



WASHINGTON
COURTS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT

**GENDER AND JUSTICE
COMMISSION**

MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014

**TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON**

**WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT
GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION**

2013-2014

CHAIR

Honorable Barbara A. Madsen
Washington State Supreme Court

VICE-CHAIR

Honorable Ruth Gordon
Jefferson County Clerk

MEMBERS

Ms. Sara L. Ainsworth
University of Washington School of Law

Mr. Ronald E. Miles
Spokane County Superior Court

Ms. Mirta Laura Contreras
NW Immigrant Rights Project

Honorable Marilyn G. Paja
Kitsap County District Court

Honorable Michael H. Evans
Cowlitz County Superior Court

Honorable Mark W. Pouley
Swinomish Tribal Court

Dr. Margaret Hobart
WSCADV

Ms. Leslie J. Savina
Northwest Justice Project

Honorable Judy Rae Jasprica
Pierce County District Court

Honorable Ann Schindler
Court of Appeals Division I

Professor Taryn Lindhorst
University of Washington

Ms. Gail Stone
King County Executive's Office

Ms. Judith A. Lonquist, P.S.
Attorney at Law

Honorable Tom Tremaine
Kalispel Tribal Court

Honorable Eric Z. Lucas
Snohomish County Superior Court

Mr. David Ward
Legal Voice

Honorable Rich Melnick
Clark County Superior Court

Ms. Danielle Pugh-Markie
Supreme Court Commissions Coordinator

Ms. Pam Dittman
Program Coordinator



GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE – CHIEF JUSTICE RECEPTION ROOM

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014 (9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)

LUNCHEON (12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.)

CHIEF JUSTICE BARBARA MADSEN, CHAIR

HONORABLE RUTH GORDON, VICE CHAIR

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WASHINGTON
COURTS

Gender and Justice Commission (GJCOM)

Friday, January 10, 2014, (8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)

AOC SeaTac Office
SeaTac, Washington

MEETING NOTES

Members Present: Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Chair; Ms. Ruth Gordon, Vice-Chair; Ms. Laura Contreras (via phone), Judge Michael Evans, Judge Judy Jasprica, Judge Richard Melnick, Mr. Ron Miles, Judge Marilyn Paja, Judge Mark Pouley, Ms. Leslie Savina, Judge Tom Tremaine, Mr. David Ward, Ms. Danielle Pugh-Markie (AOC staff), and Ms. Pam Dittman (AOC staff)

Guests: None

Members Absent: Ms. Sara Ainsworth, Dr. Margaret Hobart, Professor Taryn Lindhorst, Ms. Judith A. Lonquist, Judge Eric Lucas, Judge Ann Schindler, Ms. Gail Stone

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:55 a.m. Introductions were made.

Review of December 6, 2013 meeting notes

Meeting notes were unable to be distributed prior to the meeting. Members were asked to provide any changes to Pam Dittman by January 17, 2014, and agreed to conditionally approve the notes "as is" and with any changes that were to come in.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

CHAIR REPORT

Supreme Court Commission Coordinator

Danielle Pugh-Markie started with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on January 2, 2014. Danielle will be supporting the Gender & Justice, Minority & Justice, and Interpreter Commissions. Danielle has worked on the national and international level and comes to AOC from the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges.

Luncheon for Women Legislators

The March 14, 2014, Commission meeting will be held in Olympia. We will follow the meeting with a luncheon for women legislators in conjunction with Women's History Month and International Women's Day. An invite will be extended to the First Lady, Trudi Inslee. The luncheon discussion has not yet been decided. The Chief and Commission staff will work together to determine the luncheon agenda, draft a *Save the Date* letter, etc.

Ruth Gordon and Judge Marilyn Paja agreed to assist on this event.

Please mark your calendars for:

Friday, March 14, 2014

Temple of Justice – Chief's Reception Room, Olympia

Commission Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Luncheon 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Funding Requests

- Civil Legal Aid Needs Study: Follow-up from the December 6, 2013, Commission Meeting
In December, Jim Bamberger and Liz Thomas reported on the Civil Legal Aid Needs Study project and timeline and the request to the Commission for \$25,000. The Commission chose to table the discussion until the January meeting when we had a better understanding of the budget.

Members were provided an updated budget and discussed whether any work can be completed within this fiscal year. They also inquired as to whether the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) and the Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) had been asked to contribute funds. Judge Jasprica and Judge Melnick checked with the association presidents and were told that they had not been approached.

Commission staff will contact Jim Bamberger to discuss whether any work can be done by the completion of this fiscal year (June 30, 2014) and if so the pertinent deliverables and the cost for them.

- Professor Mary Anne Franks
The Commission agreed to sponsor a plenary session, "Domestic Violence & the Internet" at the SCJA Spring Conference. Additionally, as Professor Franks is a national expert on the subject of "revenge porn" we have asked if she is willing to work with us on holding trainings for others outside of the SCJA conference.

Judge Melnick, David Ward, and Sara Ainsworth have agreed to work as a subcommittee to address hosting other venues or sessions capitalizing on Professor Franks' expertise and willingness to conduct other trainings while in the area.

- Judicial Officer Enhanced Domestic Violence Training
The Commission has historically provided scholarships to judicial officers to attend Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases presented by the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. These scholarships are paid through STOP Grant funds.

Commission members agreed to fund ten applicants to attend the February and/or April training sessions.

Commission staff will work with applicants on registration, reimbursement of travel-related expenses, and how to best report back to the Commission.

STAFF REPORT

- Budget
Commission staff prepared and presented on the current Commission budget. The Commission is allotted \$150,000 per fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30) to pay for salaries of Commission staff, projects, training, travel, etc., related to Commission business.

Members discussed the budget and ideas on how to best proceed in spending the allotted amount on worthy projects that were in line with the Commission's mission. Commission staff will continue to provide budget updates and work with the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Chairs to identify areas where funding may be needed to accomplish a project.

Commission members were asked to submit proposals to Commission staff on where/what they would like to see monies spent on. Please submit by February 29, 2014.

- **Membership Openings**

Presently, there are two vacancies: court administrator and a municipal court judicial officer. Commission members discussed who should be approached and whether there is a list of past applicants. Members agreed to approach LaTricia Kinlow, Tukwila Municipal Court, for the open administrator position and that we should focus our search for a municipal court judicial officer from Eastern Washington to ensure the Commission is being represented from all parts of the state.

Commission staff will contact LaTricia Kinlow to find out her interest and discuss the Commission's goals and objectives. Staff will also locate the past applicants' list and send to the Committee Chairs.

- Letter of Interest for Judges' Participation in Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop. Members discussed the ongoing need for judicial officers to attend the Enhancing Judicial Skills and Continuing Skills in domestic violence workshops. Members suggested staff solicit letters of interest each year enabling us to have prioritized candidates and offering scholarships when funds become available.

Commission staff will solicit letters of interest and work with Committee Chairs to prioritize.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communications – Ruth Gordon, Chair**

We are continuing our work on updating the website.

Ruth will be contacting Committee Chairs to address how to update various pages of the website.

- **Domestic Violence – Judge Judy Jasprica, Chair**

- **ESHB1383 – Stalking Protection Orders**

The Stakeholders meeting convened and out of that recommendations were developed. Recommendations were to clean up language in various statutes, develop a self-help tool or modify one already in existence, create a poster-sized decision tree for the public to refer to that could assist in identifying which type of order to request.

Commission staff will send a copy of the Legislative report to members. Staff will develop a large scale decision tree and solicit quotes for printing.

- **Sentencing & Monitoring Project**

The first phase of this project is surveying judicial officers from courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJ) asking about their courts' practices around sentencing and monitoring in domestic violence cases. The survey was released to all the CLJ presiding judges and the court administrators. Survey results will be analyzed by the contractors and will help inform us on where to go for site visits.

- **Training with Interpreters**

The Committee was able to partner with the Interpreter Commission and attend a conference on domestic violence issues and how interpreters can be best used. We will be looking at how to continue that partnership and develop some training for interpreters and court staff.

