



**Gender and Justice Commission (GJCOM)**  
**Friday, March 8, 2013 (10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)**  
**Temple of Justice**  
**Olympia, Washington**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Members Present:** Chair, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Vice-Chair, Ms. Ruth Gordon  
Ms. Terri Cooper, Dr. Margaret Hobart, Judge Cynthia Jordan, Ms. Judith A. Lonquist, Judge Richard  
Melnick, Mr. Ron Miles, Judge Mark Pouley, Ms. Leslie Savina, Judge Ann Schindler, Mr. David Ward,  
Judge Chris Wickham, Ms. Myra Downing, and Ms. Pam Dittman (AOC staff)

**Guests:** Ms. Kathy Bradley, Ms. Kara Carlson, Ms. Emily Henry, Judge Anne Hirsch, Commissioner  
Jonathon Lack, Mr. Arthur Bryant, Mr. Stefan Lamotte, Mr. Bala Pedapalli

**Members Absent:** Ms. Sara Ainsworth, Judge Vickie I. Churchill, Ms. Laura Contreras, Judge Judy Rae  
Jasprica, Ms. Gail Stone

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. The January 11, 2013, meeting notes were approved.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**STAFF REPORT – Myra Downing**

- **Request For Proposal (RFP) for Monitoring and Sentencing Promising Practices**

A RFP focusing on monitoring and sentencing promising practices will be released by the end of March. Deliverables include: collect data at three sites (charges and convictions, number of pre/post convictions, sentencing conditions, program data, attendance, compliance, final status, etc.) and then document monitoring, gather information from offenders and victims, compare monitoring and sentencing practices, document findings and prepare a final report.

The role of the Commission will be to assist with selecting the winning proposal, meet with the consultant, and help define the project.

\$80,000 in STOP Grant funds over two years will be used for this RFP.

- **Training Grants**

Two separate requests for \$50,000 in Office on Violence Against Women, Court Improvement Training Program grants were applied for.

The first request was for two, one-day trainings focused on sexual assault. Partners would be the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC), Legal Momentum – National Justice Education Program, and Dr. David Lisak. The two sites identified to hold the training are King and Spokane Counties. The training would cover the neurobiology of trauma, sexual offenders, evidentiary and hot topics, and working with juries. The audience would be judicial officers.

The second request was for three, one-day trainings focused on domestic violence when identified during dissolution proceedings. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges have agreed to partner with us. This training would replicate the training that was held in September 2012, in Thurston County. The three sites identified to hold the training are Everett, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver. The training covers the dynamics of domestic violence and then has

four break-out sessions for each group of attendees: judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, and guardians ad litem.

- **SCJA SAPO Training**

The Commission is sponsoring a session at the SCJA Spring Conference on Sexual Assault Protection Orders. Judge Schapira will moderate the session with three partners from KCSARC, the Sexual Assault Law Center, and the defense bar. The session will focus on procedural challenges in sexual assault cases and specific areas where biases may surface. Additionally, the sexual assault bench guide will be completed and distributed during the session.

- **DMCJA DV Training**

The Commission is sponsoring a session at the DMCJA Conference focusing on the practical issues of the different types of orders. The training session will look at a variety of orders, when to use particular orders, and discuss areas where questions arise.

- **Tribal State Court Consortium**

The Commission received \$20,000 in Court Improvement Project funds to assist with this project. An additional \$20,000 was included in the Office on Violence Against Women's state grant. This is the first time the Commission has been included in the grant.

The purpose of this project is to work with tribal nations and state courts to identify and propose solutions to inter-jurisdictional issues in the management and disposition of domestic violence and sexual assault cases, Indian Child Welfare cases, and to address juvenile disproportionality. The funds will provide for three student interns to assist with data gathering.

- **Judges and Law Student Reception**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Judges and Law Student Reception is being scheduled. This Reception provides a scholarship for a law student and also provides an opportunity for judicial officers and law students to mingle. A *Save the Date* will be forthcoming.

- **Annual Conference**

The Commission is sponsoring three sessions at Annual Conference: Same Sex Marriage, Power and Reach of the Internet, and Lawyering and Justice – Emerging Issues of Nations in Transitions.

- **Minority and Justice Commission (MJC) Meeting Report**

Juvenile Justice Committee / Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): MJC continues working with the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) and others in the court systems to collect data and develop, monitor, and present best practices for reducing DMC.

The Outreach/Collaboration Committee: The Collaboration Committee is comprised of three sub-committees, Outreach, Public Relations, and Meetings.

The Outreach Committee is identifying agencies, such as the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and the Criminal Training Justice Center to open the discussion on DMC and explore ways that the MJC can collaborate with them.

