



**MINORITY AND JUSTICE
COMMISSION**
ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2023
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
JUSTICE MARY YU, CO-CHAIR
JUDGE VERONICA GALVÁN, CO-CHAIR



MEETING NOTES

Commission Members

Karen Murray
Nicole Jenkins-Rosencrantz
Judge Coburn
Judge Galvan
Judge Lori Smith
Judge Leah Taguba
Justice Montoya-Lewis
Judge Cadine-Ferguson Brown
Chad Enright
Grace Cross
Jason Gillmer
Jeremy Walker
Katie Hurley
Karen Murray
Trish Kinlow
Lisa Castilleja
Rosaria Daza
Judge Faye Chess
Samaneh Alizadeh
Percy Levy

AOC Staff

Kelley Amburgey-Richardson
Cynthia Delostrinos
Avery Miller
Frank Thomas
Carolyn Cole

Liaisons

Leslie Burnett
Stephanie Chavez
Monica Mendoza-Castrejon
Angel Torres Mann
Donald Peters
Ciera Phung Marion
David Normoyle
Donald Peters
Gloria Herrera
Stephanie Chavez
Roberto White

Guests

Judge Sara Dannen
Kelsey Jandoc
SaNni Lemonidis
Judge Jennifer Forbes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM

Welcome and Introductions

- The MJC Co-chairs introduced themselves.
- Attendance was called via roll-call.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were approved as presented.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- The Commission welcome new members, Katie Hurley, Nicole Jenkins-Rosencrantz, Karen Murray.
- Frank Thomas and Carolyn Cole deliver a staff report
 - Carolyn gives a report on the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Conference, NCREAF, being held in about 60 days at the Hotel Motif in downtown Seattle.
 - The priority right now is to increase registration and fundraising. The commission does have funding for commission members who would like to go, and get reimbursed for travel. If commission members don't have funds from their organization to go, please contact staff.
 - Some of the topics selected include: the Holocaust and anti-Jewish bias, Jury Diversity, Language Access, Racial Capitalism, Crimmigration, Implicit-bias and Trauma Informed Practices.
 - Judge Smith thanks Carolyn for her incredible work putting together this conference.
- Frank Thomas gives an update on Racial Justice led by Cynthia Delostrinos. They have been tracking legislation and potential policies that are aligned with the goals outlined in the consortium, and there are many goals that present reform opportunities.
 - Frank and Cynthia presented to the BJA and the Supreme Court received presentations on numerous studies of inequities in the legal system, gender and justice study, and issues of racial justice. Some objectives involve data and transparency and resources for incarceration alternatives. They will be working this summer on a more concrete action plan to advance the goals of the consortium. The Jury Diversity demographic study is ongoing.

Lisa Castilleja provides an update for the Outreach Committee

- She highlights many programs happening at University of Washington, including Moot Court/ Mock Trial. There's a request for MJC support for Youth and Law Forums for the city of Bellingham, and Pierce and Kitsap county.
- They provided their request in the materials, regarding the money needed to support the events taking place in the communities, which is two \$1500 each per outreach programs.
 - There's some concern about budget requirements considering the funds set aside for NCREF funding.
 - Karen Murray makes a motion to approve, subject to funds, \$1,500.00 for the upcoming Pierce County Youth and Law forum, as it will occur in this fiscal year. She makes a second motion to approve, subject to funds, \$1,500 for the Bremerton/Kitsap County Youth and Law forum as part of the annual budget for next year. Judge Chess seconds both motions. Both motions pass unopposed.
 - The question of ongoing funding to Youth and Law forums is tabled.
- The Justice CZ Smith awards took place recently as a virtual event across the state to honor three students for their work in alignment with MJC values of racial equity.
- There will be a request going around for soliciting the annual MJC artwork.

Other Updates

- Frank provides a brief update on the annual report, which will coincide with the state of the state reports for NCREF.
- Judge Chess updates on the Judges of Color Directory Update. They are still working on artwork and seeking professional input on the design.

Student Liaisons Project Presentations

Gonzaga Law— (Whitney Wakefield, Gloria Herrera, Alicia Chaudry, David Normoyle)
Post-Conviction Relief Clinic

- The target audience includes individuals who fall under Blake decision and people on warrant status, which will be facilitated by the public defender's office.
- The clinic provides general LFO relief and assistance getting these charges vacated. It's well documented that black and brown individuals are disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system and LFO relief can help address this.
- On April 14, 2023 there will be a brief onboarding for volunteers and then the clinic will occur from 9AM -5 PM. Gonzaga student volunteers will work alongside Spokane County public defenders and other attorneys. They have a long list of individuals who need post-conviction relief. There will be conference rooms and attorney booths with working phones.

- Requesting \$500 from the commission for refreshments, snacks, lunch, volunteers, flyers, etc. Hope to assist hundreds of people with vacating convictions.
- Questions:
 - Rosario has some suggestions for folks to help out with advice on the clinic who may have particular expertise with LFOs (Sarah Hudson, Percy Levy, Cindy Arends Elsberry)
 - Jeremy from Qlaw, asks that data collected on the outcomes of the clinic include disaggregation by gender identity.
 - Judge Coburn suggests it would be a good idea to do outreach in the community
 - Percy is involved with Just Spokane, gathering data to determine what's actually happening right now on the issue.

University of Washington School of Law (Roberto White, Ciera Phung-Marion)— *Know Your Rights*

- The UW Law liaisons present a proposal for a know your rights training to high schoolers in Seattle. The goal is to give high school students knowledge of legal rights regarding law enforcement. Having a right is not sufficient if they do not know they have it.
- Data from the ACLU has shown black and brown kids are criminalized for school behavior. 84 of WA's 100 schools have public safety officers, who are shown to increase the school-to-prison pipeline.
- The event will take place on Saturday May 6 2023, and involve a presentation by legal counsel for youth and children.
- LCYC WA is a nonprofit advocacy group provide direct representation, legal trainings, policy advocacy and protection order trainings.
- This training involves a proposed budget of \$1000: \$840 for food, \$150 for honorariums, \$10 know-your-rights wallet cards.
- To measure the impacts the training will include an entry/exit survey, and provide students with a card that summarizes their rights and information.
- Questions?
 - There is a suggestion to include training on non-citizen youth rights, i.e. students do not need to speak with ICE either, and other protections under Keep Washington Working they should be aware of.
- Lisa moves to approve both funding requests up to \$1000. Judge Coburn/ Jeremy Walker seconds the motion. None opposed, those funds approved.

Update on Rules and Legislation Committee— Frank Thomas gives an update from the 2023 Legislative Committee.

- **SB5128**: passed out of house or origin and now in other chamber. The original proposal included 1) make permanent jury demography study 2) establish a work group to evaluate alternatives for childcare access 4) email summoning, and 3) (initially included, now taken out) increased juror pay.
- **HB5046**, Increases post-conviction access to counsel, make more efficient filings of personal restraint petition.
- **HB1169**, originally designed to eliminate the Victim Penalty Assessment, which allows for an indigency determination to remove those fees. Stakeholders working on incorporating some aspects of the bill language for juvenile LFOs, in the hopes of passing both juvenile and adult LFO reform in the same bill.
- **HB1324**, end the practice of including juvenile convictions in the scoring for sentencing at conviction. This is retroactive bill, allow rescoring and resentencing of currently incarcerated people. The Committee is working on persuading SCJA that their assessment of the scope of required work lessens the impact. We have mobilized around this, engaging with the bill sponsors in the senate to illuminate some new information.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM