



Gender and Justice Commission (GJCOM)
Temple of Justice
Olympia, WA
Friday, March 3, 2017 (9:30 AM – 11:45 PM)

MEETING NOTES

Present: Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Chair; Judge Marilyn Paja, Vice Chair; Ms. Grace Huang, Judge Richard Melnick, Dr. Dana Raigrodski, Judge Cindy K. Smith, Ms. Rita Bender, Judge Michael Evans, Ms. Leslie Savina, Ms. Emily Cordo, Ms. Vicky Vreeland, Ms. Gail Stone, Ms. Emily Miner, Ms. Anela Ramic, Ms. Jennifer Ritchie

AOC Staff: Ms. Nichole Kloepfer, Ms. Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos

Excused: Judge Judy Jasprica, Judge Anita Crawford-Willis, Judge Mark Pouley, Judge Eric Lucas, Ms. Josie Delvin, Ms. Trish Kinlow, Ms. Sonia M. Rodriguez True, Ms. Gail Hammer, Mr. David Ward, Justice Susan Owens

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

January 13, 2017 Meeting Notes

Minutes approved and passed unanimously as presented.

Chair Report

New leadership and legacy

- Justice Gordon McCloud thanked Justice Madsen for her many years of contributions to GJCOM.
- She shared that Justice Gordon McCloud has been appointed Chair and Judge Paja has been appointed Vice Chair and talked about the transition.

Membership transitions and processes

- Members are appointed to three year terms, and can serve a maximum of two terms in a row. There will be some upcoming transitions in membership due to these limits.
- Justice Gordon McCloud shared information about the process the Commission will use to select new members. Nomination committee members include: Chair, Vice Chair, committee chairs, and liaisons. New members will be approved by consensus.
- This is the time to decide what substantive expertise is needed and to look at intersectionality and women with the most barriers. Some current work to consider: Tribal, SA/DV, Legislation, and Gender Bias Study. Justice Gordon McCloud expressed continued support for a Minority Bar Association member to have a seat as well.

- Dr. Raigrodski suggested that GJCOM consider opportunities for mentoring people who are interested in the work of GJCOM but not yet involved or experts. This could include inviting new members or expanding Committee opportunities to non-members.
- Justice Gordon McCloud invited members to share any other items that will not be covered by Committee Reports.

Vice Chair Report

Annual Report

- Judge Paja shared about the upcoming Annual Report. It will feature a piece on Justice Madsen and a State of Commission report.

BJA Resolution about language access

- Judge Paja would like GJCOM to request that the BJA renew their resolution in support of language access. The current BJA resolution is in the packet.
- Ms. Savina supports the resolution. Ms. Huang also supports it, and expressed that translation (including of mandatory forms), not just interpretation, be included.
- Members discussed how judges and lawyers would use the translated forms. There should be ongoing training and technical assistance for judges.
- The scope of the resolution is vague, but members believe it should apply to all courts.
- The Interpreter Commission is drafting a model language access plan. GJCOM could suggest language for the resolution that recommends all courts use this template to create their own plans.
- Members discussed the availability of language access coordinators. This is not consistent statewide. Appellate Courts do not have language access coordinators. This could be included as a recommendation in the resolution.
- Volunteers will draft language to propose to BJA: Ms. Delostrinos, Judge Evans, and Ms. Huang. Recommendations will address intersectionality, include best practices, technical assistance, and educational resources. Will consult with Justice Gonzalez.

ACTION: Circulate draft resolution to the Commission for edits.

NAWJ Women's History Month event

- The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), and King County Washington Women Lawyers (KCWWL) are co-hosting a reception from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on March 22, 2017. The event will be held at Dorsey Whitney, Columbia Center, 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6100 in Seattle. Governor Christine Gregoire will be the featured speaker.
- Ms. Amburgey-Richardson will send out the RSVP information to the list.

Staff Report

Budget

- Ms. Amburgey-Richardson shared that both budgets are in good shape. We are still near the beginning of the STOP grant year. We are more than half way through the state fiscal year (GJCOM grant) and we are less than halfway spent, but have many events upcoming.

Submission of BJA Strategic Goal

- At the last GJCOM meeting, members discussed the process for submitting a request for BJA to adopt a Strategic Goal. Members suggested that a goal related to support for the Gender Bias Study would be a good idea. Following this meeting, staff, in coordination with the Chairs, submitted this goal. It is in the packet. We have not been notified about whether the BJA has adopted the goal or not.

Feedback Requested on State Plan for the Coordinated Delivery of Civil Legal Aid

- Ms. Amburgey-Richardson shared that the Access to Justice Board has requested input from judicial partners about their draft plan. The plan is intended to guide the efforts of the Alliance for Equal Justice for the next three years as they seek to expand access to the justice system and reduce barriers. It touches on issues that are relevant to our communities and the work of GJCOM. Information about how to submit feedback is in the packet. The due date April 17th.
- For example, we know from the Civil Legal Needs study that women who are victims of domestic or sexual violence often experience many civil legal issues related to that violence at one time. This is particularly true for women of color and LGBTQ individuals.
- Commission members discussed the draft plan. Ms. Cordo, who sits on the workgroup that drafted the plan, shared that the intent was to put racial justice at the forefront. Members supported this focus, but felt that the plan should incorporate references to the intersections of race and gender – for example, barriers that women of color and LGBTQ people of color face.

ACTION: Justice Gordon McCloud will draft a letter to the ATJ Board to provide feedback discussed by members. Ms. Vreeland and Ms. Cordo volunteered to review and edit the letter. DUE: April 17th.