- **Education – Judge Rich Melnick, Chair**

Members discussed how to continue working on education proposals. It was suggested that we develop proposals on topics of interest and then depending on the theme of the conference or the needs that are being seen, we submit them as needed. Having a catalog of proposals already fleshed out with costs, identified presenters, learning objectives, etc., would be the ideal way to respond quickly to requests.

- **Fall Conference**

Proposals for 2014 Fall Conference are due January 10, 2014.

- **DMCMA Conference – Former Commission member, Terri Cooper asked that the Commission put on the “How Far Should We Go” session. The District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) approved this session and we will begin working with them.**
- **DMCJA Conference – The theme of this conference will be DUIs. The Commission did not submit any proposals for this conference.**
- **SCJA Conference – The Commission will be sponsoring the session on domestic violence and the Internet with Professor Franks.**

- **Incarcerated Women & Girls – Sara Ainsworth, Chair**

No report.

- **Tribal State Court Consortium – Judge Tremaine and Judge Pouley**

The Consortium has not met since the Fall Conference meeting due to staffing shortages. We will regroup in February to ascertain next steps. As an aside, the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association did put forth a proposal for Fall Conference on VAWA Reauthorization and Full Faith & Credit.

Members also discussed a possibility to develop a survey to send to clerks and tribal courts on full faith & credit and whether there is cross-collaboration on entering orders.

- **Women in the Profession – Judith Lonquist, Chair**

No report.

ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

MARY E. FAIRHURST
JUSTICE
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
POST OFFICE BOX 40929
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
98504-0929



(360) 357-2053
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December 9, 2013

Chief Justice Barbara A. Madsen
Chair, Gender and Justice Commission
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Justice Charles W. Johnson
Co-Chair, Minority and Justice Commission
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Judge Mary Yu
Co-Chair, Minority and Justice Commission
King County Superior Court
516 3rd Ave., Rm. C-203
Seattle, WA 98104-2361

Re: Participants for Public Trust and Confidence Committee
"Myths and Misperceptions about the Washington State Courts" Video

Dear Chief Justice Madsen, Justice Johnson and Judge Yu:

The BJA Public Trust and Confidence Committee and TVW, Washington's Public Affairs Television Network, are creating a short video to address common myths and misperceptions about Washington Courts. Financial support for the video has come from the Gender and Justice Commission and the Minority and Justice Commission.

Below is a short description of the video:

A quickly-paced, produced video addressing topics that are commonly misunderstood about the court system. The video will feature "person on the street"-type questions, with answers from a diverse group of judicial branch members. The video will be edited in an engaging style and run between 7-10 minutes in length. It would be targeted to the general public and address common misunderstandings of the courts.

In the video, a myth or misperception about the courts will be raised in a "person on the street"-type interview setting. The issue in question will then be answered by an official from the court system. TVW will travel to the participants' location to film these answers.

Here is the list of the myths that will be addressed in the video:

1. Judges work for the police, so if you have been unfairly treated by the police then you can expect the same from the courts.
2. Judges are biased against fathers.
3. If judges do not grant protection orders, it means they do not care about the safety of women.
4. Judges have no rules and absolute discretion in the courtroom.
5. The court is responsible to provide legal representation, the court and clerks are obligated to provide legal advice.
6. Judges use bail and fines as a way to increase revenues.
7. The courts work for the legislative branch, and the judges change laws.

The Public Trust and Confidence Committee is looking for suggestions from the Commissions for people who would be willing to address each of the myths raised in the video. The participants should be an appropriate choice to answer the topic at hand. They need to be comfortable in front of a camera and able to address each myth succinctly. We would also like the participants to represent the diversity of the court system.

If you have suggestions for participants, please submit them to me at mary.fairhurst@courts.wa.gov. We are looking to begin production on the video in late February/early March 2014, so your timely reply is appreciated.

If you have questions about the video proposal, please contact Margaret Fisher at margaret.fisher@courts.wa.gov.

Very truly yours,



Justice Mary E. Fairhurst
Chair, BJA Public Trust and Confidence Committee

cc: David Johnson
Margaret Fisher



March 3, 2014

Honorable Barbara Madsen, Chair
Gender and Justice Commission
Washington State Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

In 2012, the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) held a retreat to discuss issues of governance and allocation of Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) resources dedicated to supporting boards, commissions, committees, task forces, and workgroups. The BJA agreed to divide these issues between two workgroups. The BJA recently adopted recommendations made from the workgroup charged with looking at all judicial branch committees and identifying opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness by merging or restructuring some groups. The workgroup reviewed 205 committees of associations, boards and commissions. Although the BJA realizes that examining the efficiency and relevance of any committee is actually the responsibility of that organization and its own related committees, the BJA is undertaking the job of examining each of its own BJA committees and workgroups and is asking that every association, board or commission do the same.

This workgroup recommended, and the BJA adopted the following:

- Every BJA authorized entity shall review and assess their current committee structure and align their committees with the proposed standard for creating, managing, and reviewing committees.
- All committees will adopt a charter containing the following information: Committee title; authorization (court rule, court order, bylaw, statute or other); charge or purpose; AOC staff support required; policy area; other branch committees addressing the same topic; other branch committees to partner with; committee type: standing, subcommittee, workgroup; committee membership; term limit; duration/review date; budget; reporting requirements (i.e., quarterly to the BJA, the authorizing organization and/or other entities addressing same topic); and expected deliverables or recommendations.
- Create and adopt a standard for committees that would include an agreement on the following items: 1) committee types; 2) committee duration limit to two years unless specifically extended after review; 3) commitment to periodic review, including a reporting requirement on activities, decisions, and initiatives; 4) formal request for AOC staff support and resources.

The BJA is currently re-examining and chartering our standing committees pursuant to this recommendation. We anticipate that the body will examine other committees, workgroups and task forces which were previously created by the BJA and determine whether they should continue in their current form or be incorporated into a standing committee.

The workgroup also focused on how the AOC uses its staff and resources, recognizing the need to prioritize requests for resources so the core work of the judicial branch can be done effectively. The demand for staff support and proliferation of committees and workgroups often create a strain on resources and result in limited support.

Recognizing the limited AOC staff and resources, the BJA requests that all judicial branch entities which operate committees under their authority using AOC staff or resources discuss and consider implementing the proposed chartering and committee standards. We hope these discussions will help define the core mission of the committees and possibly result in the merging or elimination of duplicative committees which require judicial and AOC resources.

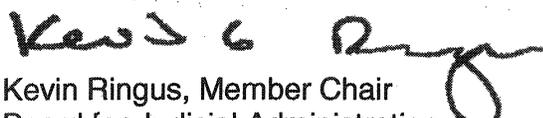
If your organization has recently done work like this we encourage you to share the results. The BJA is interested in creating a central repository for charter documents so they are centrally located and can be accessible to others. This repository could function as a resource for all the judicial branch entities and staff and would facilitate collaboration and information sharing. If your organization has not done work like this recently, we urge you to adopt the recommendations of the BJA workgroup as outlined earlier in this letter. Staff will follow-up in June to determine whether you have any finalized documents that you can share.

If you would like a template for the committee charter, please contact Beth Flynn at beth.flynn@courts.wa.gov or (360) 357-2121.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Shannon Hinchcliffe at shannon.hinchcliffe@courts.wa.gov or (360) 705-5226.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,


Kevin Ringus, Member Chair
Board for Judicial Administration

cc: Ms. Danielle Pugh-Markie

**Gender & Justice Commission Budget
July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014**

		Spent as of 1.30.14	Projected**	
Beginning Balance	\$150,000			
Salaries & Wages		\$33,053	\$76,210	
Benefits		\$10,109	\$24,250	
Other Professional Services*		\$0	\$12,500	
Goods & Services		\$1,707	\$10,000	
Travel		\$7,936	\$16,000	
Totals	\$150,000	\$52,804	\$138,960	
Non-allocated funds				\$11,040

****Projected** The projected amounts include projections for normal day-to-day business operations such as printing, communications, staff-related activities AND other Commission approved set-asides

Salaries & Wages, Benefits The salaries/wages/benefits are projected through Finance based upon the positions, any upcoming salary or COLA increases, and current benefit rates.

