



GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION (GJCOM)
AOC SEATAC OFFICE
18000 INTERNATIONAL BLVD, SUITE 1106
SEATAC, WASHINGTON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016 (8:45 AM – 12:00 PM)

MEETING NOTES

Present: Chief Justice Barbara A. Madsen, Chair, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Vice-Chair; Ms. Josie Delvin, Ms. Grace Huang, Ms. Trish Kinlow, Judge Richard Melnick, Judge Marilyn Paja, Dr. Dana Raigrodski, Ms. Gail Stone, Judge Cindy K. Smith, Ms. Rita Bender, Judge Michael Evans, Ms. Leslie Savina, Ms. Emily Cordo, Judge Eric Lucas, Mr. David Ward, Ms. Sonia M. Rodriguez True, Ms. Vicky Vreeland, Judge Mark Pouley

AOC Staff: Ms. Nichole Kloepfer, Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos, Ms. Kathy Bradley

Excused: Judge Eric Lucas, Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, Ms. Gail Hammer, Judge Judy Jasprica, Judge Anita Crawford-Willis

Guests: Ms. Jennifer Ritchie, Washington Women's Lawyers Association

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chair Report

July 8, 2016 Meeting Notes

Minutes approved as presented.

NAWJ Conference

Chief Justice Madsen reported that the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) Conference was held in Seattle during the first part of October. The feedback from the conference was that it was excellent. During the meeting a slide show was presented, showing the different presentations from the conference. There were a number of judges who attended from different countries. It was interesting to connect with those judges from other countries to learn more about the different judicial systems and how they worked.

The NAWJ Opening Reception was sponsored by the Gender and Justice Commission and was well attended. Justice Gordon McCloud gave some remarks about the Gender Bias Study. The visiting international women judges were impressed with how progressive Washington was. It was also interesting to find out that we are one of the two standing gender commissions in the country.

Highlights include:

- Seattle's Mayor Edward Murray gave opening remarks.
- The Suquamish tribal students provided song and dance before the start of the plenary session on the first day of the conference.
- The plenary sessions, Challenges of Aging: Proactive of Reactive Response and Ethical Issues for Judges in Dealing with Human Trafficking were well received.
- Stephanie Koontz was the keynote lunch speaker addressing the configuration of a modern family.
- The Community Supervision of Female Offenders excellent.
- Gender and Race in Law and Movies, very eclectic. Used films clips to show how art mimics life.
- Conversations with the Law Deans, what it's like to be in leadership, very invigorating.

Sexual assault on campuses highlighted issues and challenged the definitions of consent. Justice Gordon McCloud said the feedback was terrific.

At the Tribal State Consortium session, Judge Smith spoke to the consortium efforts happening in Washington. The international judges were very engaged in the conversation about how tribal is defined in other countries.

The session on Transgender People and the Courts received a lot of good feedback. Many were impressed that there is education offered on these important emerging issues.

The IF Project: Incarcerated Voices presentation was very moving. The IF Project's work is built upon and inspired by people sharing their personal experiences surrounding issues of incarceration. The project is based on the question: If there was something someone could have said or done that would have changed the path that led you here, what would it have been? This was recommended as a possible future training that we could offer/propose. Maybe work in a connection to ACES and resiliency?

One of the downsides to the conference was the cost. The programming was excellent, but many locals could not afford the conference fee.

Vice Chair Report

The Gender Bias Study workgroup scheduled meetings with several different people who were in attendance at the NAWJ conference, including Lynn Schafran, Judith Resnik, and the three Washington state law deans. There was so much experience that these women offered on the issues, and the meetings were very helpful and enlightening. Ms. Schafran suggested that we

use the method of gathering information by hosting town hall meetings and asking members in the community for proposals on certain areas that the work on where they feel there is gender bias. It would include a RFP process where stakeholders would submit a paper on a particular topic, that way we could gather the information and use it to help produce the report. There are other ways to get empirical data. It might be a good idea to use law students for help as well.

Justice Gordon McCloud wants general buy in and approval of the general direction that the committee is going in. Information about the report will be in the Full Court Press and in the NAWJ's Newsletter, Counter Balance.

Staff Report

Proposed 2017 Meeting Dates

Proposed dates are the bottom of the agenda. September 1st needs to be changed to either September 18th or September 20, due to low attendance because of Labor Day. Sept 18 was agreed upon by the Commission.

Staff update

There are 17 applicants for the position. Resumes were reviewed yesterday and there are a lot of great candidates with experience doing DV/SA work. We are hoping to have someone in by the end of this year so they will be at the January meeting.

Joint Meeting Dec. 2 between ATJ Board, Minority and Justice, and Interpreter Commission

There will be a Joint Meeting of the Minority and Justice Commission, Interpreter Commission, and ATJ Board on December 2 at the WSBA. Gender and Justice Commission members are invited to attend, but it is not a required GJCOM Commission Meeting, more an opportunity for members to learn about what the other Commissions do. Justice Gordon McCloud will talk about the Gender Bias Study. The agenda for the meeting is provided in your packet. GJCOM will cover the travel for members to attend. A reminder will go out to the listserv to get a sense of who would like to attend.

Domestic Violence Bench Guide Update

Ms. Nichole Kloepfer reported there have been over 200 requests received and binders distributed.

