



Gender and Justice Commission
Friday, September 9TH, 2022
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom Videoconference



MEETING NOTES

Members & Liaisons Present

Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud (Co-Chair)
 Dua Abudiab
 Victoria Blumhorst
 Judge Anita Crawford-Willis
 Professor Lynn Daggett
 Quinn Dalan
 Laura Edmonston (Embedded Law Librarian)
 Judge Rebecca Glasgow
 Elizabeth Hendren
 Honorable Melissa Beaton
 Erin Moody
 Dr. Dana Raigrodski
 Barbara Serrano
 Chief Judge Cindy Smith
 Sal Mungia (ATJ Board)
 Anita Crawford-Willis
 Shannon Kilpatrick
 Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown
 Commissioner Jonathon Lack

AOC Staff

Kelley Amburgey-Richardson
 Crissy Anderson
 Avery Miller
 Laura Jones
 Carl McCurley
 Alex Donnici
 Mishani Jack-Gonzalez

Members & Liaisons Absent

Judge Marilyn Paja (Co-Chair)
 Riddhi Mukhopadhyay
 Lillian Hawkins
 Kelly Harris

Guests

Melinda Wieder
 Chief Justice Gonzalez
 Mercy Dizon

WELCOME AND INITIAL BUSINESS

Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM
- The Commission conducted formal introductions of members and staff so that new members could be acquainted with others' backgrounds, including areas of practice and committees that might be of interest.

May 27th Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

HB 1320 Work Group Leadership Appreciation – Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud

- Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud recognized the hard work and leadership of Judge Jackie Shea-Brown, Erin Moody and Laura Jones in the HB 1320 Work Group. The Washington Legislature asked the Gender and Justice Commission to develop recommendations for the legislature and the courts on civil protection order proceedings. HB1230 and HB 1901 reworked the entire protection order landscape, the Work Group convened stakeholders to study issues of access, technology, e-filing and data collection, promoting research and transparency to the public. The Commission sent each a token of appreciation for their hard work.

GJC Study Implementation Committee – Barbara Serrano

- Barbara Serrano gave an update and overview of the GJC Study Implementation Committee. The comprehensive study was published almost a year ago, covering over 20 substantive areas of the law, and included recommendations to improve gender and race equity in law. The GJC Study Implementation Committee was formed to work on realizing those recommendations and has been meeting weekly on Mondays. Crissy Anderson created an agenda through the end of the year with specific speakers and topics scheduled. Some highlights:
 - **Incarcerated Women:** Elizabeth Hendren has been working with Department of Corrections staff, including Assistant Secretary Jeannie Darneille to talk about specific recommendations for civil legal aid needs of incarcerated women and other services to alleviate issues they face.
 - **Jury Diversity:** Judge Glasgow, author of chapter 3 of the study, is working with the Minority and Justice Commission on addressing barriers facing women serving on juries. Will have a proposal for the 2023 Legislative Session.
 - **Data Collection:** Huge issue that ties in to all the other recommendations. Noted that there isn't complete and accurate data on many of these questions. Committee members meeting with representatives from Office of Equity, Governor's Office, Office of Financial Management, other stakeholders.

- **Interpreter Commission:** Session with Interpreter Commission spotlighting language barriers in accessing court particularly for women.
- **Access to Courts:** Discussion of barriers to access, such as childcare responsibilities, and efforts to make court more accessible.
- **DV-MRT:** Discussion of perpetrator treatment, particularly interest in updating the curriculum and asking questions to address some of the concerns outlined in the report.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Some of the upcoming topics include: financial barriers to accessing courts, gender and race in the legal community, family law impacts, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, prosecutorial discretion, Legal Financial Obligations, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, employment harassment and gender impacts in civil proceedings. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Interbranch Advisory Committee:** Upcoming meeting (September 26th) between representatives of the Courts, the Legislature, the Governor's office, aimed at helping improve communication among three branches of government. Gender and Justice Commission will be presenting and needs to decide what to discuss and what is highest priority.

Incarceration, Gender and Justice – Elizabeth Hendren

- Elizabeth Hendren presented on work addressing incarceration of women and girls. This committee's work has merged with the Implementation Committee. A lot of the work has been for court access in civil/ family law for incarcerated women. Current phone system in prison is problematic as it requires outgoing calls to be answered by a live person, which makes it difficult to call any number with a phone tree or similar directory function, as is the case with many attorney's offices or nonprofit/ legal aid organizations. Federal funding prohibits Northwest Justice Project from representing incarcerated people. The Department of Corrections is restructuring and moving towards a more rehabilitation focused approach, with additional changes in technology, which makes this a key time to build connections with them. Education for judicial officers on visitation issues between incarcerated parents and children is needed.

Education Committee – Judge Rebecca Glasgow

- Judge Glasgow presented on work of Education Committee. The Fall Conference is in a few weeks and the Gender and Justice Commission has two sponsored programs, one led by Laura Jones and several members of and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Committee to answer questions from judges and gather more information on what judges are looking to learn. The second session is on trauma responsive and holistic courts, which ties to one of the recommendations of the GJC study. Committee is meeting this week to discuss Annual Conference, Judicial College, and SCJA, DMJCA and

Clerks and Court Administrators Spring conferences. Commissioner Lack proposed a cultural competency training for gender diversity in the courtroom, addressing issues of jury diversity as well. An additional proposal is related to firearm relinquishment and sanctions and compliance reviews. Committee also supports DMCJA or other conferences if they choose to do the poverty simulation kit.