Covers 1.0 FTE - Supreme Court Commissions Coordinator and .3 FTE Program Coordinator

Professional Services Covers contracts for items such as honorariums, etc.

Sponsorship - OCLA Civil Legal Needs Study \$12,500

Goods & Services Covers supplies & materials, communications ((including conference calls & postage), printing, registration fees for conferences, meeting room rentals, pro tem charges, etc.)

Other Commission approved set-asides for:

Judicial Institute (2.8.14) \$500

Contract - TVW Myths Video \$1,500

Travel Covers costs of travel for staff and Commission members: meals, lodging, mileage, airfare, coffee/light refreshments

Other Commission approved-set asides for:

Ed Session - SCJA Conference (4.2014) \$2,000

Ed Session - DMCMA Conf (5.20.14) \$2,000

Updated 3.5.14



**WASHINGTON
COURTS**

**District and Municipal Court Judges'
Association Education Committee**

Honorable Sandra L. Allen
Milton/Ruston Municipal Courts

Honorable Joseph M. Burrowes
Benton County District Court

Honorable Karen Donohue
Seattle Municipal Court

Honorable Douglas J. Fair
Edmonds Municipal Court

Honorable Judy Rae Jasprica
Pierce County District Court

Honorable Richard B. Kayne
Medical Lake Municipal Court

Honorable Mary C. Logan
Spokane Municipal Court

Honorable Douglas B. Robinson
Whitman County District Court

Honorable Charles Short
Okanogan County District Court

Honorable N. Scott Stewart
Issaquah Municipal Court

Honorable Matthew Williams
KCDC - South Division - Auburn

Ex Officio

Honorable Margaret Vail Ross
Pierce County District Court

Honorable James N. Docter
Bremerton Municipal Court

Administrative Office of the Courts

Ms. Judith M. Anderson
Ms. Stephanie Judson

**District and Municipal Court Judges' Association
Education Committee**
Judge Joseph M. Burrowes, Chair

March 11, 2014

Ms. Danielle Pugh-Markie
Supreme Court Commissions Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Ms. Pugh-Markie,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the District and Municipal Court Judges' Education Committee chair.

We are developing our annual spring program and have great interest in having Ms. Kimberly Papillon come to our program to present a three hour plenary on Implied Bias in DUI cases.

Ms. Papillon is a dynamic and influential consultant and educator in the area of implied bias and is available. However, our Board for Court Education budget is very limited and we need funding to cover her costs.

Ms. Papillon's total cost will be approximately \$5,000 which will cover her honorarium, travel, per diem and housing costs. The DMCJA Diversity Committee has already committed \$825 of their budget and the DMCJA Education Committee will commit \$1,000 from their budget.

I would like to formally ask the Gender and Justice Commission for \$2,000 and the Minority and Justice Commission for \$2,000 to cover the majority of her expenses. Of course if you approve this request we would make sure to note that funding was provided by your commissions in our program materials.

If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (509) 735-8476 Ext. 3040 or Joseph.Burrowes@co.benton.wa.us

Sincerely,

Judge Joseph M. Burrowes, Chair
DMCJA Education Committee

Cc: Ms. Judith Anderson
Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos
Ms. Pam Dittman



Snohomish County

District Court - South Division

Carol A. McRae, Judge
Jeffrey D. Goodwin, Judge
Beth A. Fraser, Judge

20520 68th Avenue West
Lynnwood, Washington 98036
(Tel) 425.774.8803
(Fax) 425.744.6820

Pam Dittman, Program Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Office of Court Innovation
Gender & Justice and Minority & Justice Commissions
1206 Quince Street SE | PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

RE: NJIDV Conference

Dear Ms Dittman:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Gender and Justice Commission for the opportunity to attend the NJIDV conference in New Orleans last week. As a Judge, I am confronted with Domestic Violence issues on a daily basis. The manner in which the materials were presented by the instructors respected that we are working with these issues daily and built upon the experience.

Through the lectures, discussions and role playing at the conference, I now feel like I am better informed about the complexities surrounding domestic violence. I now feel like I can be a better listener and I am more willing to ask questions when confronted with domestic violence issues. Two specific cases I have heard after returning from the conference stand out that I have handled differently than I would have heard prior to the conference.

The first case involves a woman seeking an Anti-Harassment Order. She appeared for the hearing on the full order but the Respondent did not appear. The order involved an ex-boyfriend and she was asking for the order to enter for longer than one year. I asked her to explain why she was requested a term longer than one year and she was not able to clearly articulate a reason for the request. As Judges, we are required to make decisions on the information presented to us. However, because I was more attuned to the complexities of domestic violence, I began to ask questions. I was concerned that the Petitioner's fear of the Respondent was causing her to be too guarded in her responses and thereby limiting her relief.

By the time I finished my questions, I had drawn from the Petitioner significantly more information. This had been a dating relationship that had ended ten years ago and the Respondent had never stopped his attempts to control the Petitioner. He had been texting, calling her and following her over that ten-year period. I asked if the Respondent had contacted her after being served with the Temporary Order. She told me that he had called her and told her he wasn't coming to the hearing because "he thought it was silly." At the conclusion of my questioning, I was persuaded that the harassing behavior would continue when the Order expired and granted her a 5-year Order rather than the standard one-year.

The second case involved a woman charged with Assault 4 DV. She appeared before me on a criminal pre-trial calendar with the Prosecutor and her assigned Public Defender. The Prosecutor moved to amend the charge to Disorderly Conduct and was recommending a suspended sentence and unsupervised probation. This is a very common resolution of Domestic Violence charges by the Prosecutor regardless of the gender of the Defendant.

I went through the plea colloquy with the Defendant. The Prosecutor told me it was an agreed recommendation and Defense Counsel concurred. During the Defendant's allocution she explained that the 'victim' in this matter was her now ex-boyfriend and that she had gone over to the house they used to share to get her mail. She had moved out because of his abuse and he was now refusing to give her mail to her.

An argument ensued and the police were called. There was apparently some mutual pushing and shoving and she chose to be the one arrested because she did not want him arrested. While she did not way so directly, I had the distinct impression that she was fearful of the repercussions should he be arrested.

As I listened to her describe the events and why she was pleading guilty, I became persuaded that she was the real victim in this domestic violence situation. None of this information was brought forward by either her attorney or the Prosecutor. Provided that a guilty plea is made knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently, a defendant does have the right to plead guilty. I felt compelled to accept the plea, but refused to accept the sentencing recommendation. I believed that, if I had sentenced this women as agreed to by the attorneys, she would have been victimized again. I deferred sentencing for 6 months with no probation terms other than 'no similar violations' and no fines or court costs.

The NJIDV conference has caused me to think more critically about both direct and indirect effects of domestic violence. I will be pleased to share my insights and the information I received at the conference with my benchmates. Thank you again for the opportunity to attend.

Sincerely,

Judge Jeffrey D. Goodwin
Snohomish County District Court

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Goodwin
Presiding Judge
Snohomish County District Court



**King County
District Court
East Division – Bellevue Courthouse**

585 112th Ave SE
Bellevue, Washington 98004
Telephone: (206) 205-9200
Fax: (206) 296-0589

The Honorable David A. Steiner, Judge

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Re: Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop, New Orleans, LA,
February 8, 2014 – February 16, 2014

To: The Washington State Gender and Justice Commission

I want to thank you all for the scholarship to the above noted New Orleans domestic violence conference. I first attended one of these conferences in 2001. In the following years I worked as a table facilitator, assisting the six students at my tables as they discussed the topics raised during the conferences. Unfortunately, I have not been involved with these conferences since 2006.

Because of the high level of teaching that occurs at these conferences, I wanted to attend again to see how the teaching had evolved in the last eight years. My hope was that the faculty would have new ideas and methods for dealing with domestic violence issues. Instead I learned that the methods of dealing with DV have not changed, rather, the faculty has changed many of their teaching methods. The faculty now presents an even clearer picture of the batterer and the victims of battering. In my opinion, this results in a higher percentage of judicial officers actually understanding DV.

