks, benefits of women in combat

Published November 27, 2012

A federal lawsuit filed by four service members Tuesday challenges the Pentagon's longstanding policy barring women from serving in direct combat positions. Here are the issues:

WHAT IS THE CURRENT POLICY REGARDING FEMALE TROOPS?

The 1994 combat exclusion policy bars women from being assigned to ground combat units, which are smaller and considered more dangerous since they are often in the thick of battle for longer periods of time than the other units.

WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS FOR LETTING WOMEN FIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES?

Supporters of lifting the ban say women are already being wounded or killed in war, and the policy keeps them from being recognized for their battleground experience, which could lead to promotions and higher pay. They also say the policy hurts the U.S. military by limiting the chances of qualified women to move into more senior leadership ranks.

WHAT DO OPPONENTS SAY?

Opponents include some female troops who question whether women are physically capable of handling the rigors of being assigned to ground combat units. The first two women to volunteer for the Marine Corps' grueling 13-week infantry training course at its base in Quantico, Va., were unable to complete it. The Corps will open the course again to female volunteers in January.

WHAT DOES THE MILITARY'S TOP BRASS SAY?

Military leaders say they want to make sure lifting gender-based barriers would not disrupt the cohesion of the smaller combat ground units and military operations. The Marine Corps' top leader, Gen. James Amos, ordered a survey of 53,000 troops to get their views, including whether they believe women in those units would distract male Marines from doing their jobs. The results have not been released yet.

HOW CLOSE DO WOMEN GET TO THE FRONT LINES?

The blurred front lines of modern warfare, with suicide bombs and sniper attacks, have put more and more women in combat situations. More than 144 female troops have been killed and more than 860 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars began according to Pentagon statistics.

<http://www.theolympian.com/2012/11/27/2333755/troops-debate-risks-benefits-of.html>

