



Gender and Justice Commission
January 19th, 2024
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom Videoconference



MEETING NOTES

Members & Liaisons Present

Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud
 Judge Rebecca Glasgow
 Irene Motles
 Raylene King
 Elizabeth Hendren
 Dana Raigrodski
 Jennifer Ritchie
 Barbara Serrano
 Lynn Daggett
 Victoria Blumhorst
 Quinn Dalan
 Karla Carlisle
 Judge Michael Finkle
 Javier Ortiz
 Carlyn Sampson
 Allison Tjemsland
 Judge Josephine Wiggs
 Laura Edmonston
 Carly Quast
 Katelyn Sundstrom
 Renee Larson

AOC Staff

Kelley Amburgey-Richardson
 Crissy Anderson
 Laura Jones
 Karl Jones

Members & Liaisons Absent

Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown
 Commissioner Jonathan Lack
 Judge Cindy K Smith
 Arina Gertseva
 Judge Bonnie Glenn
 Brynn Felix
 Rachel Sottile
 Shannon Kilpatrick
 Michelle Brito
 Anushka Parihar

Guests

Judge Jennifer Forbes
 Andrea Valdez
 Jennie Romich
 Geraldine Germain
 Shannon Harper
 Trish Kinlow

WELCOME AND INITIAL BUSINESS

- Justice Gordon McCloud provided a welcome. Clerk Raylene King from Whatcom County was welcomed as the Commission's new Superior Court Clerk member. She replaced Clerk Dave Reynolds.
- Members of the Commission and guests introduced themselves.
- After a request for comments or corrections, the October 20, 2023 minutes were deemed approved.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

Law Student Liaisons

- Carly Quast, Gonzaga: The WLC will meet later in the month and anticipates putting on an event for Women's History Month.
- Katelyn Sundstrom, Lewis and Clark: No report.
- Renee Larson, Seattle University: Renee reported she has graduated and a new SU liaison will be appointed shortly.

Communications Committee, Laura Edmonston

- Laura Edmonston reported the newsletter will be coming out next week; there is still time to share articles, information, events, etc. if members would like to see something included. She is working on a Women's History Month CLE/CJE and will have more to share at the next meeting.

DSV Committee, Quinn Dalan

- Quinn Dalan referred members to the written committee report which, among other things, highlighted the gender-based violence resource library.

Education Committee, Judge Glasgow

- Judge Glasgow reported the committee is now turning to focus on fall conference proposals and a follow-up to the first Dobbs webinar with the Communications Committee. This training will include information regarding WA's shield law and extradition in anticipation of issues that may arise in this state.
- Members should contact the committee anytime with ideas or input on judicial education.

Family Law Committee, Karla Carlisle

- This committee is just getting off the ground. The first meeting is scheduled for January 31 at noon. The committee will be working on expanding membership as needed and focusing on recommendations from the 2021 GJC study.

Implementation Committee, Dana Raigrodski

- Dana Raigrodski contributed a report for purposes of the Commission's newsletter in December. Dana presented at the Tribal State Court Consortium training on human trafficking, where she was able to highlight the study's recommendations in this area.
- The Committee is trying to outsource its work, both to commission standing committees and outside partners.

Incarceration Committee, Elizabeth Hendren

- The committee has been engaging in ongoing work with DOC in trying to bring together the study recommendations with their GIPA report. A lot of their GIPA report recommendations align with GJC's recommendations and the committee had a very productive meeting at the end of last year with DOC.
- Members are continuing to work on getting incarcerated women better access to legal information via tablets.
- The committee is continuing to discuss the state's risk assessment tool, a return of the legacy conference at DOC, and a proposed court rule amendment to extend the response time in family law matters for incarcerated parents.

Legislative Committee Report, Justice Gordon McCloud

- The Legislative Committee will be reviewing the lists of bills scheduled for hearings the following week to make determinations on whether to support, oppose or not take a position. The Commission typically does not take positions due to being a judicial branch entity, however the committee has begun utilizing a screening tool this session to make the process clearer. The committee is comprised of the co-chairs and the chairs of the standing committees. Bill summary reports are sent out weekly to Commission members. The committee will be looking at ties to the 2021 study recommendations as a part of bill analysis.

Tribal State Court Consortium, Justice Gordon McCloud

- A written report was provided in the meeting materials.
- Pending bill SB 6146 regarding tribal warrants was discussed. The bill concerns state enforcement of tribal arrest warrants. Ongoing issues of full faith and credit recognition of warrants has been a struggle.

