



**Washington State Minority and Justice Commission
(WSMJC)**
Friday, October 9, 2015
8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Administrative Office of the Courts, SeaTac
Washington



MEETING NOTES

Commission Members Present

Justice Mary Yu, Co-Chair (via video)
Justice Charles Johnson, Co-Chair
Ms. Manal Al-ansi
Judge Veronica Alicea-Galvan
Judge Lisa Atkinson
Prof. Lori Bannai
Ms. Ann Benson
Prof. Robert Boruchowitz
Mr. Steve Clem (via teleconference)
Judge Linda Coburn
Sgt. Adrian Diaz (via teleconference)
Mr. Mike Diaz
Judge Lisa Dickinson
Judge Theresa Doyle
Ms. Marie Eggart (via teleconference)
Ms. Sara Erickson
Prof. Jason Gillmer
Ms. Bonnie Glenn
Mr. Russell Hauge
Mr. Uriel Iñiguez
Ms. Angela Jones
Ms. Astor Kidane
Ms. Anne Lee
Judge LeRoy McCullough
Ms. Karen Murray
Ms. Harkiran Sekhon
Judge Lori Smith
Mr. Travis Stearns
Justice Debra Stephens
Judge Gregory Sypolt
Ms. Sara Taboada
Mr. Joshua Treybig
Judge Kimberly Walden
Judge Dennis Yule, Ret.

Members Not Present

Mr. Jeffrey Beaver
Prof. William Covington
Ms. Yemi Jackson
Ms. Carla Lee
Commissioner Joyce McCown
Ms. P. Diane Schneider
Mr. John Yasutake

AOC Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the June 12, 2015, meeting were approved.

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

New Membership Guidelines – Proposed Changes to Bylaws

Justice Yu and Justice Johnson discussed proposed amendments to the bylaws regarding membership. Proposed changes include: (1) If you are a member and miss three consecutive meetings, unexcused, then you will be removed from the Commission; (2) In order to ensure members are participating in the work of the Commission, all members must participate in at least one standing or ad hoc committee; (3) the bylaws require 6 meetings per year and there are many Commission sponsored events each year. The chairs would like to be able to deem Commission sponsored events as designated meetings.

There was a motion to adopt the proposed changes. This is a first reading of the changes and the motion will be taken up at the next meeting.

Judge McCullough asked if there was a sub and or ad hoc committee looking into the bylaws and other changes that need to be made to them. It would be good to look at the purpose of the Commission again, particularly looking at the justice system as a whole and not just the courts. There will be an Ad Hoc committee formed to review other potential changes to the bylaws.

Staff Report

Racial Equity and Justice Initiative

The Commission was approached by members of the ATJ Leadership Academy to create a proposal on racial inequity for the ATJ Conference. From that came a discussion about creating something larger than just the education proposals. They found that there wasn't a single entity in the state that focuses on race equity and justice in criminal and legal aid, focusing on where those areas intersect. There was an idea to start an initiative to create an entity or a place where discussions on race and the intersectionality between civil and criminal could take place. The meeting materials included a document that demonstrates the goals, purpose and mission of what the initiative would like to accomplish. The group is now in the process of soliciting stakeholders for the initiative. More information will be going out to inform the Commission. This is meant to be a statewide effort.

Jury Demographic Survey

The Jury Demographic Survey is now underway. Judge Rosen from Seattle Municipal Court has been the major force leading this effort, with support now coming from the Commission. Select courts around the state have been sent a survey with instructions to provide to all who show up for jury duty. The survey is meant to provide a snapshot of juror race demographics, and is modeled off of the U.S. Census. All of the judicial associations have signed off on this project. A workgroup was formed at the meeting to help guide this project on into the future.

Tribal State Court Consortium

This has been an ongoing project for the past three years. It started as an annual meeting at Judicial Conference, and was a collaboration between the Minority and Justice and Gender and Justice Commissions inviting tribal court judges and state court judges together. The purpose was to meet and discuss common issues such as the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Violence Against Women Act, now incorporated are discussions about understanding and honoring each other's courts. This past year we've incorporated two regional meetings in between the annual meetings, which has been very well received. Judge Lori Smith has taken on a lead role in the efforts for this next upcoming year. There have been recent efforts to bring together a

Consortium to assess the needs and common goals of both state and tribal courts. The regional meetings are an effort to get one on one interactions between judges that preside in neighboring jurisdictions.

On another note, our very own Commission Member Judge Lisa Atkinson has recently been named President of the Northwest Intertribal Court System.