- Some other education requests:
 - Friday Lunch and Learn sessions on appointment of counsel in DVPO cases.
 - Friday Lunch and Learn Session on Address Confidentiality Program.
 - Larger training on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coercion in IPV cases.
 - Justice Gordon McCloud is putting together a training on the Dobbs decision, re full faith and credit, right to travel, out of state warrants.
 - New Member of the DSV Committee, Commissioner Terri Farmer, has offered to help lead the Friday Lunch and Learns.
- Discussion of whether the Lunch and Learn sessions are best targeted towards Judges or if lawyers may need training on similar topics as well.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Committee – Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown

- Laura Jones gave a brief update. Work paused after the HB 1320 Workgroup disbanded, but the group anticipates reconvening soon. Working on updating the Domestic and Sexual Violence bench guides. Quinn Dalan is stepping into co-chair role.

Tribal State Court Consortium – Chief Judge Cindy Smith

- Welcome to new AOC staff member dedicated to the TSCC: Mishani Jack-Gonzalez.
- No major updates to report. Looking forward to picking up again with new staff to develop relationships between tribal and state courts.

Legislative Committee – Crissy Anderson

- Crissy Anderson announced first time the Gender and Justice Commission has a formal Legislative Committee. Right now, it is comprised of Chairs of the different subcommittees. The plan going into Session is to meet weekly as new bills are dropped, review the impacts, request feedback from stakeholders and partner entities on what to support.
 - Current Membership includes: Justice Gordon McCloud, Judge Paja, Judge Glasgow, Elizabeth Hendren, Judge Shea-Brown, and Barbara Serrano.
 - Working to put together a list of subject matter experts if people are interested in participating.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Washington State Bar Association Bylaws Change Proposal – Imani Shannon, WSBA

- Imani Shannon joined to discuss a proposed change to WSBA bylaws diversity definition for the at-large position.
 - An overview of the purpose of the position: seeking candidates who have experience, knowledge and lived experience of the needs of those who are historically underrepresented in governance, attracting and retaining diverse lawyers and recognizing the lack of diversity in the legal profession. Diversity in this context may be based upon, but not limited to, age, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, geography, areas and types of practice, length of practice.
 - The DEI Council has been working to interview all applicants and will place at least 3 on the ballot for a member-wide vote. Ensuring the applicants are dedicated to DEI work. They formed a DEI Definition of Diversity Workgroup to consider a proposed change to the definition.
 - Proposal: Diversity refers to meaningful representation of and equal opportunities for individuals who have lived experience as a member from an underrepresented community in the legal profession, including race, disability, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity (cis and trans), and gender expression. Preference given to those who meet one or more designations while recognizing that the intersections of race with other designations exacerbates inequities.
 - Discussion of whether we want to keep parenthetical around cis/trans identities, how we want to center race, re geographical diversity.
 - Discussion of concern around specific wording re: cis and trans and the exclusion of Agender or Intersex individuals.
 - Discussion of geography relating to Latino identity especially in Eastern WA, versus geographical diversity re urban/rural divide. Rural areas don't have same access to resources, leadership, more likely to be impacted by other designations. A decision was made that because congressional seats that technically cover the whole state, there is already some mechanism ensuring geographical representation. Question on whether using congressional districts is ideal when there's controversy over how they're drawn.
 - Recommendation to add sub-definitions for terms relating to gender diversity for folks who are not as familiar.

Information Sharing: Statewide 2023 Legislative Priorities and Efforts – Commission Members

- Discussion of legislative priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session.
 - Office of Public Defense bill for post-conviction appointment of counsel; Proposed SB 5772 did not pass last year and will likely be introduced again.
 - SCJA working on clean up of RCW 26.09.191 relating to restrictions in parenting plans, supervised visitation, etc. in order to make the statute more user friendly.
 - Jury Diversity package that AOC , the Minority and Justice Commission, and Jury Diversity Workgroup is putting together. GJC hoping to add aspects around childcare, pilot projects, increasing juror pay, etc. Board for Judicial Administration will review at their next meeting.
 - Other bills members of the Commission are aware of:
 - Melissa Beaton indicated the WA Association of County Clerks has a bill relating to unclaimed property in trust that's not cost beneficial. Likely not related to GJC goals.
 - Mercy Dizon indicated survivor-based organizations are fighting arrests for prostitution.
 - Dr. Carl McCurley indicated Office of Court Innovation and AOC putting forward Data for Justice Proposal to fill some of the gaps in data that are highlighted by the GJC study. Request for more research support for behavioral health, family treatment courts, graphic presentation of info, access to data that's relevant. Still hopeful for sponsorship, working with the legislative liaison for AOC. Request to share the proposed language of the bill once it's developed.
 - Sentencing reform bill re consideration of mental health/ trauma in sentencing. Uncertain if it will be reintroduced this year.

Future In-Person vs. Virtual Meeting Discussion – Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud

- Next meeting is November 4th. Justice Gordon McCloud led discussion of pros and cons of continuing to use zoom, lack of interpersonal connection, vs convenience for people across the state.
- Discussion of technology to offer hybrid options, “owl” devices, use of conference rooms at UW or Seattle U. Will discuss further with Kelley Amburgey-Richardson.
- Most people indicated preference for in person, likely with some kind of hybrid option.

ADJORNMENT

Announcements

- Next meeting November 4th, 2022. Potentially will be in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.