Other Liaison Reports

- Child Care Work Group: Irene Motles. The group continues to meet regarding barriers to juror service. They plan to survey jury coordinators to determine which courts/counties have child care services available, and to what extent. They are hoping to get the survey out in the next two weeks and have a couple of jury coordinators spearheading that effort.
- Additional liaison reports were included in written materials packet.

Unrepresented Litigant Work Group and Self-Help Center Pilots – Judge Jennifer Forbes

- Judge Jennifer Forbes discussed the work of the Superior Court Judges’ Association (SCJA) Unrepresented Litigant Work Group, and the pilot self-help centers created at the request of the group. In 2019 SCJA chose to prioritize this issue during their strategic planning process and formed work group. It launched in early 2020 and included a variety of stakeholders from across the state. The group spent time developing goals and ultimately divided into three subgroups: judicial education, “portal/technology development, and self-help centers.
 - The Judicial Education subgroup worked on comments to Code of Judicial Conduct cannons 2.2 and 2.6 to address parameters for how judicial officers and their staff interact with, and provide information to, unrepresented litigants. The additions were ultimately adopted by the Supreme Court. Rule 2.2 allows reasonable accommodations to be made. Rule 2.6 has extensive list of examples of exactly what judicial officers can do. The group used the ABA model rules as a framework, but Washington is a national leader on this issue.
 - Bench cards were developed and Judge Forbes will be presenting to new judicial officers at judicial college. They are hoping this will be built in as a permanent training requirement.
 - The Judicial Education group has also done surveys; they are hoping to do training for staff as well.
 - The Portal subgroup determined the workgroup really isn’t equipped to manage the task of wider technology accessibility to courts and is hoping to involve the AOC Equity and Access Team to assist in this work.
 - The Self-help Pilot Center group was very successful. Until very recently Washington had no self-help centers. California is the model of what we should be doing.
 - The SCJA put together a request to the legislature for 5 of these self-help centers and got temporary funding for 2. The legislation required a pilot program on each side of the state. Grays Harbor and Spokane were ultimately the sites, but they have different models.
 - Last year they got an extension of the funding through 2024, but want to get additional resources to study and hopefully replicate the centers across the state. In 2025 a supplemental budget request will be submitted with the goal of sustaining the self-help centers.
 - They are looking at doing webinars for judicial officers and staff on this topic.
 - The issue of the difficulty of varying and numerous local court rules was discussed and the barriers they cause for unrepresented litigants. Judge Forbes noted this could be handled in judicial training perhaps.
 - Ongoing barriers for non-English speaking litigants were discussed.

WashPOP Data Efforts – Professor Jennifer Romich and Professor Geraldine Germain

- Dana Raigrodski introduced Shannon Harper and Jennie Romich, faculty at UW. Sen. Dhingra attended a Gender and Justice Commission last year, and discussed her desire to have an integrated data collection mechanism. WashPOP is the result of those efforts.

- They are looking to build a new, full, demographic population database. This is a joint project of two units at UW.
 - Goals by July 1, 2025 include creation of a repository, having agreements in place for core file construction and linked resources.
 - They are seeking to gather core data elements and demographics such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, residential location, earnings/state income, and eventually household membership (using birth and marriage records). Will produce this information regularly, probably quarterly, and want it to be shareable back to the agencies that contributed data, and linkable to other sources of data.
 - The core sources of this data will be Employment Security, DSHS, DOH, the Secretary of State, and DOL.
 - They are confident this can be accomplished because they have done it at UW before, relating to Seattle’s minimum wage ordinance and worked with data owners to evaluate the effect.
 - Confidentiality, security and privacy issues will be worked out in collaboration with all of the data-owning agencies.
- Right now the UW researchers are talking with the various data owning agencies regarding reporting back, linking data, and tracking.
- This is a 2-year grant to get the data set created or ready to pull together, draft data sharing agreements, and craft rules around what the data will look like. Specifics around data security/privacy/confidentiality will be developed for inclusion in the MOUs as a part of the project. They will also be looking for opportunities for linkage to data in the criminal justice space to look at outcomes for justice system involved individuals.
- They are accepting thoughts and advice, and have criminal justice data ad hoc advisors.
- They want to protect against any potential federal use, and would strongly want to see this for research use only. There should be protection against any use that would lead to an agency contacting anyone based on the individual level data contained in it.
- Justice Gordon McCloud asked if the state data categories are compatible with federal data categories. Shannon noted, in 2021 they ran into this problem. Data is highly inconsistent and they are prepared to deal with that. They will have a complex but expansive set of racial/ethnicity identifiers. They want to make sure data is included on individuals who typically aren’t captured at all in data sets, and may end up doing it a few different ways for this reason.

ADJORNMENT