Law Student Liaison Orientation

We held an orientation for our new law student liaison positions on September 26 at Seattle University. The orientation featured the genesis and mission of the Minority and Justice Commission. Also discussed was the development of the law student liaison position and expectations. Some of the Commission members were invited to speak with the students. The students will be working on a project that will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

Yakima Valley Youth and Justice Forum

The Yakima Valley Youth and Justice Forum was the biggest Youth and Justice Forum to date, with a total of 280 students registered to attend. Kimberly Bellamy-Thompson from Heritage University in Toppenish, attorneys from LBAW, and Lisa Castilleja from UW Law helped with the overall coordination of the Forum. There was lots of energy and gratitude from students and volunteers who were impacted by this event and how it brought the community together on such a positive note.

Seattle Race Conference

The Commission is presenting the Perceptions of Justice report at the upcoming Seattle Race Conference using the services of Greg Taylor once again. It will be a good opportunity to take the study into the community.

LSAC Grant

We have been moving forward on the grant received from the Law School Admissions Council to pull together all of the Youth and Law Stakeholders from around the state. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together all who are involved in holding and hosting youth and law programming that aims to increase diversity within the profession. Many of these groups of individuals do not know what others are doing and this meeting is an opportunity for all to come together to share a common knowledge of one another's efforts and to hopefully share resources in the future.

Budget

Will be folded into discussion around the committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Juvenile Justice Committee

The Juvenile Justice Workgroup has been in the process of scheduling regular monthly meetings and developing an action agenda. Discussions around potential work of this committee have been great so far. One issue that the group was particularly interested in looking into was juvenile auto-decline. Another issue that the workgroup is interested in looking into are youth between the ages of 8-12 that are referred to the juvenile justice system, as there is not much that is known about 9-11 year olds or the race/ethnicity of that group. Members of the workgroup are working collaboratively to get more data on the topic.

Supreme Court Symposium 2016 – Possible Topics

The date for the Supreme Court Symposium for 2016 is set for May 25th at the Temple of Justice. There were several ideas floated around at the meeting in regards to possible topics for the upcoming symposium. As a reminder, the audience for the Symposium are the members of the Supreme Court.

Potential topics for the Symposium

- Dynamic between police and the community
- School to prison pipeline / Disproportionality in school discipline
- Front-end of the criminal justice system (bail, plea bargaining, misdemeanors, etc.)
- Healthcare and justice (mental health)
- Firearms
- Juvenile auto-decline (treating juveniles as adults)
- Jury diversity

Education Committee

Marie Eggart and Justice Stephens reported back for the Education Committee. The Committee met on two separate occasions and the topics of those two meetings were on judicial education and on court staff education. The meeting that was focused on court staff education focused on education of the front line, i.e. around front desk staff as the first point of contact for customers and the trainings that are offered for that group of individuals. It was recommended that we look into an online module to give a more versatile opportunity to train those who are on the front line. There were discussions around whether the cultural competency trainings we have done in the past could be done via webinar or in an online format because some of the material that is covered requires interaction with participants. It was suggested that the next steps for this would be to resource gather – what trainings do we currently do for court staff? Do they need updating? What trainings are currently offered by other entities or agencies so as to make sure that we are not reinventing the wheel. Check in with Erica Chung about past MJC trainings and also with Trish Kinlow about current trainings that are being done.

Justice Stephens reported on the meeting covering judicial education. Bail is one topic of interest, particularly for the Superior Court Judges. The District and Municipal Court Judges have already had several presentations on bail, and instead would like to focus on court relicensing programs. Justice Stephens would like help in coordinating a session for the Appellate Judges' Conference which will be on the topic of mass incarceration. The date for the Appellate Judges' Conference is April 17.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has updated the Commission's stakeholder list. Goals for next year include finding a new featured artist for the annual poster, producing an annual report, and continuing to monitor and update the Facebook page and website. Bios and pictures of Commission members need to be sent to Cynthia if you have not already done so. Also discussed was the desire to plan meetings in different locations in 2016, locations on the east side of the mountains as well as places to the north or south of King County on I-5.

Workforce Diversity Committee

Bonnie Glenn reported that the committee has been working on two major projects, the LSAC grant and Youth and Law Forum Guidebook. The other project is the Judges of Color reception,

which took place on October 5th. The reception was well attended and the program went very smoothly, Cynthia provided pictures from the event. Judge Galvan reported that reception was well received and she was pleased with the diversity in the room.

National Consortium on Race and Ethic Fairness

Judge Galvan and Judge Smith attended the National Consortium in Buffalo, NY, on behalf of the Commission. They reported that the Consortium was wonderful. Al Sharpton was one of the keynote speakers. One observation was that our state's judicial system is so far ahead and we should acknowledge how progressive we are. A few overarching topics were youth offender alternatives and tribal courts. There were tours of the Underground Railroad and a discussion about a judge who required orders for bounty hunters who were looking for slaves. There was a short history lesson about the water children and the roles the Natives played in the Underground Railroad.

Upcoming Events

On November 19 there will be a book signing event for Enduring Conviction, a book about the life of Fred Korematsu by Professor Lori Bannai.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

Friday, December 4, 2015, from 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. at the Tukwila Community Center.