The Public Relations Committee is working on updating the MJC website and discussing avenues of outreach such as continuing the quarterly newsletter, annual report, social media, and the poster that has been commissioned for the past ten years.

Change in Staffing: Monto Morton, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff for the MJC, has taken another position in the agency. Myra is working with the MJC co-chairs to identify how work can be distributed until a new person is hired.

#### **CHAIR REPORT – Chief Justice Madsen**

- **The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum**  
In collaboration with AOC and as part of National Women's History Month, the Commission is hosting a brown bag presentation on March 13, at AOC. The female Supreme Court Justices have agreed to be the panelists and talk about their experiences, lessons learned, and sharing insights.
- **Managing Partner Event – Initiative for Diversity Governing Council (IDGC)**  
IDGC will be hosting a CLE May 22. The CLE will include a panel presentation comprised of Managing Partners and national diversity partners along with providing information on how to work on building and sustaining diversity within the Managing Partner levels of corporations and firms. The Commission has been asked to provide in-kind support for this event. Members voted to provide up to \$1,000 for an honorarium or for other related costs.
- **New Member Recruitment**  
The Commission needs to fill five vacant positions with people from the following areas: three trial court judges, one college professor, and one tribal court member. Please provide any names to Myra or Chief Justice Madsen.
- **Planning in May**  
The May Commission meeting will be a planning meeting. More information will be forthcoming.

#### **GUEST PRESENTATION**

- **Thurston County Imaging Project**  
Arthur Bryant, Stefan Lamotte, and Bala Pedapalli of Vitasys presented on the Thurston County Imaging Project.

Thurston County Superior Court was awarded a National Criminal History Improvement Plan (NCHIP) grant from the AOC and the Washington State Patrol. The court hired Vitasys to design an application that will allow judicial officers to view active orders of protection from the bench. Court orders are stored electronically in database systems that do not have viewing capabilities. Vitasys developed and designed a web-based application that bridges these dissimilar systems and databases and allows for these scanned images to be viewed. This technology will allow judicial officers to view active orders of protection (domestic violence, sexual assault, anti-harassment, and vulnerable adult) in conjunction with active criminal no contact orders.

The system addresses ways to reduce the number of conflicting orders generated in the various courts. It is anticipated that Thurston County District Court will join the project as soon as the court completes its transition to paperless files.

The Vitasys team noted that the system is easy to expand upon, with the main limiting factor being server space and response time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Domestic Violence (DV) Committee** – Judge Chris Wickham, Chair

Judge Wickham provided a recap of the February 26, DV Committee meeting. The meeting discussed the deliverables for the monitoring and sentencing RFP, educational needs, and the grants identified above.

The DV Committee was approached by a member of the public wanting to come speak to them about domestic violence issues which led to a larger discussion on how we respond to individuals requesting time to address the Commission. The Commission members indicated we do not and cannot respond to an individual's court case. Historically, the Commission has responded to a specific project or directive and has included comment from public and other agencies.

Discussion led to several suggestions:

1. Resurrect report from 2007/08 on dissolution matters (SB 5470) and use as a genesis for a survey that could be used to identify programs/processes that may intersect with projects the Commission is working on and may also be used to identify gaps or educational opportunities to focus on. The survey could be placed as a link on the GJCOM website.
2. Investigate a session conducted by the Casey Foundation with a panel of foster kids, parents, and others providing a "real world" view of the impacts of a DVPO. (Educational session proposal for judicial conferences.)
3. Develop a survey/questionnaire directed to litigants, attorneys, and judicial officers that would collect information on interaction with guardians ad litem. The survey could be placed as a link on individual court's websites.

- **Legislation Committee** – David Ward, Chair

The Committee is meeting weekly by conference call. It appears the stalking protection order bill (HB1383/SB 5452) is going to pass. Within it, a provision was included requesting the GJCOM to work with other entities in considering potential solutions to reducing confusion about types of protection orders a petitioner should seek.

- **Education Committee** – Judge Rich Melnick, Chair

This is a newer Committee. Members were asked to contact Myra if they would like to serve on this Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to solicit education proposals, ideas, etc, and coordinate/liase with other groups (SCJA, DMCJA, DMMCA, WSBA, etc) to bring the proposals forward. Ideas come from every day issues that arise and from attending other conferences.

- **Immigration Committee** – Judge Ann Schindler, Chair

A State Justice Institute (SJI) grant was received to complete work on immigration issues. With the grant funds, webinars, educational sessions, and two bench guides have been developed. The Civil Immigration Bench Guide has been released and can be found on the GJCOM website. After recent ruling in the Padilla case, the bench cards and several areas in the Criminal Immigration Bench Guide need edits. The estimated release date is the end of May 2013.

- **Law and Justice Committee** – Judith Lonquist, Chair

The Committee is organizing the Judges and Law Students Reception.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.