The YWCA Judicial Luncheon in Spokane invited David Ward to speak about the GJCOM DV manual. The agenda looks like there will be about 30 judges in attendance, and the program is about 90 mins long on December 1. It was recommended that either Judge Jasprica or Judge

Paja would be good presenters on the topic. Judge Paja said she would reach out to other judges who might be interested and get back to Cynthia.

Budgets: GJCOM and Grants

Cynthia presented on GJCOM's potential budget priorities and objectives for the FY16 STOP grant, and also asked about the priorities for the remainder monies from FY15.

After much discussion the staff recommended changes to the proposed FY16 STOP Budget were approved. The decision for the remaining spend down of FY 15 Budget is as follows:

Recommendations for Spending Down Remainder of 2016

- TOTAL REMAINDER = approx. **\$12,000**
- **Request from Judge Chris Wickham**, Thurston County, to finish pilot project.
- Make **recording** on Trauma-Informed practices for use at Judicial College 2017 and future trainings. PROJECTED AMOUNT = \$1,000 - \$3,000 (consulting fee)
- Support **Dec. 1, DV Benchguide Luncheon** in Spokane
- **Translation** of DV and SA related forms and/or instructions

All in favor with Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos proposal with caveat that the remaining goes to translations for the spend down. 1 abstain, McCloud. 14 in favor.

Committee Reports

Education - Judge Melnick

Judge Melnick reported that the Committee met last Tuesday. The committee is assessing short and long term goals and creating a catalog of topics of and speakers so we aren't putting forth proposals on an ad hoc basis.

For Judicial College, they would like to work on revamping the program and will work with the speakers for next year. The Committee also discussed thinking outside of the box and possibly doing webinars or short vignettes that are recorded so that we can have them and use them over time. There are currently 2 programs that were pitched to the SCJA, Transgender People in the Courts and Sexual Assault Protection Orders. The purpose of the Committee is to try to ensure that the programs we sponsor are balanced on both sides, and that they are focused on topics that are important to the Gender and Justice Commission.

DV Committee - HB1840 Firearms Surrender Project

Judge Jasprica gave an update on the collaborative efforts that were being pursued in conjunction with local groups who are trying to get a process established in King County. We are trying to figure out how GJCOM fits into the picture. The initial project was to host

roadshows or stakeholder meetings across the state, but the Committee has since learned that there were groups that were already doing similar work around surrender of firearms in King County.

The other groups included Judge Ann Levinson, Ret. and the federal organizational alliance for gun responsibility and coalition, as well as efforts in Kitsap County and Benton County. The hope was that we would be able to learn from the other groups' experience and feedback, which would inform our efforts as to the information that needs to be shared with participants both prior to and during the meetings, as well as determining the issues that need to be addressed prior to the meetings. We hope to have more information later.

The Domestic Violence committee is looking for a new chair if you are interested in volunteering please let Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos know.

Sexual Violence – Emily Cordo

There were discussions about planning two workshops: one in the western and one in the eastern part of the state. The focus of these workshops is on trauma-informed courts, with a specific focus on responding to victims and survivors of sexual violence who are interacting with the courts. We are currently looking for faculty for this training.

Currently there is work being done to update the Sexual Offense Bench Guide. This work group met recently to discuss long and short term priorities for the guide. The first priorities for the guide are adding information about the Neurobiology of Trauma, to tie into the workshops on trauma-informed courts, adding information about the Language of Sexual Violence, as suggested by the Chief Justice at our last commission meeting, and conducting a legislative and case review of the guide to update it in that regard.

Tribal State Court Consortium - Judge Cindy Smith

Judge Smith noted that at their annual meeting, the resolution to support the consortium was passed. They asked people what they wanted to see moving forward and how can we effectively begin to build relationships. The consortium is about building relationships not necessarily focused on any particular subject matter outcome or deadline.

LGBTQ Bench Guide

Mr. David Ward introduced Julie Shefchik with the QLaw Foundation of Washington. The QLaw Foundation was created to bridge a gap with lawyers and LGBTQ clients and allowing easier access to the system and resources out there. The legal clinic assists over 200 people a year. Ms. Shefchik presented the draft of the recently updated LGBTQ bench guide. The hope is that the draft submitted is capturing how LGBTQ law is viewed today. The foundation is advocating for

gatekeepers (judges) of the system to learn more about and create a mutual understanding of some of the issues in the court environment.

Updates and comments to the LGBTQ manual:

- Updated Introduction addressing the adversity of LGBTQ people in the legal system.
- Updated terminology and references, layout redone and will be a living document on a website that can be updated regularly.
- Something to add to the AOC bench guide list or be under umbrella of Gender and Justice Commission.

Next Steps: A committee should be created with the purpose of taking a deeper look at the bench guide and making a decision on whether/how Gender and Justice should support it. A bench guide for judges is viable but can not be presented from an advocacy perspective. The Committee that will review the bench guide: Mr. David Ward, Judge Rich Melnick, Ms. Leslie Savina, and Ms. Grace Huang.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15pm.

PROPOSED 2017 Meeting Dates

- January 13 (Friday preceding MLK holiday)
- March 3
- May 12 (Friday preceding Mother's Day)
- July 14
- September 11
- November 3