

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM

Welcome and Introductions

- Judge Lori K. Smith will be chairing the meeting because Justice Yu and Judge Galvan could not attend today's meeting.

Approval of January 28th Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were approved with correction.

CHAIR & STAFF REPORT

2023 NCREF National Conference – Frank Thomas

- MJC still has space for one additional member to attend the 2022 NCREF Conference. The deadline for registration and lodging is April 1st. Contact Frank Thomas if interested in attending.
- Washington is set to receive host privileges for the 2023 national conference, taking place in Seattle. If the offer to host the conference is accepted, this would mean no Annual Supreme Court Symposium in 2023. All major educational programming would be rolled into this event.
- A budget request was submitted to AOC for a project manager to organize this event and manage the planning Committee. AOC has been supportive of this request, and the AOC Office of Court Innovation will be working with the Office of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises to identify an event planner.
- Dates will be finalized when the offer is formally accepted.

Jury Diversity Study – Frank Thomas

- This project is in partnership with researchers at Seattle University and led by Judge Steve Rosen.
- The project is up and running in 3 jurisdictions – Pierce, King and Clark counties.
- Judge Rosen would like to intensify efforts to increase participating counties by the end of the fiscal year. The goal is to get comprehensive jury diversity data to present to the legislature.
- There has been some pushback by jurisdictions who see this survey as an administrative burden.

LFO Calculator Update – Frank Thomas

- This project was originally envisioned and led by Judge Linda Coburn as part of the LFO Consortium. The calculator is now managed by the AOC.
- AOC will work with Judge Coburn to modify the calculator to reflect any LFO law changes.
- Frank Thomas and Cynthia Delostrinos additionally continue meet with Microsoft to develop a consumer facing tool for individuals to more easily track their LFOs, including how to seek relief.

Annual Supreme Court Symposium Update – Frank Thomas

- Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom
- The program will be split into 3 sections that explore the idea of reparations for anti-black discrimination in Washington State:
 - Historical account of anti-black discrimination in Washington.
 - Keynote scholar to discuss in depth the principles and necessity of reparations.
 - Highlighting local initiatives for reparations in Washington.
- Anticipate promotional materials for dissemination by May MJC meeting. CLE credits will be available again this year.

LAW STUDENT LIAISON PRESENTATIONS

University of Washington School of Law Project Proposal: *Trauma Informed Anti-Racist Approach to Legal Advocacy* – Angel Torres Mann, Kenneth Nelson, Priyanka Menon, Wendy Martinez Hurtado

- Thursday, April 28th from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM via Zoom
- The purpose of this event is to help members of the Washington legal community rethink their approach to legal advocacy entirely that will result in increased sustainability for them as the advocates, holistic care for the people they serve, and outcomes that disrupt unjust systems. This training will result in more confidence from the community that their legal representation is better prepared to providing representation that is more culturally competent and equipped to eliminate biases. This training will provide a basic introduction to concepts relating to trauma and race, leading up to a four-part model that guides legal advocates to tangibly engage in a trauma-informed, anti-racist approach to legal advocacy.
- The event will be led by Lorilei Williams, Shriver Center on Poverty Law.
- It was suggested to send the announcement out through MJC listservs to assist with outreach and connect with a greater audience.
- Commission members asked if there will be a recording or suggested best practices provided as resources.
 - The Liaisons hope to record the event and host it on UW Law's website.
 - Best practices will be proposed with Lorilei Williams.
- Scenarios and strategies will be discussed at the end of the training.
- Feedback survey will be sent to measure success and ask how participants will incorporate trauma informed practices.
- Commission members were in support of the proposal and recognized how trauma informed providers could better serve clients throughout the legal system.
- It was suggested to arrange for CLE credits for the event to draw more participants. The students are working with UW advisors to get the event approved.

VOTE: 1) Judge Glenn 2) Karen Murray. The Commission unanimously voted to approve and provide \$900 support to the UW student's proposal.

Gonzaga University School of Law Project Proposal: *Equity Through Accessibility* – Maggie Esquivel Torres, Gloria Herrera, Alicia Chaudry, Whitney Wakefield

- The purpose of the project is to create a 'one stop shop' compilation of pro bono or low cost legal resources and aid in the realm of family law, broken down by individual Washington counties. Information will be available in the form of a webpage, several

brochures, both of which will be maintained ongoing. The goal is to create ease of access to legal resources for the community relating to family law broadly. The full project proposal is on page 15 of the meeting packet.

- The law students screen shared their proposed materials, both physical pamphlets and an update the MJC website.
- Commission members expressed concern about the cost estimates, particularly for quality translation. The students were encouraged to seek additional estimations for translation, and also web design.
 - Frank Thomas clarified that the web team is internal to AOC and would not incur additional costs.
 - It was recommended to amend the budget request to the maximum allowed by MJC. Frank Thomas suggested moving forward with the \$1000 request today and amending the request after the scope of the project is reevaluated.
- Cynthia Delostrinos noted how this work overlaps with the new AOC equity and access team. She recommended that the LSLs narrow their scope in the project, and connect with courthouse facilitators. For the web update, they could provide an outline for the web developer that will be hired in the coming months for the equity and access team.
- Commission members asked how the project will be maintained long term.
- Commission members were supportive of the creation of resources, and it was noted that there is a need for them statewide.
- Jeremy Walker added that he has experience working with NJP and WA Law Help. From his experience, he thinks brochures will be the most helpful to give people tangible, written items they can take with them.
- Frank Thomas proposed the idea of a “turnkey project” where once the students begin the project, they can turn it over to their partner entities.