For my part I have decided to institute regular DV reviews for sentenced offenders at 30, 60 and 120 days post sentence. While regular DV reviews are standard in the King County District Court DV Court, they have not been standard in City of Bellevue DV cases.

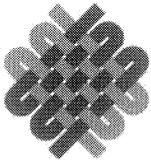
Finally, there were two concepts that I had previously understood but had not been able to articulate as well as the faculty did at the conference:

- Alcohol simply exacerbates domestic violence; its root cause remains one of power and control. (Put another way, many people drink alcohol and don't become violent. The violence occurs when the alcohol reduces inhibitions, revealing the underlying power and control problem.)

- The need of a batterer to exercise power and control over a partner is rooted in a belief of entitlement. This is a learned belief rather than simply a problem of insecurity.

I strongly believe that the Gender and Justice Commission uses funds wisely when it sends judges to these conferences. Again, thank you all for the opportunity to attend.

Judge David Steiner



CASE STATEMENT

Project Respect

Helping Children Forced into Prostitution

Prostituted children - also known as commercially sexually exploited children and youth – have been present in Washington State for many years. The largest concentration of these young victims (mostly girls) is found in metropolitan Seattle (King County); Tacoma (Pierce County); and, Everett (Snohomish County). A 2008 Seattle Human Services Department report estimates that 300 - 500 children – **some as young as 11** - are being forced into prostitution in King County at any given time.

The majority of these young victims come from homes where they were physically or sexually abused or neglected. Vulnerable, alone and often homeless they are lured and manipulated into prostitution by pimps who promise them shelter and safety, love and acceptance, only to prey on their fragility and youth.

It's Time to Change That.



PROJECT RESPECT

Providing a Consistent and Human Response for Sexually Exploited Children.

Until now, no statewide standard has existed when prostituted youth are arrested or identified. Lacking a standard response, law enforcement, the courts and other “first responders” may unintentionally perpetuate the problem thereby offering little hope to these young victims.

In partnership with 150 stakeholders from across the state, **the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)** is coordinating the effort to create a model protocol and to provide training and technical assistance that will help responders and providers know how to identify, engage and better serve prostituted youth.

For the first time in Washington State history, judges; prosecutors; defense attorneys; detention and probation personnel; CPS workers; schools; providers; and others are working together towards a solution that is compassionate and consistent.

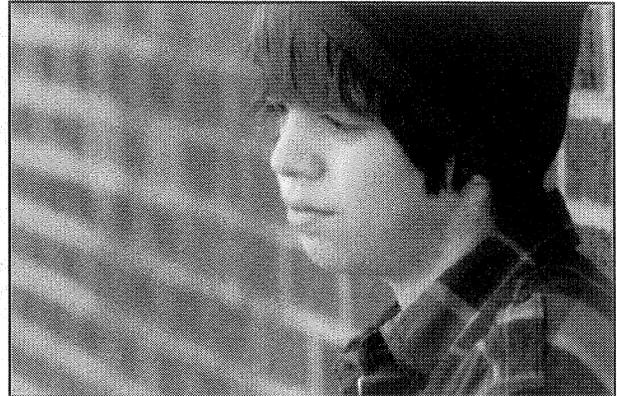
Once completed, the protocol will be available to task forces in regions and communities throughout the state. Local jurisdictions will be able to create versions of the protocol to best meet their needs.

What is a Protocol?

A protocol is a coordinated agreement between agencies about their roles and responsibilities regarding a specific issue, in this case working with prostituted youth.

Why is a protocol important when discussing prostituted youth?

Because it's time that prostituted children are treated as victims, not criminals.



THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH JUSTICE (CCYJ)

One-of-a-kind in the State of Washington

Recognizing the missed opportunities to create better solutions for kids in the foster care and youth justice systems, retired Washington State Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge founded **the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)** in 2006. To date, there is no other organization in Washington State with the singular goal of reforming policies concerning foster care and youth justice. More importantly, our work is creating positive and lasting change for kids in areas like child abuse, truancy and the over-representation of minority youth in the justice system.

PROJECT RESPECT

Improving Youth Lives; Improving Local Communities.

Ultimately, Project Respect will decrease arrests for teen prostitution, reduce the number of youth who return to prostitution, and increase the prosecution of traffickers. It will not only improve the lives of victimized children and youth throughout Washington State, it can become a national model for easing the further traumatization of these young girls and boys. donors. Please contact us for further information.

For more information about Project Respect or CCYJ please contact:

Justice Bobbe J. Bridge
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Terri Kimball
Project Manager
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tkimball@ccyj.org

EDUCATION SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed by: Gender and Justice Commission		
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Plenary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Choice	Time: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 90 Minutes	Limit Class Size? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes How Many?: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Target Audience		
Court Level: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Levels	Job Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-Time <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Career Level: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Judges
Session Information		
Proposed Session Title: Adverse Childhood Experiences: <i>Understanding Risk and Responses to Childhood Trauma</i>		
What does the session address The science behind adverse childhood experiences; how exposure to trauma affects lifetime physical and mental health; and practical suggestions for how judicial officers can increase resiliency.		
Session Description (articulating key issues to be presented): Traumatic childhood experiences, including family violence, are a common pathway to social, emotional and cognitive impairments. It is a significant public health concern in the US. This session will explore different types of childhood trauma and the health implications into adulthood. The workshop will provide practical information for judicial officers to help build resiliency in children.		
What are the learning objectives for your session? (As a result of this session, participants will be able to....) Participants will be able to (1) understand and identify different forms of childhood trauma; (2) draft orders which increase stability and resiliency of children through secure childhood attachments, physical safety and predictability		
Materials		
Are there materials for the session? (i.e., case law, rules, seminal law review articles, etc.) If so, please briefly describe: ACE's study		



EDUCATION SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

Faculty & Planning

Are there individuals you recommend we involve in the session planning (e.g., identified or potential faculty)? Yes No

Please provide name(s), phone number(s), email(s) for potential or recommended faculty.

Dr. Chris Blodgett, PhD Blodgett@wsu.edu
Dr. Brian Johnston, MD 206.744-9507 or bdj@uw.edu
Judge Elizabeth Berns, King County Superior Court Elizabeth.berns@kingcounty.gov
Judge Julia Garrett, King County Superior Court Julia.garrett@kingcounty.gov

Has any preparatory work been completed? Yes No

If so, please describe:

I have seen presentations and/or reviewed Powerpoint presentations by both Dr. Blodgett and Dr. Duncan. Either would be an excellent presenter on the science of how ACE's in childhood affects people for the remainder of their lives.

Both Judge Berns and Judge Garrett have significant family law experience and are respected for their knowledge and understanding of issues around family violence. Either judicial officer would be an excellent presenter on practical suggestions for mitigating the effects of childhood trauma.

Funding

Please estimate any expenses associated with this session:

- Honorarium: \$
- Travel: \$
- Lodging: \$
- Audio Visual: \$
- Other: \$

Are you sponsoring any of the session's expenses? Yes No

If so, what expenses are you sponsoring?

Proposal - Accepted
DMCMA Spring Conference 2014

Sponsored by: Gender & Justice DV Committee

Topic/Title: How Far Would You Go

Potential Faculty: *TBD*

Plenary Choice (1.5 hours)

Description of Session:

The session would be an interactive session with group discussions, scenarios, and speakers looking at unexpected and challenging circumstance that happen in the courtroom, in the courthouse, at the counter, etc. and discuss court decorum, fairness, and strategies for handling unexpected or difficult situations.

Objectives:

Attendees would leave the session with tools and information and would be better able to:

- Assess when something has “gone too far”
- Define your role
- Identify possible response that can mitigate future problems
- Identify potential dilemmas that come into play in each scenario

PLENARY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Two very different styles lent to two very different presentations. Need to take a closer look at how the session is laid out. Possibly move the 'facts' portion to the beginning and the 'behavioral' portion to the end and even shorten it up a bit. Participants wanted more of the useful tools as presented by Judge Wickham. While the behavioral portion was well received, it could be right before the In Her Shoes activity. Need to ensure there is better communication regarding the setup for the activity between support staff and facility staff.

