



Washington State Minority and Justice Commission (WSMJC)
Friday, February 1, 2013, (8:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
Washington State Bar Association
1325 4th Avenue, 6th Floor, Seattle, Washington



MEETING NOTES

Commission Members Present:

Justice Charles W. Johnson, Co-Chair
Judge Mary I. Yu, Co-Chair
Justice Debra Stephens
Jeffrey A. Beaver
Ann E. Benson
Robert C. Boruchowitz
Judge Vickie I. Churchill
Jennifer Davis-Sheffield
Judge Deborah D. Fleck
Bonnie J. Glenn
Russell Hauge
Carla C. Lee
Sandra E. Madrid, Ph.D.
Karen W. Murray
P. Diane Schneider
Jeffrey C. Sullivan
Judge Mariane C. Spearman
Judge Gregory D. Sypolt
Judge Vicki J. Toyohara
Judge Dennis D. Yule

Members Not Present:

Callie Dietz
Uriel Iñiguez
Commissioner Joyce J. McCown
Judge LeRoy McCullough

AOC Staff Present:

Kathy Bradley, JIS Liaison
Myra Downing
Monto Morton

Guests from the Washington State Bar Association:

Joy Eckwood, Diversity Program Manager
Tracy Flood, Board of Governors
Paula Littlewood, Executive Director
Megan McNally, Director of Advancement & Chief Development Officer
Michelle Radosevich, President

Other Guests:

Jack Guthrie, SU School of Law 3L Student
John Yasutake (Representing Rosa M. Melendez)

WSBA Diversity in the Legal Profession Presentation

The Washington State Bar Association Membership Study was presented to the Commission. A professional research and evaluation firm, TrueBearing LLC, conducted the study from September 2011 through February 2012. The study captured significant data from the WSBA membership and is designed to address and improve the legal profession in Washington. Information about the study can be found on the WSBA Web site at:
<http://www.wsba.org/About-WSBA/Diversity/Membership-Study>.

King County Bar Association Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon

Dr. Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," was the guest speaker at the King County Bar Association Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Luncheon which was held January 18, 2013. The event can be viewed on the King County Bar Association Web site at
<http://www.kcba.org/newsevents/kcbaevents/mlk/video13.aspx> and on You Tube at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lv6vXY7ZF8E> (Dr. Alexander's speech starts at minute 51:00.)

2013 Judicial College

Judge Gregory Sybolt reported that the cultural competency session presented at the 2013 Judicial College was very successful. Fifty new judicial officers attended the session. The session was presented by Judge LeRoy McCullough, Benita Horn, Peggy Nagae, and himself. This year featured Ms. Tayonna Gault and Mr. Joe'l Harris sharing their experience with the juvenile justice system. The faculty worked with the R.O.Y.A.L. (Raise Our Youth as Leaders) organization. The session was well received and judicial officers seemed actively engaged with faculty, panel guests, and workgroup session discussions on scenarios that were based on real court cases.

Commission Strategic Plan

Myra Downing presented a draft of a two-year strategic plan to Commission members to begin the discussion and decision-making process. The main discussion concerned clarifying what committees/workgroups are needed, and what would be the goal and possible activities for each committee. Despite the conversation at the retreat, the Commission needs to organize itself around various workgroups or committee structures. Below are the committees/workgroups and their possible projects for discussion:

Executive Committee

Members consist of the chairs of each committee who meet to discuss governance issues that arise.

Education Committee

- Goal – Develop educational opportunities for judicial officers, court administrators, and others of the justice system.
- Possible Activity – Develop an educational session for judges on the change in pretrial release rules and risk assessment tool.

Juvenile Justice Committee

- Goal – Address disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the justice system.
- Possible Activity – Plan a presentation to the Washington State Supreme Court on juvenile justice.

Legislation Committee

This is a new Committee being proposed for the MJCOM. It was proposed that the Committee ensures that bills of interest are reviewed and, when appropriate, comment on the legislation. It was recommended that the MJCOM not take positions on any legislation. Myra will send out an inquiry regarding interest in establishing and/or serving on this Committee.

Outreach Committee

Commission members proposed combining the work of several committees into one. Those committees were Meeting and Town Halls, Collaboration, and Outreach. Members of these three committees will meet and propose an organization structure and a breakdown of activities.

Research Committee

- Goal – Support research pertinent to the work of the Commission. Myra will send out a request for Committee members.
- Possible Activities:
 - Conduct a study of the perceptions of the justice system in Washington State.
 - Maintain current demographics of judicial officers.

- Assess the effectiveness of the change in pretrial release rules and the use of the risk assessment tool.
- Review research, programs, projects, and educational sessions conducted by other organizations/states.

Workforce Diversity Committee

- Goal – Ensure a diverse workforce within the court community.
- Possible Activities:
 - Develop and produce a follow up or update to the “Building a Diverse Court: Recruitment and Retention Manual.”
 - Work with the Washington State Bar Association in addressing what was learned from their recent Membership Study.
 - Develop a guidebook on establishing youth and law forums and programs. Note: Margaret Fisher, Administrative Office of the Courts, is developing a report describing the youth and law related programs in Washington State.
 - Continue to support the Judicial Leadership Institute.

The committees will meet and develop project plans for the next two years. The Commission will review these plans as they are developed during the next few meetings. Once there is agreement, the information will be added to the strategic plan document. Each committee is being asked to develop specific goals and projects.

Juvenile Justice Stakeholder Meeting

Carla Lee, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee, reported on the December 20, 2012, meeting of juvenile justice system stakeholders. She stated that there was good attendance of stakeholders and representation from each of the groups listed in the Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System Juvenile Justice Committee recommendations. The stakeholders that attended are taking the recommendations and the requests of the Supreme Court for information about their current and future programs and plans for addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) seriously. She expressed that those who attended the meeting agreed that addressing this issue will take a collaborative effort and a statewide strategic plan.

She also reported that the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) released its data on DMC on December 20th and the information was presented to meeting attendees for discussion.

Judge Yu stated that there is still a need for better data collection. Dr. Carl McCurley, Washington State Center for Court Research, reported and recommended who needed to be involved in the process.

Judge Yu provided documents and a flow chart that explained and illustrated how the Minority and Justice Commission will take a lead role in convening the judicial associations and other entities in addressing DMC and collecting this data.

Judge Yu stated that she recently met with the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA) to listen to their concerns and share the plans of the Commission. Myra will request participation from the Superior Court Judges’ Association (SCJA), the Court Clerks, JCA, and WSCCR on the Data Collection Committee. She will arrange a meeting once the entities have identified their representatives.

Judge Yu announced that Carla Lee will be leaving the Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) in March. She will stay on with the Commission, but they have asked that CCYJ recommend a new Chair for the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Next Commission Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2013, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Seattle University.