VOTE: 1) Judge Glenn 2)Theresa Cronin. The Commission unanimously voted to approve and provide \$1000 in support to the Gonzaga Law Student Liaison’s proposal.

Seattle University School of Law – Expungement Clinic Project Update – Denise Chen, Sean Dong, Sarah Max

- The Seattle University Liaisons received approval for their project at the last meeting.
- The training is scheduled for this morning, and so the Law Student Liaisons were not able to attend today’s meeting.
- Josh Treybig presented at the pre-clinic training this morning and provided an update. He presented on racial disproportionalities in the legal system, and set the framework for the expungement clinic work.
- There was high interest on campus, and they filled all 30 spots at the clinic for student volunteers with a waitlist. The project has come in under budget, in part due to partnering organizations.
- The clinic is scheduled for April 8th.

COMMISSION LIAISON & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Racial Justice Consortium – Patty Lally

- The draft Racial Justice Consortium Action Plan was provided prior to today’s meeting for the Commission’s review. Patty Lally shared that the action plan is intended as a one

year road map to promote belonging and racial equity in the courts. The action plan is centered on accountability for systems actors, and is authored by the judicial branch as a partnership. Patty Lally stressed that the work going forward should be done together, and is hoping for the MJC's continued support in addressing areas of reform.

- There is a list of recommendations in the document for each priority area identified. How do we move from theory to action?
- The Consortium has one final meeting in April.
- Commission members supported use of media to capture the attention of mainstream publications and maintain interest in racial justice. Cynthia Delostrinos and Patty Lally will work with AOC on a communications plan.
- Commission members asked what next steps are for some of the priorities, particularly legislative changes?
 - Work with judicial branch legislative committees on adopting recommendations. Using action plan document to hold internal partners accountable.
- Commission members suggested sharing the action plan with community organizations and advocacy groups to get their feedback.
 - Patty Lally addressed the tension between the action plan drafters and system actors owning and being accountable to their own document, against being directed by impacted individuals. Unless there are healthy and mutually respectful relationships built with outside partners they cannot be maintained and trust cannot be built.
 - Dr. Lisette Garcia also addressed that there are smaller jurisdictions that might not have capacity to incorporate some of these changes.
- Commission members stressed the need for internal buy-in from justice system leaders and holding peers accountable.
- How will issues of racism be addressed when they occur behind closed doors? Courts and staff will need to hold themselves accountable. Internal and external work.

ACTION: Send feedback for the draft Racial Justice Consortium Action Plan to Patty Lally and Frank Thomas.

Education Committee – Judge Lori K. Smith

- The Education Committee revised their mission statement and goals. The revised statement is included in the packet and [online](#).
- MJC will be sponsoring the following upcoming session:
 - SCJA Spring Conference Colloquium, *Pathways to a More Equitable Justice System*, April 26th at 1:30 pm
 - The program is open to all levels of court. A registration link will be circulated.
- The Race Equity in Child Welfare Colloquium is being led by Frank Thomas and Judge McKee. The group is in the process of identifying speakers and developing a program.

Outreach Committee – Lisa Castilleja and Judge Bonnie Glenn

- Justice CZ Smith Award - The event will be hosted by Gonzaga University in the spring. The award is given to one law student from each of the 3 Washington law schools annually for commitment to racial justice.

- Judges of Color Directory – The directory was published and AOC press release published. Judge Chess has an open call out to new appointees to see if they would like to be included. Since the directory is digital, updates are much easier.
- 2022 MJC Artwork Update - Submissions open until 3/31. A reminder email will be sent out to community groups.
- Gender Justice Study Next Steps - Group has been meeting to narrow next steps and has identified the following priorities for MJC:
 - Jury Diversity – Frank Thomas and Riley Burton will be working to address one of the GJ study priorities related to jury diversity that is not addressed by the jury study.
 - Juvenile Research 2.0
 - Incarceration and Civil Proceedings - Work has been transferred to Incarceration, Gender and Justice committee at GJC.
- Board Award Update – A proposed award is being designed. There will be options for consideration in the coming months.

Rules and Legislation Committee – Judge Theresa Doyle

- Judge Doyle observed there has been some pushback to racial justice bills this session and provided updates on the following legislation:
 - Passage of [HB 1412](#) – omnibus LFO bill
 - Some aspects were limited through amendments, but still significant changes for LFO reform.
 - [HB 1169](#) – Concerning sentencing enhancements.
 - This bill received considerable pushback and did not pass.
- GR 31 Amendment
 - This amendment is being proposed in partnership with the MJC Juvenile Justice Committee. The amendment will be voted on by the court next week – concerning juvenile records. Would increase protections for juvenile records and privacy.
- Frank Thomas introduced Megan Berry-Cohen, the new AOC researcher who will be looking into juvenile justice issues.

MJC Liaisons

- **Washington State Bar Licensure Task Force – Frank Thomas**
 - Group took a hiatus. Being led by Justice Montoya-Lewis.
 - Will begin meeting after oral arguments. Hoping to re-center discussion on race equity in relation to bar exam.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.