



MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER – MEETING ROOM A, TUKWILA, WASHINGTON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 (8:45 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.)

JUSTICE MARY YU, CO-CHAIR

JUSTICE CHARLES W. JOHNSON, CO-CHAIR

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Approval of October 9, 2015, Meeting Minutes

CO-CHAIR REPORT

- ✓ ➤ **Staff Changes / Transitions**
- ✓ ➤ **New Membership Guidelines – Vote on amended Bylaws**
- ✓ ➤ **Legislative Members of Color Work Session**
- ✓ ➤ **SCJA Letter Re: LFO Report/Study**

STAFF REPORT

- **13th Annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum**
- **2016 Proposed Meeting Dates:** Feb. 5; April 1; May 25 (Symposium); June 24; Sep. 23; Dec. 2

DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **PRESENTATIONS: Jury Diversity Survey Project** – Judge Steve Rosen, Seattle Municipal Court
- **PRESENTATIONS: Pre-Trial Detention and Bail Reform** – Jaime Hawk, ACLU
- **DISCUSSION: Possible Topics for Supreme Court Symposium (May 25, 2016)**
 - Dynamic of Police & 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
- **Minority and Justice Commission - 25th Year Anniversary**
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- **Juvenile Justice Committee** – Annie Lee ★
- **Education Committee** – Justice Stephens ★
- **Workforce Diversity Committee** – Bonnie Glenn
- **Outreach Committee**
- **Law Student Liaisons** ★
 - Gonzaga
 - Seattle U & UW

ADJOURNMENT



WASHINGTON
COURTS

**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.

**WASHINGTON STATE
MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION
BYLAWS**

PREAMBLE

On October 4, 1990, the Supreme Court established the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission to identify problems and make recommendations to ensure fair and equal treatment in the state courts for all parties, attorneys, court employees and other persons. The Commission was created (1) to examine all levels of the state judicial system in order to particularly ensure judicial awareness of issues affecting persons of color in the judicial system in order to achieve a better quality of justice; and (2) to make recommendations for improvement to the extent it is needed.

ARTICLE I

Purpose

- 1.1 The Minority and Justice Commission is charged with determining whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of Washington and to the extent that bias exists, taking creative steps to overcome it. To the extent that such bias does not exist, the Commission takes creative steps to prevent it.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- 2.1 The Minority and Justice Commission is co-chaired by a Supreme Court Justice, designated by the Chief Justice.
- 2.2 The other co-chair is a Member Chair of the Commission, who shall be elected from the thirty-five (35) Commission members by a majority either when the Commission is renewed by order of the Supreme Court or upon resignation of the Member Chair (Co-chair).
- 2.3 The Commission shall consist of thirty-five (35) members, appointed by the Supreme Court, representing an approximate mix of judges of all levels of court, members of the legal system and private citizens of the State of Washington. Members should be chosen to assure racial, ethnic, gender, cultural and geographic diversity.
- 2.4 Attendance at meetings is expected. If a member misses three (3) consecutive meetings, he or she will be deemed to have resigned from the Commission. If a Commission member knows in advance that she or he is unable to attend three (3) consecutive meetings for any reason, he or she shall notify the Commission Chairs and tender his or her resignation. The Commission Chairs have discretion to choose to accept or decline the resignation.

2.554 All appointments of the thirty-five (35) members shall be for a four (4) year renewable term. Vacancies shall be filled by the Supreme Court upon recommendations made by Commission.

2.665 All AOC Staff on the Commission shall be considered *ex officio* members, and are not counted as part of the thirty-five (35) appointed Commission members.

2.7 All members must participate on at least one (1) of the Sstanding or Ad Hoc committees.

ARTICLE III

Standing Committees

3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Commission co-chair(s) and chair(s) of each standing committee.

3.2 The Commission co-chair(s) shall appoint such standing committees as the work of the Commission shall reasonably require.

3.3 The Commission co-chair(s) shall appoint a chair for each standing committee, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair(s).

ARTICLE IV

Ad Hoc Committees

4.1 The Chair(s) may appoint such ad hoc committees as the work of the Commission shall from time to time require. The Chair(s) shall appoint a chair for such ad hoc committees from among the Commission members, but may staff these committees with non-Commission members, with the advice and consent of a majority of the quorum present when such appointments are made.

ARTICLE V

Quorum

5.1 A quorum shall consist of fifty (50) percent plus one or more of the thirty-five (35) Commission members. Vacancies shall not be considered. A member participating in a meeting by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means approved by the Commission shall be counted in the determination of the quorum.