Proposal to create an ATJ-Supreme Court Commissions Ad Hoc Committee

- Cynthia shared the proposal developed by staff following the December 2016 joint ATJ-Commissions meeting and asked for the Commission's feedback.
- Should this plan be adopted, the Commission favors quarterly over monthly meetings.
- Gender and Justice Commission tabled further discussion until the next meeting. Judge Paja will talk to Judge Anita Crawford, Justice Gordon McCloud will talk to Justice Yu and Justice Gonzalez, as Chairs of the other Commissions.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

Incarcerated Women and Girls Committee

“Court Access for Incarcerated Parents” Convening

- June 5th was tentatively selected as the date for this event. The Committee will be looking at new dates so that the event does not conflict with the DMCJA Conference.

Juvenile Defense Standards

- The Committee discussed the draft standards on their recent call. The Committee proposes that GJCOM submit recommendations that gender specific information be included in a few different areas in the standards. Commission approves of this action and Committee Chair can draft letter.
- The Committee also discussed on their call whether broader recommendations about the standards should be made - for example, should GJCOM recommend adoption and if so should they be aspirational or mandatory. There were differing views.
- Justice Gordon McCloud provided background information about the adoption of defense standards. Misdemeanor standards were approved and are mandatory.
- Committee members shared their views and Commission members discussed. Ms. Stone will provide the standards via email and the discussion about providing a broader recommendation is tabled for May meeting.

ACTION: Justice Gordon McCloud will obtain deadline for submitting feedback.

ACTION: Ms. Stone will draft letter recommending inclusion of gender specific language in a few key sections of the standards. She will circulate to the Chairs and then send. This will take place before next GJCOM meeting, so letter will indicate additional review is taking place and additional feedback may be provided.

Law Books for Incarcerated Women

- Women incarcerated at MCCW do not have access to a library or online legal resources. They can be transported to WCCW for access to their library, but must be infraction free and only have access for a few hours.
- The kiosk is ready to be piloted at MCCW. It has not been installed yet, this should happen soon.
- Committee member Ms. Elizabeth Hendren has experienced difficulty donating law books to MCCW.
- The Commission discussed what its role could be in encouraging access to law books or online legal resources, like Westlaw or Lexis, for incarcerated women.

- Commission members were not sure what access incarcerated men have to these resources in our state. If there is a disparity, it would be an appropriate place for GJCOM to weigh in in support of access for women.

ACTION: Ms. Stone will find out what access incarcerated men have to law books and online legal resources. Ms. Vreeland offered suggestions of who to contact. Ms. Amburgey-Richardson worked closely with DOC in her last position and can assist the Committee.

Education

LGBTQ Bench Guide

- This is a follow-up from the November GJCOM meeting, at which GJCOM members raised concerns about the advocacy tone of some portions of the guide.
- QLaw has revised the guide using GJCOM suggestions. Judge Melnick, David, and Leslie reviewed the guide and recommend that it be published on the AOC site and on the GJCOM site, and that GJCOM adopt QLaw's preferred attribution of "Prepared by the QLaw Foundation and QLaw Association for the Washington State Supreme Court's Gender & Justice Commission."
- It is also recommended that GJCOM funds be used to print copies of the guide to be distributed during the Fall Conference session on Transgender People.

ACTION: Ms. Amburgey-Richardson will obtain permission from QLaw to distribute electronically to full Commission. She will send a poll to the Commission with the guide, asking them to vote on three items – (1) GJCOM website, (2) Asking AOC to put on their website, (3) Preferred attribution.

Judicial College

- The evaluations have not been released yet. They should be available before the Ed. Comm. Meeting on March 27th. The Committee will discuss revising the program at that meeting. Judge Melnick is working with Judge Sandy Allen revamp program.

DMCMA Line Staff Trainings

- This program focuses on sexual assault and skills for interacting with people who may have experienced trauma. It will take place in 7 locations during the month of April.
- The agenda and session description have been finalized. Ms. Cordo and her former colleague at the Sexual Violence Legal Services program of the YWCA will be providing the trainings.

Appellate Judges' Conference

- GJCOM is sponsoring a 3 hour workshop on collegiality provided by 2 federal judges.

SCJA Spring Conference

- April 25th, 1:45 – 4pm, Spokane, WA.
- This session will focus on cultural competence in protection order proceedings. A session description has been written, and faculty are being secured.

DMCJA Spring Conference

- June 6th, 10:15 – 11:45am, Spokane, WA.
- This session will focus on cyberstalking/cyber violence. We are in the process of securing faculty.
- There is potential for coordinating this session with a judicial listening session on cyberviolence and/or a multidisciplinary training.

Fall Conference

- Two proposals were accepted.
- Transgender People and the Courts: Ensuring Respect and Fairness (David) – Sept 19th, 8:30 – 10am, Vancouver, WA.
- DV and Children (Leslie) – Sept 18th, 10:30 – 12, Vancouver, WA.
 - Faculty reach outs are happening. More information will be provided at next meeting.

Joint Commissions Project – Poverty Simulation Training

- GJCOM submitted a joint proposal with other Commissions to the ATJ conference to present this session. We have not heard back yet if it was accepted.
- CDC retreat March 24, education committee meeting March 22 LIVE encourage anyone to come. Suggesting topics for the future.

Tribal State Court Consortium

Spring meeting planning

- The Consortium is working to select a date for a spring meeting. Eastern Washington judges are being tracked down.

ACTION: Judge Cindy K. Smith to reach out to Justice Madsen.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- Ms. Huang passed out an article about a domestic violence victim being arrested by immigration officials outside a courtroom where she was seeking a protection order. This is an issue that MJCOM is discussing. Members thought this issue may be an appropriate collaboration between the two Commissions. Justice Gordon McCloud suggested this

issue may be added to the Gender Bias Study workgroup's "After Leaving the Courthouse" section.

TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Sexual Violence Committee
- Gender Bias Study
- Domestic Violence Committee

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.