Effectiveness 4.30	Communication Skills 4.47
--------------------	---------------------------

PLENARY – TOWARD A MORE CULTURALLY COMPETENT COURTROOM

Great chemistry within faculty and very well organized. Participants remained engaged throughout the session, especially with their laptops closed as requested at the beginning of the session. Having participants identify their heritage was great was to bring the group together as culture doesn't mean color.

The youth panel was very productive with good interaction. Need to brief the youth to speak clearly into the microphones as they were difficult to understand at times. Would be good to restate objectives when moving onto the next topic.

Effectiveness 4.73	Communication Skills 4.72
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PLENARY - COURT INTERPRETERS

Faculty were knowledgeable, well-spoken, and provided a wealth of information. Audience was engaged throughout. Participants appeared to want a bit more time for the session. Perhaps other types of audience engagement to address ways of troubleshooting issues with interpreters in the court (availability, emergencies, etc.)

Effectiveness 4.50	Communication Skills 4.54
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Child sex trafficking on rise in Clark County

Victim recounts nightmarish experience

By Laura McVicker, Columbian staff writer

Published: November 15, 2011, 6:02 AM



“Jennifer,” a Clark County teen formerly involved in prostitution, watches over Portland’s Southeast 82nd Avenue. The motel in the background was once used by prostitutes including Jennifer; it’s now under new management and Portland police say it has not been named in any recent reports of sex trafficking. (Troy Wayrynen/The Columbian)



Brianna, 19, narrowly escaped being trafficked in 2009 after meeting a man who lured her to Seattle. Two years later, she said she’s still fighting with trust issues, but is finding purpose in studying to become a nurse. (Troy Wayrynen/The Columbian)



Jennifer walks along Southeast 82nd Avenue near motels and strip clubs where she was lured into dancing and turning tricks. Now 16, the former Clark County girl was sexually trafficked, starting at age 13. Her name is not given to protect her from her former pimp, who is still at large. (Troy Wayrynen/The Columbian)

Jennifer knows the everyday details of being a teenager in rural Clark County: keeping up with grades, answering to a protective mother and sneaking out to college-age parties.

She also knows the grisly life of selling herself on Southeast 82nd Avenue in Portland — for a pimp she thought was her first love.

Just 13 when she met him at a party in Vancouver, Jennifer was attracted to his charisma, good looks and sense of style. He was older — 18 or 19 — which made it all the more exciting, she recalled.

For the first two months, he was sweet and charming. One day, though, things changed.

"I've done all these nice things for you. Now it's time to pay me back," he told her.

She first told him no, but he threatened to kill her and her family if she didn't comply. So she reluctantly agreed and entered a world of prostitution, cocaine and strip clubs.

A minor and the victim of numerous sex crimes, Jennifer's identity is not being disclosed; her first name was changed for her protection because her pimp is still at large and the criminal investigation against him is still open. She represents one of dozens of victims of child sex trafficking in Clark County, a crime believed to be rampant in Portland but one that's only gained attention here in the past few years.

Over the past three years, police in Clark County have seen child sex trafficking emerge as one of the major crimes to watch. It's no longer just a Portland problem. Fueled by online ads, johns and girls will routinely travel between Vancouver and Portland for "dates," making the crime a regional issue.

In Clark County, police estimate about 50 children are being sold for sex, compared with 150 to 200 in Portland. Those estimates could be lower than the reality, police said, because many victims don't self-report.

"If you would have asked me three years ago about child sex trafficking (in Clark County), I would say, 'You're crazy,'" said Clark County sheriff's Sgt. Duncan Hoss. "I was pretty amazed at how big the prostitution world was in general. It's really the upcoming industry."

Narrow escape

Those who fall victim to child sex trafficking don't all fit the cliché of being runaways or foster children, police said.

Another girl, Brianna, narrowly escaped being trafficked in December 2009. A star athlete and honor student, she met her would-be pimp when he stopped at the restaurant she worked at in La Center.

Initially persuading her to come to Seattle to party with college-age boys, he had other plans in mind. He coaxed her to dance two nights at a strip club and then hand over most of the money to him. When he urged her to come to Arizona with him to make more money selling her body, Brianna's ex-boyfriend intervened, alerting her family and law enforcement.

Brianna, now a 19-year-old college student, said the ordeal made a lasting impression on how she can trust people now.

"It's hard to befriend anyone my age," she said. "They just don't get it. It's just like I have had to grow up a lot in the last few years."

Six months prior to Brianna's ordeal, Hoss and Vancouver police Sgt. John Chapman said they were blind to the problem of trafficking. That's when, at the nudging of Portland police detectives, police conducted a special investigation of hotels along Chkalov Drive in east Vancouver. Expecting to uncover a drug ring, instead they found evidence of human trafficking.

Chapman and Hoss dug more. They underwent a training session that year put on by the Oregon Human Trafficking Task Force and began meeting with Shared Hope International, a Vancouver organization that combats global sexual slavery. Then, that October, Vancouver police participated in the FBI's sting, Operation Cross Country, along with other law enforcement agencies in the metro area.

The results were surprising. Vancouver authorities recovered two juvenile sex workers — the same number as found in Portland.

The figures, however, weren't surprising to Portland police.

"We encounter them significantly moving between Portland and Vancouver," said Portland police Sgt. Mike Geiger. "It's a very easy drive from Vancouver to the Portland area. It's not a static kind of circumstance."

With this new awareness has come harsher penalties for pimps and johns in Washington. In 2010, Linda Smith, former congresswoman and founder of Shared Hope International, successfully championed a bill to more than double the sentencing range for promotion of commercial sexual abuse of a minor, from 21 to 44 months to 93 to 318 months. For buyers of sex, the penalties increased to 21 to 144 months, up from one to 68 months under former sentencing guidelines.

Still, police and civic leaders say there's much more to be done, namely resources for the juveniles.

There are no safe houses for victims in Washington or Oregon, something crucial for girls trying to escape the prostitution lifestyle and the grip of their pimp.

"We're making steps," Hoss said. "We're just not quite there with the whole package yet."

Then and now

Chapman and Hoss said that before their training, detectives weren't aware of the warning signs of trafficking. They'd received reports about frequent runaway girls, often traveling with older men, but wouldn't view it as a possible child sex trafficking case.

Other occurrences, like a girl receiving expensive jewelry or other lavish gifts from an older man, also weren't thought of as warning signs. Now, Chapman said, detectives and patrol officers know what to look for.

Chapman also investigates the crime by trolling online ads of sex workers. His department also receives referrals from juvenile probation counselors and from organizations such as the YWCA Clark County and Oregon Sexual Assault Resource Center.

A boost for law enforcement was the addition of Kay Vail, a Clark County juvenile probation counselor now fully devoted to child sex trafficking cases, thanks to a federal grant.

Vail counsels a small group of girls (so far, there have been no identified male victims in Clark County). Those girls came through the system as runaways or after being charged with a crime. If they say they were trafficked, probation officials will refer the cases to Vail.

Vail said she sees a lot of similarity between cases. Girls who are addicted to drugs and alcohol or in foster care are especially prone to becoming prostitutes. But, she said, she also has been surprised at how far-reaching the crime can be. She's counseled girls who were straight-A students and came from a good home.

One of the key traits in the victims, she has observed, is vulnerability. They are girls who can be groomed easily by the pimps — those who are especially responsive to compliments, expensive gifts and attention.

"A lot of (the pimps) start out as the boyfriend," she said.

That poses the same setbacks as domestic violence victims: They are emotionally attached to their abusers and often don't want to pursue prosecution against them, she said.

"Sometimes they feel very alienated," Vail said. "A lot of times, they start out way tough" and she has to break through a barrier.

Long-term support is exactly what police, social workers and Smith of Shared Hope say is missing in the fight against child sex trafficking.