- 5.2 Commission action shall be by majority vote of the thirty-five (35) Commission members present or participating by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means approved by the Commission, so long as a quorum is present.
- 5.3 In the absence of a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Executive Committee may take contingent action on business the Chair(s) determine to require action by the Commission prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 5.4 No proxy voting shall be allowed.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

- 6.1 The executive director or designee of the Commission shall serve as recording secretary for the Commission.
- 6.2 Commission meetings shall be held at least six (6) times a year. Additional meetings may be scheduled or specially called at the discretion of the Chair(s). Reasonable notice shall be given to each member. Participation in meetings of the Commission may be held by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means approved by the Commission. The co-chairs may designate Commission-sponsored events as meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Special Funding

- 7.1 In addition to such funding as shall be available through the AOC budgeting process, the Commission is authorized to seek and accept funding through appropriate processes and from appropriate sources to carry out Commission projects and purposes. Any funds so obtained shall be administered under proper auditing controls by AOC.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments to Bylaws

- 8.1 These bylaws may be amended or modified at any regular or special Commission meeting, at which a quorum is present, by majority vote. No motion or resolution for amendment may be considered at the meeting in which it is proposed.



WASHINGTON COURTS

Superior Court Judges' Association

Harold D. Clarke, III, President
Spokane County Superior Court
1116 W Broadway Ave
Spokane, WA 99260-0350
(509) 477-5717

Michael T. Downes, President Elect
Snohomish County Superior Court
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 502
Everett, WA 98201-4046
(425) 388-3075

Jeffrey M. Ramsdell
Immediate Past President
King County Superior Court
516 3rd Ave, Rm C-203
Seattle, WA 98104-2361
(206) 477-1379

Bruce I. Weiss, Secretary
Snohomish County Superior Court
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 502
Everett, WA 98201-4046
(425) 388-7335

Marilyn K. Haan, Treasurer
Cowlitz County Superior Court
312 SW 1st Ave, Fl. 2
Kelso WA 98626-1739
(360) 577-3085

Board of Trustees

Lesley A. Allan
Chelan County Superior Court
401 Washington St, Fl. 5
PO Box 880
Wenatchee, WA 98807-0880
(509) 667-6210

James J. Dixon
Thurston County Superior Court
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg 2
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 754-4405

David A. Kurtz
Snohomish County Superior Court
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, MS 502
Everett, WA 98201-4046
(425) 388-3881

Barbara Linde
King County Superior Court
516 3rd Ave, Rm C-203
Seattle, WA 98104-2361
(206) 477-1361

John W. Lohrmann
Walla Walla County Superior Court
315 W Main St, Fl. 3
PO Box 836
Walla Walla, WA 99362-0259
(509) 524-2790

Dean S. Lum
King County Superior Court
516 3rd Ave, Rm C-203
Seattle, WA 98104-2361
(206) 296-9295

Susan K. Serko
Pierce County Superior Court
930 Tacoma Ave S, Rm 334
Tacoma, WA 98402-2108
(253) 798-3646

November 20, 2015

VIA EMAIL WITH HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Honorable Charles W. Johnson
Honorable Mary I. Yu
Co-Chairs, Minority and Justice Commission
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Dear Justice Johnson and Justice Yu:

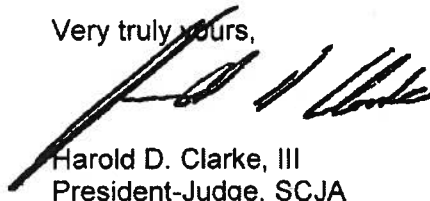
RE: LFO Study

There is no doubt that trial court funding is at a critical juncture. The Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) is mindful of the work that lies before us in our efforts to persuade the Legislature to provide adequate and stable funding for the trial courts. In our view, raising fees, penalties, assessments, and other costs as a vehicle to fund the courts should be done as a last resort because of the disproportionate impact on minorities and the poor. In recent months, much attention, both locally and nationally, has been focused on harsh and sometimes unfair policies regarding legal financial obligations (LFO). The SCJA acknowledges that a serious issue exists and believes that remedial action needs to be taken.

Earlier this year, the SCJA supported an adjustment to the Judicial Information System assessment on traffic infractions, from seventeen dollars to twenty-three dollars, and the corresponding six-dollar increase to the base penalty on such infractions. In conveying this support to the Washington State Supreme Court, the SCJA requested that a commitment be made to study the effect of, and propose viable solutions to, the disproportionate impact of LFOs on the poor and minorities. Toward that end, I write today to respectfully request that the Minority and Justice Commission pursue such a study. The study should include examination of where LFO revenue goes. The SCJA stands ready to lend our support to this endeavor. Please let me know how we may assist.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,



Harold D. Clarke, III
President-Judge, SCJA

cc: Judge Dean Lum
SCJA Board of Trustees
Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos
Ms. Janet Skreen

