



GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION (GJCOM)

AOC SEATAC OFFICE
18000 INTERNATIONAL BLVD, SUITE 1106
SEATAC, WASHINGTON
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015 (8:45 A.M. – NOON)

MEETING NOTES

Present: Chief Justice Barbara A. Madsen, Chair; Ms. CaroLea Casas, Ms. Josie Delvin, Ms. Grace Huang, Judge Judy Jasprica, Judge Richard Melnick, Judge Marilyn Paja, Ms. Leslie Savina, Ms. Gail Stone, Judge Tom Tremaine, Mr. David Ward, Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos, Ms. Kathy Bradley, and Ms. Pam Dittman

Excused: Ms. Sara Ainsworth, Judge Michael Evans, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud

Guests: Ms. Jamie Yoder, Ms. Judith Lonquist

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:45 AM.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Chair Report

- May 8, 2015 Meeting Notes
The May 8, 2015 meeting notes were approved and adopted.
- ATJ Conference / LLLT Program / Roundtable / Executive's Summit
The Access to Justice Conference was held in Wenatchee on June 12. The GJCOM did not sponsor any sessions during the conference, but commission member, David Ward was recognized at the conference for his work with Legal Voice. The Supreme Court held a roundtable in which they addressed issues that members of the access to justice community were interested in.

The Chief also co-presented on the Limited Licensed Legal Technician (LLLT) program and was able to introduce the first graduating class. As you may know, the LLLT program allows for a person to practice law in a limited scope, one being domestic relations.

- 4th Annual Legal Executives Diversity Summit
The Washington Initiative for Diversity held its 4th Annual Legal Executives Diversity Summit, *The Invisible Power of Bias: Leading with Awareness and Action*, on May 11th and the Commission was one of the co-sponsors. Dr. Jerry Kang presented on implicit bias. It was very well received and the group discussion was lively and engaging. WID is planning on following up with ways to continue the discussions.

Staff Report – Pam Dittman and Cynthia Delostrinos
Activities & Updates

- Budgets

The Commission has several budgets that staff manage: (1) GJCOM budget which supports Commission-related activities and portion of staff salaries and benefits; (2) STOP grant which supports activities related to domestic violence and/or sexual abuse and a portion of staff salaries and benefits; (3) GTEA grant which supports Tribal State Court Consortium activities; and (4) LSAC grant which supports a small project on diversifying the bar and the bench. The fiscal years of each of these budgets are different, and staff manage, monitor, report, and ensure the monies are spent appropriately.

- Diverse Bar and Bench Project

The Minority & Justice Commission (MJCOM) and GJCOM have been working together on increasing diversity on the bar and bench. One effort we have joined together in was in submitting a joint grant proposal to the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) to support a project on this issue. Each Commission has supported several different programs encouraging students from middle school all the way through college to take an interest in the law. While working on these programs, it was determined that there are many others in the state also focusing on putting on these types of programs. We submitted the grant proposal in an effort to bring together the different stakeholders of these of programs throughout the state. We were awarded a \$7,500 grant, from LSAC and each Commission agreed to contribute \$5,000 to support a stakeholder meeting. We have identified two members of this Commission to work with the planning committee and attend the stakeholders meeting: Judge Marilyn Paja and Gail Stone.

Update: The Stakeholders meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2015, at the AOC SeaTac office.

- Re-entry Project/Incarcerated Women & Girls

At the last Commission meeting and at the MJCOM's re-entry symposium, Elizabeth Hendren presented on incarcerated women and the many obstacles they faced. After speaking with Cynthia Delostrinos, the Chief, and a few others, it was decided that this is an area ripe for collaboration with the MJCOM on some projects regarding re-entry and incarcerated women and girls. With that in mind, Cynthia is going to take the lead in staffing the committee to ensure both Commissions' objectives are being met and heard.

This Commission agreed to write a letter of support for a grant proposal Elizabeth Hendren is submitting to the Legal Foundation of Washington. The grant proposal is asking for monies to: 1) install kiosks in four (4) prisons that would allow access to the Washington courts and legislative (RCWs) websites; 2) once kiosks are installed, train Department of Corrections staff in how to use the legal resources provided; and 3) to provide judicial training on issues surrounding incarcerated parents and/or develop a bench guide or bench card that provides tips on what to look for when one party is incarcerated.

Update: The Commission agreed to write a letter of support and Cynthia will draft it and submit it to Elizabeth.

GUEST SPEAKERS & EXPLORATORY PROJECTS

- SAVIN Link – Ms. Jamie Yoder

Ms. Jamie Yoder spoke with the Commission on the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system, which is a free and confidential telephone and/or web service that allows victims and other concerned citizens to track the custody status of offenders in county and city jails and the Department of Corrections. It is also known as VINELink.