Vail estimates that about 80 percent of her girls have stable homes. Still, many victims need an anonymous, secure place to go.

Smith said those safe havens are rare; there are only a few in the United States specified for trafficking victims.

Across the river, Janus Youth Programs helped the Oregon Sexual Assault Resource Center secure funding for seven beds at an undisclosed location. That's a small step in the right direction, said Esther Nelson, program manager for SARC's commercially sexually exploited children division. "Most of them are living in very unsafe situations," she said.

Jennifer's story

By all accounts, Jennifer's life was far from dangerous until the eighth grade. She was good student, receiving As and Bs, and had several friends at her Clark County middle school.

A striking 16-year-old girl with cropped hair and steely eyes, she sat in a coffee shop on a recent afternoon with Sgt. Chapman and her mother, and shared her story.

Jennifer said her ordeal started out like this: One night, she sneaked away from home to a party, where she met the man who later became her pimp. "He was cute. He had nice watches," she said. "He was like LL Cool J." She was 13 at the time.

Without telling her mother, Jennifer began dating the man — until it suddenly turned dark.

“It was a few months until I realized it wasn’t a relationship and he had other girls,” she said. “I started lying to myself and saying, ‘He did this (for me), so I’ll do this’” for him.

She started meeting men for “dates” and working Portland’s 82nd Avenue strip. Her rate was \$100 an hour, which would all go to him. She became addicted to cocaine at age 14.

Jennifer’s mother said she saw the change in her daughter, but she had no idea about the pimp. “I thought she was just acting out because (Jennifer’s father and I) were divorcing,” she said. “It would be 8 or 9 at night and she wouldn’t be home from school.”

At first, Jennifer would tell her mom she was spending the weekend at a friend’s house, and then sneak to her pimp’s apartment. Then, she started running away for longer periods.

One night an officer broke the news to Jennifer’s mom. He told her mom to look at a certain website and scan the ads of sex workers. In disbelief, her mom looked, but couldn’t find her daughter.

Meanwhile, Jennifer told her pimp she didn’t want to work for him anymore. After an argument that including him slapping her, he kicked her out of his apartment.

Jennifer was found by an officer wandering Portland’s 82nd Avenue. The officer took her home. But a fight with her mom over her cellphone, in which she assaulted her mother, landed her in juvenile hall.

She was referred to probation counselor Vail, who gave her a book, “Renting Lacy,” about the life of one child sex worker. Vail helped her start breaking down her walls.

Then, in June 2010, her location was leaked to her pimp. One of his friends came to where she was staying and beat and sexually assaulted her.

Her attacker was convicted and sent to prison.

But Jennifer’s pimp is still at large. For her protection, Shared Hope found and sent Jennifer to a girl’s school on the East Coast. She spent nine months there before coming home in August. Her family now lives in Oregon.

Since being home, Jennifer is working to obtain her GED and wants to use her experience to help other victims.

“Many girls think I’m a criminal for doing those things,” she said. “Telling anyone is like suicide.”

Jennifer and her mom both agree she has a long way to go in the healing process. When she gets nervous, she sucks her thumb and tries to laugh at the circumstances, while her mom cries.

The process of recovery can take years, acknowledged Brianna. Her heart goes out to Jennifer.

Looking back on herself in her high school years, Brianna thinks girls are especially vulnerable because they’re still sorting out their identity. She thinks finding direction is a key to moving on.

“Your life comes with purpose,” she said. “The number one thing is finding self-respect for yourself and finding something that makes you purposeful.”

Brianna said she is finding that purpose by volunteering for Shared Hope and in her school studies; she plans to become a nurse. It’s an ongoing process.

“My life has just completely changed for the better,” she said.

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The Seattle Times
Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes

Local News

Originally published Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:04 PM

Bill would erase prostitution conviction from record

A bill that would vacate prostitution convictions for women trying to rebuild their lives is one of several addressing human trafficking.

By Ashley Stewart

Seattle Times Olympia bureau

Danielle Goodwin says a victim shouldn't be punished.

Police "who were meant to protect me threw me in jail as if this was a life I chose."

"I didn't," she told members of the state Senate Law and Justice Committee at a hearing Monday on a bill that would vacate prostitution convictions for women who are trying to rebuild their lives. It is one of several bills in the Legislature this year that address human trafficking.

Goodwin said she never wanted to be a prostitute.

Neither did Noel Gomez, who was 16 when the man she called her boyfriend forced her into prostitution.

Five years later, she got away from him. But she said it was difficult to get away from that way of life.

"I didn't know anything else. I didn't think I could live in the real world or do a real job," she said.

For Gomez, it meant 10 more years working as an escort and in strip clubs. Today, she advocates for other victims of human trafficking and prostitution through the Organization for Prostitution Survivors, which she co-founded.

Many young women trying to rebuild their lives are burdened by prostitution convictions. As many as 500 teenagers, some as young as 11, are forced to work as prostitutes in King County.

Most job and housing applications require background checks, and people with prostitution convictions often are turned away.

"It's a huge barrier," said Gomez, who still has a charge on her record from 1991.

House Bill 1292, which passed in the state House 94-1, would allow victims to petition a judge to clear their criminal records of prostitution-related convictions.

Rep. Tina Orwall, D-Des Moines, is prime sponsor of the measure. "It's a good next step for us as we're trying again to help these young women rebuild their lives," she said.

The bill could go a long way toward helping women stay off the streets, said Melissa Farley, founder of the San Francisco-based Prostitution Research and Education, a national organization committed to abolishing prostitution and providing alternatives, including medical care for prostitutes.

In many U.S. cities, there is a 75 percent overlap between homelessness and prostitution, she said.

Former SeaTac Police Chief Jim Graddon testified in support of the bill. Law-enforcement officials, he said, are starting to think of prostitutes as victims and not criminals.

“The true victims are those who are forced into this form of slavery by others who would take advantage of them,” he said.

No Senate action has been taken on the bill.

Several bills relating to human trafficking are moving through the Legislature this session.

House Bill 2644 is aimed at protecting immigrants from human trafficking and other forms of forced labor by criminalizing coercion of involuntary servitude.

Passed in the state House 87-10, the measure makes it a crime to force someone into performing labor by withholding or threatening to withhold or destroy immigration documents or by threatening to tell law enforcement that someone is in the United States illegally.

House Bill 1791 would designate human trafficking as a sex offense and require traffickers to register as sex offenders. The state House unanimously passed the measure.

In 2003, Washington became the first state to pass a law criminalizing human trafficking.

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The New York Times | <http://nyti.ms/1g7k634>

POLITICS

More Federal Privileges to Extend to Same-Sex Couples

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Tools

By MATT APUZZO FEB. 8, 2014

Article Tools Sponsored By

WASHINGTON — The federal government will soon treat married same-sex couples the same as heterosexual couples when they file for bankruptcy, testify in court or visit family in prison.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. was preparing to issue policies aimed at eliminating the distinction between same-sex and opposite-sex married couples in the federal criminal justice system, according to a speech given at a Saturday event organized by a prominent gay-rights group.

“In every courthouse, in every proceeding and in every place where a member of the Department of Justice stands on behalf of the United States, they will strive to ensure that same-sex marriages receive the same privileges, protections and rights as opposite-sex marriages,” Mr. Holder’s said.

The changes were set in motion last year when the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional to refuse federal benefits to married same-sex couples, a ruling that Mr. Holder supported.

Gay-rights advocates welcomed the changes but had hoped Mr. Holder would use his address before the Human Rights Campaign to announce that the president would sign an order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation.

“That would be big,” said Gary Buseck, legal director for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

Since the Supreme Court ruling in June, the Obama administration has rewritten federal rules to allow same-sex couples to file taxes together and receive

Medicare and other benefits reserved for married couples. Mr. Holder has been the public face of those efforts and has made championing gay rights one of the central messages of his tenure.

“These issues are very much at the center of this administration’s civil rights legacy,” said Ian S. Thompson, who works on gay and lesbian issues for the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington.