STATE OF WASHINGTON

1206 Quince Street SE • P.O. Box 41170 • Olympia, WA 98504-1170
360-753-3365 • 360-586-8869 Fax • www.courts.wa.gov

Minority and Justice Commission Meeting Schedule 2016

Conference Number: 1-888-757-2790, Participant Code 285042#

Date	Time	Location
Friday, February 5, 2016	8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	TBD
Friday, April 1, 2016	8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	AOC SeaTac
Supreme Court Symposium May 25, 2016	8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Temple of Justice Olympia, WA
Friday, June 24, 2016	8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<i>Yakima, WA</i>
Friday, September 23, 2016	8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	TBD
Friday, December 2, 2016	8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	TBD

Please contact Cynthia Delostrinos at Cynthia.Delostrinos@courts.wa.gov or 360-705-5327 if you have any questions.

JURY REPRESENTATION SURVEY – ANSWER ALL OR SOME QUESTIONS

The following information will not in any way affect your eligibility to serve as a juror. The Court is collecting it to learn the demographics of the jury pool. Your participation is voluntary and anonymous.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS REQUESTED - PLEASE FILL IN APPROPRIATE CIRCLES

1. COURT WHERE YOU ARE SERVING:

- Benton County Dist., Sup. & Muni Court
- Bremerton Municipal Court
- Chelan County Dist., Sup., & Muni Court
- Clark County Dist., Sup & Muni Court
- Cowlitz County District Court
- Federal Way Municipal Court
- Grant County District Court
- Grant County Superior Court
- Grays Harbor District Court
- Island County District Court
- Island County Superior Court
- Jefferson County Dist. & Sup. Court
- Kent Municipal Court
- Kirkland Municipal Court
- Kitsap County Superior Court
- King County District Court
- King County Superior Court - Seattle
- King County Superior Court - Kent
- Lewis County Superior Court
- Mason County Dist., Sup., & Muni Court
- Okanogan County District Court
- Pierce County Dist., Sup., & Muni Court
- Seattle Municipal Court
- Skagit County Superior Court
- Snohomish County Superior Court
- Spokane Cty Dist., Sup., & Muni Court
- Sunnyside Municipal Court
- Thurston County District & Sup. Court
- Vancouver Municipal Court
- Walla Walla County Superior Court
- Whatcom Cty Dist., Sup., & Muni Court
- Whitman County Superior Court
- Yakima County Dist., Sup. & Muni Court

2. GENDER &

ORIENTATION (mark all that apply):

- Male Female Transgender
- Gay Lesbian Bisexual
- Other: _____

3. YOUR AGE:

- 18-22 58-62
- 23-27 63-67
- 28-32 68-72
- 33-37 73-77
- 38-42 78-82
- 43-47 83-87
- 48-52 88-92
- 53-57 92+

4. MONTH JURY SERVICE BEGAN:

- January May September
- February June October
- March July November
- April August December

5. YEAR JURY SERVICE BEGAN:

- 2015 2016 2017

6. RACE (mark all that apply):

- White Korean
- Vietnamese Japanese
- Asian Indian Chinese
- Filipino Other Asian
- Samoan Other Pacific Islander
- African-American American Indian
or Black or Alaskan Native
- Guamanian Other: _____
or Chamorro

7. ETHNICITY (mark all that apply – based on US Census Bureau definitions):

- Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?
- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
 - Yes, Mexican, Mexican American
 - Yes, Puerto Rican
 - Yes, Cuban
 - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin: _____

EXAMPLE	
<input type="radio"/>	= Correct
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	= Wrong
<input type="radio"/>	= Wrong
<input type="radio"/>	= Wrong

**Thank you for your cooperation
(one survey per juror please)**

**WASHINGTON STATE
MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION
BYLAWS**

PREAMBLE

On October 4, 1990, the Supreme Court established the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission to identify problems and make recommendations to ensure fair and equal treatment in the state courts for all parties, attorneys, court employees and other persons. The Commission was created (1) to examine all levels of the state judicial system in order to particularly ensure judicial awareness of issues affecting persons of color in the judicial system in order to achieve a better quality of justice; and (2) to make recommendations for improvement to the extent it is needed.

ARTICLE I

Purpose

- 1.1 Consistent with the Preamble herein, the Minority and Justice Commission exists to foster and support a fair and bias-free system of justice in the Washington State courts and judicial systems.
- 1.2 To that end, the Commission is charged with identifying bias of racial, ethnic, national origin and similar nature that affects the quality of justice in Washington State courts and judicial systems.
- 1.3 The Commission shall take affirmative steps to address and eliminate such bias, and shall take appropriate steps to prevent any reoccurrence of such bias.
- 1.4 In furtherance of these principles, the Commission shall work collaboratively with the other Supreme Court Commissions and other justice system partners.