Additionally, there is a sub-system that allows for victims to register for free to be notified when their protective orders have been served, also known as the protective order system. The PO system lets those who register know when someone has been served. Both systems are managed through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

Update: The Commission agreed to work with Jamie to distribute a message from WASPC to the judicial officers, Clerks, and Court Managers and Administrators, providing them information about this system.

- Judicial Evaluations – Judith Lonquist

This was a small project through the work of the Women in the Profession Committee and is in follow-up to several conversations and work that started in 1996 around judicial evaluations. The Committee was interested in this from the perspective of how underlying bias, in regards to minority and female judicial candidates, continues to plague judicial elections. There is not only a need to educate non-lawyer, non-judge populations in who is a viable judicial candidate and why, but how do you develop a mechanism to do this and by whom should it be distributed or managed.

General Rule 35 is a proposed rule that would set up an independent body under the auspices of AOC that would develop, distribute, and educate the general population and others on judicial elections. At this time, the BJA has chosen not to adopt this rule as there are concerns with anonymity, how to distribute and to whom, and what would be the benefits, etc.

The Commission did reflect upon the need to continue educating the general public on choosing judicial candidates and also to continue working with the various county bar associations on underlying implicit bias issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Communications - Judge Marilyn Paja, Chair

Judge Paja indicated the Committee has not met recently and does not have anything new to report. She and Pam will get together to discuss the projects on this Committee's work plan and move forward on scheduling a conference call.

- DV Committee – Judge Judy Jasprica, Chair

- CCI Report

The report was reviewed by Committee members and we are drafting a reply to CCI. The Committee expressed that the report did not provide definitive answers to some of our questions and are writing a response to CCI indicating that we are asking not to release the report. However, several recommendations identified in the report are already being acted on in various ways.

- Modifications/Rescissions

We are waiting for a link on the GJCOM website that will take persons to the Modification/Rescission forms. Once that is completed, Judge Melnick inquired into whether the Commission, under the Chief's signature, could send a letter to all the courts with a copy of the model policy, forms, and links, and let them know the Commission (members/staff) is available to provide technical assistance.

Update: The GJCOM website has been updated to provide persons separate links to different forms pages:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/gjc/?fa=gjc.Resources&parent=res .

Judge Melnick will draft a letter to judicial officers providing information on the guidelines developed for modification and rescission process.

- Judicial Roundtable

The Judicial Roundtable on Domestic Violence Interventions in Washington State was held Friday, June 26. Twenty-six judicial officers from across the state were able to attend this roundtable. Faculty included Judge Katherine Tennyson, Multnomah County Circuit Court; Dr. Etiony Aldarondo, Albizu University; Scott Miller, Domestic Abuse Intervention Project; and two local domestic violence treatment providers, Steven Pepping and Mark Adams.

The roundtable was well received and there are several areas that are now needing follow-up, including holding a program at various judicial conferences to have better research on this topic. Attendees also left with the understanding that Washington's "one-size" treatment programs can hinder the process as much as help it.

Update: The DV Committee will be meeting in the future and plans to bring in Maureen Kelly, DSHS to discuss her role as the person who certifies these programs.

- Education – Judge Rich Melnick, Chair

There was a discussion that our education efforts needed to reach out to others such as prosecutors and defense attorneys on areas of intersect; such as sentencing to domestic violence treatment programs.

- DMCJA Spring Conference

Gael Strack presented at the DMCJA conference on Strangulation. Gael is the CEO for the National Family Justice Center Alliance, which provides technical

assistance to over 100 existing and pending Family Justice Centers across the world. Gael is also the foremost expert on strangulation and co-authored several articles on this topic.

- Appellate Conference

The Conference is April 3-6, 2015, and the agenda is wide open. If you have any ideas please let Judge Melnick know. Maybe something on same sex marriage, the ruling from the federal Supreme Court, and the interplay with state, federal, and family law, de facto parenting, or community property.

- Proposals

Proposals for DMCJA Spring Conference are due October 4, 2015. SCJA Spring Conference proposals will most likely be due sometime in October also.

Members indicated we should look at previous proposals that were not accepted to see if we should revive them if they are still relevant. Also, we should submit proposals on firearms.

- Incarcerated Women & Girls – Sara Ainsworth, Chair

We are working with Mission Creek on their yearly re-entry symposium for women. The symposium is on October 22-23, 2015. There will be several judicial officers participating and members of the National Association of Women Judges.

- Membership

This Committee is comprised of the Chairs of the Committees and the Commission's Chair and Vice Chair. We have five vacancies that need to be filled.

Update: A conference call has been scheduled for September 15, 2015.

- Tribal State Court Consortium – Judge Tom Tremaine

Judge Tremaine indicated the annual TSCC meeting will be Sunday, October 4, 2015, and we will also be having a regional meeting on September 21, 2015, hosted by the Swinomish Tribe.

- Women in the Profession

We need to schedule the judicial and law student reception in November. Pam will work with Gonzaga and also with Judge Paja.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately noon.