Speaking before Sweden’s Parliament a few days ago, Mr. Holder called fighting for gay and lesbian rights one of “the defining civil rights challenges of our time.”

The remarks on Saturday by Mr. Holder, the first black attorney general, cast the gay-rights movement as a continuation of the civil rights efforts of the 1960s.

“As all-important as the fight against racial discrimination was then, and remains today, know this: My commitment to confronting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity runs just as deep,” he said.

The government estimates that more than 1,100 federal regulations, rights and laws touch on, or are affected by, marital status. With a memo on Monday, Mr. Holder plans to make several of those provisions apply equally to gay and straight couples.

In court cases and criminal investigations, for example, same-sex couples will be covered under what is known as the spousal privilege, a rule that says spouses cannot be forced to testify against each other. The Bureau of Prisons will extend the same visitation rights to married same-sex couples that it does to opposite-sex couples, Mr. Holder said.

The Justice Department will also recognize same-sex couples when determining eligibility for programs like the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, which pays people who were injured or made sick by the 2001 terrorist attacks. Same-sex spouses of police killed in the line of duty will also be eligible for federal benefits.

The federal rules have no effect on state laws. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia recognize same-sex marriages.

Challenges to bans on same-sex marriage are under way in several states, including Utah. A federal judge there said in December that the state’s ban was unconstitutional, but the Supreme Court put that decision on hold while an appeal played out.

Between those rulings, about 1,300 couples got marriage licenses in Utah. Last month, Mr. Holder said the federal government would recognize those marriages.

Opponents of same-sex marriage accused Mr. Holder of overstepping his authority in that case. Mr. Buseck, meanwhile, said the Obama administration could do more, such as the executive order on discrimination, to leave a civil rights legacy.

A version of this article appears in print on February 9, 2014, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: More Federal Privileges to Extend to Same-Sex Couples.

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<http://nyti.ms/1iwbG6b>


THE OPINION PAGES | EDITORIAL

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The Homogeneous Federal Bench

<http://nyti.ms/1eZO9Gs>

Tools

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD FEB. 6, 2014

Article Tools Sponsored By

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in a dissent from a 2007 Supreme Court decision that made it harder for women to sue employers for pay discrimination, suggested that the court's majority was not in "tune with the realities of the workplace." Her background as general counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union, where she had co-founded the Women's Rights Project in 1972, surely informed her thinking. Unfortunately, that kind of experience is both less common and more controversial on the federal bench today. If she were being considered for a seat on the court these days, Justice Ginsburg told an audience in 2011, "my A.C.L.U. connection would probably disqualify me."

But even though some senators think it's politically incorrect to say so, a judge's experience and personal history are, at times, critical to how she or he approaches the job. Given this reality, the makeup of the judiciary should reflect as much as possible the public whose cases come before it. For a long time, most of the attention to increasing diversity has focused on race, ethnicity and gender, where progress has been slow but incremental.

Equally important is diversity of professional experience, which gets less attention. Regrettably, under the Obama administration, federal judges continue to be drawn overwhelmingly from the ranks of prosecutors and corporate lawyers. This deprives the courts of crucial perspectives and reduces public trust in the justice system.

According to a report issued Thursday by Alliance for Justice, about 85 percent of Mr. Obama's nominees to the federal bench have been corporate attorneys or prosecutors, or both, in some cases. Fewer than 4 percent have worked as lawyers in public-interest organizations. And while 43 percent of his

nominees to the federal trial courts were previously state or federal prosecutors, only 15 percent were public defenders. At the appellate level, only 4 out of 56 nominees were public defenders and 21 were prosecutors.

Professional diversity on the federal bench was once more valued. In a 1992 tribute to Justice Thurgood Marshall, Justice Byron White spoke of the benefit of working with a jurist who, in addition to being the first black justice, had also been a renowned civil-rights lawyer. "Thurgood brought to the conference table years of experience in an area that was of vital importance to our work, experience that none of us could claim to match," Justice White said. "Thurgood could tell us the way it was."

Recently, Mr. Obama has worked to strike a better balance. In January, he submitted four district court nominees with underrepresented backgrounds, including a former public defender and a solo practitioner in criminal defense.

Republicans who are more business-friendly and like to appear tough on crime will continue to fight such nominees. But, for now at least, their resistance has been thwarted by the elimination of the Senate filibuster for lower-level federal judges. That is how Mr. Obama succeeded in getting Cornelia Pillard — a law professor and former lawyer for the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Educational Fund — confirmed to the federal appeals court in Washington, the second-most powerful court after the Supreme Court.

There are currently more than 50 federal judicial vacancies without a nominee. With control of the Senate looming in the midterm elections, Mr. Obama should act quickly to nominate a more professionally diverse cast of judges while he can.

Correction: February 7, 2014

An earlier version of this editorial misidentified Cornelia Pillard's former employer. It was the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Educational Fund, not the N.A.A.C.P.

Meet The New York Times's Editorial Board »

A version of this editorial appears in print on February 7, 2014, on page A22 of the New York edition with the headline: The Homogeneous Federal Bench.

A closer look reveals women's inequality remains

The Olympian

March 7, 2014

On the day before International Women's Day, let's survey the social landscape from a perch high up on the Capitol Campus.

A woman recently governed this state for nearly a decade. Women hold a majority on the state Supreme Court. All three Thurston County commissions are women. Women hold four of the eight seats on the Superior Court bench. Dozens more women serve as heads of state agencies, on city councils and as executive directors of important organizations.

At the national level, Janet Yellen chairs the Federal Reserve Board. Europeans recognize Angela Merkel as the region's most powerful leader among a cadre of male counterparts.

From this perspective, we can see enormous progress toward full equality for women in the last 50 years.

But let's look a little closer.

American women still earn, on average, 77 cents for every dollar men earn. For women of color, the gap is even larger. And although the gap is smaller for younger, more educated women, it is a yawning gulf for less educated single moms.

In America, it took a 7-year-old girl to point out to Lego that young women also play with the company's toys, and that its Lego people were promoting gender stereotypes.

Every day in the U.S., three women die at the hands of their husbands or boyfriends. In Thurston County, it's not uncommon for a woman's experience to include some type of abuse, and the number of survivors of domestic violence and rape who seek help and shelter from nonprofits such as SafePlace is growing.

The wielding of domestic power swings more unequally around the world, particularly in nations where rape remains a weapon of war and where girls and women lack fundamental legal and human rights.

The United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women reports that if current rates of marriage continue through 2020, more than 50 million girls under the age of 15 will become child brides.

The struggle for women's rights has always required incredible courage. To win the vote in this country, women chained themselves to the White House fence, were arrested and were brutally force fed when they went on a hunger strike.

Just last year, a young Pakistani, Malala Yousafzai, bravely spoke out for girls' right to an education. Even after the Taliban tried to assassinate her, Yousafzai continues to champion those rights.

The message of International Women's Day remains both relevant and urgent. International development experts have long recognized that educating women and girls is the most effective strategy for reducing population growth and poverty, and for improving health and opportunity for their children.

Women's equality literally saves lives.

We all need to celebrate the progress we've made – and keep working until all women are safe, proud and prosperous.

Read more here: <http://www.theolympian.com/2014/03/07/3020959/a-closer-look-reveals-womens-inequality.html#storylink=cpy>

2014 Legal Executives Summit

Join our Host Committee and other leaders from the legal community at our next Legal Executives Diversity Summit (formerly known as the Managing Partners Summit) hosted by the Washington Initiative for Diversity.

The 2014 Legal Executives Diversity Summit will focus on meaningful retention strategies that support your diverse staff, as well as strengthening their career development within your organization.