Commented [DC1]:

ARTICLE II

Membership

- 2.1 The Minority and Justice Commission is co-chaired by a Supreme Court Justice, designated by the Chief Justice.
- 2.2 The other co-chair is a Member Chair of the Commission, who shall be elected from the thirty-five (35) Commission members by a majority either when the Commission is renewed by order of the Supreme Court or upon resignation of the Member Chair (Co-chair).
- 2.3 The Commission shall consist of thirty-five (35) active members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court. [This active membership shall seek

to include representation of judicial officers from all levels of Washington courts, and shall include representation from the tribal courts.

2.3.1 Commission membership shall consist of additional representatives from the Washington State justice systems, and no less than one representative from one of the designated minority bar associations.

2.3.2 Commission membership will also consist of non-lawyer representatives from the general population. These representatives shall be members of the public with a variety of skills who fully embrace the Commission goals and principles.

2.3.3 Commission membership shall reflect racial, ethnic, gender, cultural, geographic, and other appropriate diversity.

Commented [DC2]:

2.3.4 All AOC staff on or assigned to the Commission shall be considered ex officio members. They will not be included in the count of the 35 active members.

2.3.5 The Commission may designate at least one student from each of the three Washington State law school as student liaison members. These members may participate in the discussions and projects of the Commission but are non-voting Commission members. The law school members are not subject to the tenure and other membership guidelines of Section 2.4 - 2.7.

Commented [DC3]:

2.4 Attendance at meetings is expected. If a member misses three (3) consecutive meetings, he or she will be deemed to have resigned from the Commission, unless meetings were missed due to unavoidable or unplanned reasons (such as illness or injury). If a Commission member knows in advance that she or he is unable to attend three (3) consecutive meetings for any reason, he or she shall notify the Commission Chairs and tender his or her resignation. The Commission Chairs have discretion to choose to accept or decline the resignation. A member may be excused from attending a meeting for good cause, upon approval by one of the Co-chairs.

Commented [DC4]:

Commented [DC5]:

2.5 All appointments of the thirty-five (35) members, with the exception of the Minority Bar Association (MBA) representative, shall be for a four (4) year renewable term. Vacancies shall be filled by the Supreme Court upon recommendations made by the Commission. The MBA position shall be for a term of two (2) years, and shall be a rotating position amongst the different MBAs.

Commented [DC6]:

Commented [DC7]:

2.7 All members must participate on at least one (1) of the Standing or Ad Hoc committees.

ARTICLE III

Standing Committees

3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Commission co-chair(s) and chair(s) of each Standing committee.

- 3.2 The Commission co-chair(s) shall appoint such Standing committees as the work of the Commission shall reasonably require.
- 3.3 The Commission co-chair(s) shall appoint a chair or co-chairs for each Standing committee, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair(s).

ARTICLE IV

Ad Hoc Committees

- 4.1 The Commission Chair(s) may appoint such Ad Hoc committees as the work of the Commission shall from time-to-time require. The Commission Chair(s) shall appoint a chair for such ad hoc committees from among the Commission members, but may staff these committees with non-Commission members, with the advice and consent of a majority of the quorum present when such appointments are made.

ARTICLE V

Quorum

- 5.1 A quorum shall consist of fifty (50) percent plus one or more of the thirty-five (35) Commission members. Vacancies shall not be considered. A member participating in a meeting by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means approved by the Commission shall be counted in the determination of the quorum.
- 5.2 Commission action shall be by majority vote of the thirty-five (35) Commission members present or participating by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means approved by the Commission, so long as a quorum is present.
- 5.3 In the absence of a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission Chair or Co-chair or Executive Committee may take contingent action on business the Chair(s) determine to require action by the Commission prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 5.4 No proxy voting shall be allowed.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

- 6.1 The executive director or designee of the Commission shall serve as recording secretary for the Commission.

- 6.2 Commission meetings should be held at least six (6) times a year. The precise number of and any additional meetings may be scheduled or specially called at the discretion of the Commission Chair(s). Reasonable notice shall be given to each member. Participation in meetings of the Commission may be held by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means approved by the Commission. The Commission Chair or Co-chairs may designate Commission sponsored events as meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Special Funding

- 7.1 In addition to such funding as shall be available through the AOC budgeting process, the Commission is authorized to seek and accept funding through appropriate processes and from appropriate sources to carry out Commission projects and purposes. Any funds so obtained shall be administered under proper auditing controls by AOC.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments to Bylaws

- 8.1 These bylaws may be amended by majority vote at any regular or special Commission meeting at which a quorum is present. Advance notice of any proposed Amendment is required.
- 8.2 No motion or resolution for amendment may be considered at the meeting at which said proposed amendment is initially proposed.

Adopted: August 12, 2010

Amended: July 15, 2011 & November 2, 2013

Adopted: March 21, 2014