EVENT INFORMATION

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$150 per attendee

Ethics CLE credits pending

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP's Seattle Office
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 2200
Seattle, Washington 98101

REGISTRATION

<http://www.initiativefordiversitywa.org/register-today-for-2014-legal-executives-summit/>

HOST COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Justices

Barbara Madsen Chief Justice, Wash. State Supreme Court and Vice Chair, Wash. Initiative for Diversity
Steven González Justice, Wash. State Supreme Court

In-House Counsel

Kelly W. Clark, Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer, Holland America Line
James Doane, Costco Wholesale Corporation and Chair, WSBA Corporate Counsel Section
Lucy Lee Helm, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for Starbucks Corporation
Karen Jones, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for HR Law, Microsoft
Bradley Toney, United Online/Classmates Media Corp and President, Wash. Chapter, Association of Corporate Counsel

Law Firm Partners

Robert A. Blackstone, Partner-in-Charge, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Melanie K. Curtice, Managing Partner, Stoel Rives LLP
Philip Guess, Managing Partner, K&L Gates
Portia Moore, Partner and Diversity Chair, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Kelly Twiss Noonan, Managing Shareholder, Stokes Lawrence

**WASHINGTON STATE
WOMEN JUDICIAL OFFICERS
2014**

JUDGES/COMMISSIONERS COURT LEVEL	WOMEN	TOTAL *	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Judges			
Supreme Court	5	9	56%
Court of Appeals	9	22	41%
Superior Court	71	189	38%
District Court	39		
Municipal Court	33	209	34%
TOTAL JUDGES	159	429	37%

WOMEN COMPRISE 37% OF THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON STATE.

*These counts reflect names provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts for the *Washington Court Directory*. (Vacant positions are not included.) District and municipal court judges are totaled as one group since some district court judges also serve in municipal courts.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES/COMMISSIONERS

Justices (5 of 9)

Barbara A. Madsen
Susan J. Owens
Mary E. Fairhurst
Debra L. Stephens
Sheryl Gordon McCloud

Commissioner (1 of 1)

Narda Pierce

COURT OF APPEALS

Judges (9 of 22 Judges)

Mary Kay Becker
Linda Lau
Ann Schindler

DIVISION I

Commissioners (5 of 7)

Masako Kanazawa
Mary S. Neel

DIVISION II

J. Robin Hunt
Jill Johanson
Linda CJ Lee
Lisa Worswick

Aurora Bearse

DIVISION III

Teresa C. Kulik
Laurel H. Siddoway

Joyce J. McCown
Monica V. Wasson

	County	Superior Court Judge	SC Commissioner	District Court Judge	Municipal Court Judge	DC/MC Commissioner or Magistrate
1	Adams			Adalia A. Hille		
2	Asotin/ Columbia/ Garfield		Jane Richards			
3						
4						
5	Benton/ Franklin	Carrie L. Runge	Jerri Potts Jacqueline I. Stam	Katherine A. Butler		
6						
7	Chelan/ Douglas	Lesley A. Allan Alicia H. Nakata	Judith L. McCauley Jill R. Wise	Nancy A. Harmon Judith L. McCauley		
8						
9	Clallam County					
10	Clark	Barbara D. Johnson Suzan L. Clark	Dayann Liebman Carin Schienberg Jennifer Snider	Sonya Langsdorf Kelli E. Osler	Sonya Langsdorf Kelli E. Osler	Kristen Parcher (C)
11						
12						
13	Cowlitz	Marilyn K. Haan	Andra Blondin Tierra A. Busby			
14	Ferry/ Stevens/ Pend Oreille / Pend Oreille					
15	Grant County		Melissa K. Chlarson	Janis Whitener-Moberg	Janis Whitener-Moberg	
16	Grays Harbor					
17	Island/ San Juan	Vickie I. Churchill				Linda B. Kipling D (C)
18						
19	Jefferson			Jill I. Landes		
20	King	Susan H. Amini Beth M. Andrus Monica J. Benton Elizabeth J. Berns Regina S. Cahan Cheryl B. Carey Susan J. Craighead Andrea A. Darvas Theresa B. Doyle Joan E. DuBuque Julia Garratt Helen L. Halpert Hollis R. Hill Laura C. Inveen Barbara Linde Barbara A. Mack Laura Gene Middaugh Suzanne Parisien Kimberly D. Prochnau Judith H. Ramseyer Jean A. Rietschel Mary E. Roberts	Nancy Bradburn-Johnson Bonnie Canada-Thurston Hollis C. Holman Jacqueline Jeske Jennie Laird Meg Sassaman	Marcine S. Anderson Johanna Bender Janet E. Garrow Corinna D. Harn Anne C. Harper Linda K. Jacke Eileen A. Kato Susan L. Mahoney Victoria M. Seitz Elizabeth D Stephenson Donna K. Tucker	Veronica Alicea-Galvan Elizabeth M. Bejarano Melanie Dane Karen Donohue Michelle K. Gehlsen Judith Hightower Kari K. Jorgensen C. Kimi Kondo Linda S. Portnoy Rebecca C. Robertson Kimberley A. Walden	Lisa Leone (M) Susan Noonan (C)

	County	Superior Court Judge	SC Commissioner	District Court Judge	Municipal Court Judge	DC/MC Commissioner or Magistrate
20	King (Cont)	Palmer Robinson Carol A. Schapira Catherine Shaffer Lori Kay Smith Mariane C. Spearman Julie Spector Mary Yu				
21	Kitsap	Jeanette Dalton Jennifer A. Irvine Forbes Anna M. Laurie Leila Mills Sally F. Olsen		Marilyn G. Paja	Tarry S. Decker Sara L. McCulloch	
22	Kittitas	Frances P. Chmelewski				
23	Klickitat					
24	Lewis		Tracy Lolocono Mitchell	Wendy Tripp		Wendy Tripp (C)
25	Lincoln					
26	Mason	Amber L. Finlay Toni A. Sheldon	Lynn K. Hayes Patricia L. Morgan	Victoria Meadows		
27	Okanogan			Heidi E. Smith		
28	Pacific/			Elizabeth E. Penoyar		
29	Wahkiakum					
30	Pierce	Stephanie A. Arend Vicki L. Hogan Elizabeth P. Martin Kathryn J. Nelson Susan K. Serko Katherine M. Stolz Kitty-Ann van Doorninck	Mary E. Dicke Meagan M. Foley Diana Lynn Kiesel Robyn A. Lindsay Karena K. Kirkendoll Wendy Zicht	Karla E. Buttorff Judy Rae Jasprica Margaret Vail Ross Claire Sussman	Sandra L. Allen Andrea L. Beall Marjorie Tedrick Elizabeth Verhey	
31	Skagit	Susan K. Cook	Karen Lerner			Dianne E. Goddard (C)
32	Skamania					Karen S. Wyninger (C)
33	Snohomish	Mary Beth Dingley Janice E. Ellis Ellen J. Fair Anita L. Farris Millie M. Judge Linda C. Krese	Jacalyn D. Brudvik Susan Gaer Tracy G. Waggoner	Tam T. Bui Beth Fraser Patricia L. Lyon Carol A. McRae	Lorrie Towers Laura Van Slyck	
34	Spokane	Ellen Kalama Clark Tari S. Eitzen Maryann C. Moreno Kathleen M. O'Connor Annette S. Plese Linda G. Tompkins	Rachelle Anderson Tami Chavez Michelle L. Fessa	Sara B. Derr Debra R. Hayes Patti Connolly Walker Donna Wilson	Mary C. Logan Jennifer Fassbender Tracy A. Staab Michelle Szambelan	Terri K. Cooper (C)

	County	Superior Court Judge	SC Commissioner	District Court Judge	Municipal Court Judge	DC/MC Commissioner or Magistrate
35	Stevens			Gina Tveit		
36	Thurston	Ann Hirsch Carol Murphy Christine Schaller Lisa L. Sutton	Indu Thomas Rebekah Zinn	Kalo Wilcox		
37	Walla Walla			Kristen E. Hedine		
38	Whatcom	Deborra Garrett	Martha V. Gross		Debra Lev	
39	Whitman				Marilynn Markley	Marilynn Markley (C)
40	Yakima	Susan L. Hahn Ruth E. Reukauf	Gayle M. Harthcock		Susan C. Arb Kathleen E. Hitchcock Debbie Mendoza Kelley C. Olwell Susan J. Woodard	